

Happy New Year! 2022



Church e-Bulletin 2nd January 2022

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

COVID-19

Thank you to those who participated in the survey yesterday. At this stage of the pandemic we wanted to consult widely across the church before deciding our next steps. There were three clear outcomes from the consultations:

1. Now we are past the Christmas season where we would have had to put large numbers of people in a fairly poorly ventilated space, over 90% of people want the option of returning to live worship.
2. A significant number would feel more comfortable with increased social distancing, as we did earlier in the year.
3. There is more reticence about other meetings and gatherings which are not as controlled an environment as worship services.

Therefore:

1. Worship Services will be live from this week, beginning with Tuesday Holy Communion at 10.15 on 4th Jan.
2. Sunday Services will resort to booking – using the phone app, website or phoning the office – so we can control numbers and use alternate pews. Booking available from Monday.
3. Most other meetings will remain online for now, and Pitstop and Thursday Fellowship will wait a bit longer to see how things develop before re-opening.

All these decisions are being reviewed constantly to consider new information and any further government directions.

JESUS CENTRED & GOD DEPENDENT IN 2022?

For a **“Spiritual MOT”** with ideas for growing in faith this year, see the separate, second mailing.

Daily Prayer Room: Starts again on Tuesday January 4th at 9.00am-9.15am. Why not make praying in the Daily Prayer Room part of your "Rule of life" in the New Year?

The Zoom link is: [HERE](#) Meeting ID: 793 6404 4994 Password: Angels

Boiler Room: Remains online this week, but we intend to get it live again as soon as seems wise.

Wed 5 January, 7.30pm for 30 minutes.

The Zoom link is: [HERE](#) Meeting ID: 876 2496 9997 Password: boiler

Not Online? There are several options available for those not able to access services online.

- The CofE free phone line **0800 804 8044** which has hymns, prayers etc. each day.
- We have a tablet we can deliver to you with recent services on it. Contact the office to ask.
- The BBC have a range of Radio services – usually on Radio 4.

EVENTS & COURSES

S.H.A.P.E. Course: Four sessions spread over two Saturday mornings (5 and 12 February 2021 10am -1pm) or four Thursday Evenings (17 Feb to 10 Mar 7.30pm-9pm) to help you explore what kind of ministry God may be calling you into. Sign up via MY EVENTS in the ChurchSuite phone App, or via the NEWS page of the website or by phoning the church office. We still hope and expect to run these sessions live as we can spread out around the building.

Living in Love and Faith: This is the CofE's course to help us explore issues of sexuality and gender. A deanery led course will be held on Saturday 15th January, 9.30am-5pm. Hopefully it will be in person at St Mark's, Bilton, with a capacity of around 50, but it will obviously be reviewed nearer the time. It is preceded by an online session on Thursday 13th January at 7-9pm (details on the booking form), which we'll be asking all participants to attend. Book HERE <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/231456862707> or phone the office and ask Dawn or Di to book for you (01788 330440).

SERVING GOD IN HIS WORLD

Welcome Church: We are part of a directory of churches that welcome ex-offenders, but there is a new directory for churches that will welcome asylum seekers and refugees. If you are prepared to become our "champion" for this then we could sign up. Let Alan know if you will take it on. For details see: <https://welcomechurches.org/>

Make Lunch: Make Lunch team were able to deliver over 40 Christmas parcels to grateful families this Christmas. Well done to all involved.

BUILDINGS

Scaffold Moving: If anyone has access to a van or large estate with a 2.1m bed length and could transport our scaffold from church to the Dixon Hall, then please contact Alan Hulme.

PRAYER POINTS

Prayer Points for w/c Monday January 3rd. Please pray:

1. That, as a church family, we would engage with the "God's Story" initiative of readings and sermons and gain a better understanding of how the whole bible fits together.
2. That we make strides forward in 2022 to become more **Jesus Centred, God Dependent, Missionary Disciples.**
3. That The Lord would show you how you can personally respond to the Climate Emergency.

JUST FOR FUN



Office Opening The church office at 1a New Street is open from 9.30am - 1.30pm Mon - Thursday.
The office is closed from 24 Dec to 4 Jan inclusive.

To keep office staff safe, we are still asking visitors to remain in the foyer and not enter the offices.

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