



MONTHLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday November 29th 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent

WELCOME to the 32nd edition of my letter from the Chaplaincy, and the second of our new **monthly** letters. Once a month – usually but not always during the week leading up to a Zoom service – I will continue to be in touch with everyone, both on our islands and on the mainland, to keep you up to date with developments and plans from the Island Parish. Our hope for the next few months is to continue our regular Eucharistic worship in the Parish Church on most Sundays, but to continue worshipping together via Zoom about once a month. This Sunday we will be using Zoom, then returning to church from Sunday December 6th.



This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. It was often called ‘Advent Sunday’ in the past, but that is a bit misleading as Advent is a whole season and not a special day. It’s a time to get ready, to light our candles on the Advent wreath as we count down the weeks to Christmas. Traditionally the first of those candles has been associated with ‘Hope’, the hope of Christ’s light coming into the

darkness of our world and the darkness of our lives. These have certainly been dark times for us all – even on Scilly where we have been so fortunate to have escaped the direct effects of the virus, many of us have known friends and family who have had COVID-19, and sadly some families have suffered the loss of a loved one. It has seemed at times as if there was no light in the darkness, especially during the current second wave when our summer hopes were dashed, and restrictions and suffering once more began to take centre stage. But now there is hope – while the vaccines will take time for their full effect to be realised, we can now see light at the end of the tunnel, a promise that, before very long, life can begin to return to normal. It may be that the Advent message of Hope takes on a new meaning this year, as we hear of how ‘the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light’, and join our own hopes for 2021 to the hope of all the ages for a Saviour, a sign of God’s promise to us to share our lives and bring us to reign with Christ in glory.

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 / 423911.

A SPECIAL ADVENT CALENDAR



I am delighted to bring you news of a special online resource for Advent. It’s called ‘Advent Online’ and you can find it by clicking on

<https://adventonline.faith/>

If you then click on ‘Advent Calendar’, you will be taken to a page

with windows for each day of Advent – not listed by the date in December, but by the week and day of Advent, so it begins this

Sunday with the Sunday of the first week. Behind each window you will find a number of online offerings- reflections, poems, pictures, music – you simply need to click of any that interests you to get to the full version. I've included one of the offerings for this Sunday as an attachment / enclosure – it's called an 'Advent Reflection' based on the Collect for this Sunday and written by Canon Anna Matthews from Cambridge who is an old friend of mine from my Cathedral days.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY



Just to remind you that worship this Sunday is again by Zoom. 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>.

FUTURE WORSHIP PLANS

Just to confirm our **worship plans** for the next month or so:

Sundays December 6th, 13th and 20th – Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m. in the Parish Church.

Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass at 11.30 p.m. in the Parish Church (at which the Revd. Michael Pullan will be the preacher)

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

Sunday December 27th – Christmas Worship via Zoom at 11.00 a.m.

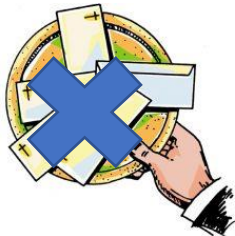


Future Zoom services will take place on January 3rd (led by Canon Lynda Barley), February 7th and March 7th – with a newsletter to remind you each time!

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!