



## MONTHLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Christmas

**WELCOME** to the latest letter from the Chaplaincy, and may I begin by wishing you all a very happy Christmas. Our world has changed over the past few months, but God's love has not changed, and the wonder of the Christ Child in the manger is as significant and relevant as it has ever been. God comes in humility to share our lives, our fragile lives beset with tragedies and loss, yet infinitely precious in his sight.



At our Christmas services we will light the central candle of our Advent Wreath – the candle of Christ's presence, as the hope of Advent is fulfilled in him and our world is for ever changed by his life among us. Whether you will be able to attend one of our services in Church or our worship via Zoom, we look forward to welcoming you to share in the joy and peace and love of this Christmas season.

Don't forget as ever that I am here for you if there is any way in which I can help you – [chaplain@scilly.church](mailto:chaplain@scilly.church) / 423911.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



A reminder of our forthcoming services for Christmas and the New Year:

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00 a.m. – Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion in the Parish Church

*We're starting Christmas early this year, so as to give everyone two opportunities to receive their Christmas Communion at a time when space in Church is limited. Come and share in the joy of Christmas with seasonal music and our lovely Christmas nativity figures.*

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m. – Midnight Mass in the Parish Church  
*A second opportunity for Communion at Christmas with seasonal music at this ever popular service. We will be joined at this service by some of our Methodist friends.*

Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m. – Christmas Worship in St. Mary's Methodist Church

*We join our Methodist friends for this informal service of praise and worship to celebrate the joy of Christmas.*

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00 a.m. – Christmas Worship via Zoom.  
*A chance to join in singing some of your favourite carols at home, as we join across the islands and with our friends from the*



zoom

*mainland for a special Christmas celebration. The channel will be open from 10.30 a.m. ready for a prompt start at 11.00 a.m. As usual you can join by using the Meeting Code – 477 892 334 and the Passcode 019127, or the usual shortcut code <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>.*

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 11.00 a.m. – An Epiphany Service via Zoom.



zoom

*Canon Lynda Barley leads our morning worship at the start of a New Year. Contact details are as for December 27<sup>th</sup>.*

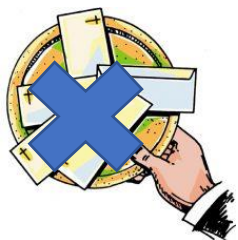
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion in the Parish Church

*Subject to any possible lockdown restrictions, our weekly Sunday worship will resume in the Parish Church until Easter. During this period, two Zoom services are planned – for 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March.*

Could I remind everyone coming to a ‘live’ service:

- Please bring your face covering and some hand sanitiser for use before and after Communion
- Please arrive in good time so that we can all be seated safely before we begin
- If you make your offerings via the collection plate, please do so if possible before the service as you arrive at Church to avoid queueing at the end
- Please remain in your seats at the end of the service until invited to leave by a steward and continue to observe the 2 metre social distancing both inside and outside the Church.

## **GASDS – (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)**



For those of you who make your regular offering through the collection plate, a reminder that it is **no longer necessary to use a Gift Aid envelope for the Church to reclaim tax on your offering.** Any cash donation of up to £30 made at an act of worship will automatically attract 25% tax relief under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (as will contactless payments of up to £30 when we are able to process them!) In practice, you do not need to use a Gift Aid envelope unless you are paying by cheque or using a £50 note. We hope that this may speed up the process for making donations to the collection before and especially after services. Donations at other times should continue to be via the Gift Aid envelopes if you are an Income Tax payer.

Whatever method you use to give your offerings to the Church,  
**THANK YOU!**

## **A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

May the joy of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
the worship of the wise men,  
and the peace of the Christ Child  
be yours this Christmas.

Amen.



*To hear these words set to music by Philip Stopford (former Organ Scholar at Truro Cathedral), and sung by Truro Cathedral Choir and the National Orchestra of Wales, try clicking the link below!*

[\(677\) A Christmas Blessing Philip Stopford - YouTube](#)

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**