

News from the pews – 1 December 2020

Dear friends,

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.” (Luke 12:35)

Advent is a time when we remember the need to wait in readiness for the Lord. We prepare ourselves both to celebrate his first coming at Christmas and his return at the end of the age. During these trying times, it is good to remember that God is still in control and that Jesus has promised to come back to eliminate all pain and grief and suffering. But as we wait, let's remember to be ever-ready - as this verse from last Sunday's service challenges us: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48). In case you missed last Sunday's service, you can access it here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AYfJrigLnI>

This coming Sunday:



St John's will be staying online this coming Sunday to celebrate an online Christingle. Christingle kits containing a candle, tin foil, cocktail sticks and ribbon are available in the church porch. Please provide your own oranges and sweets/dried fruit for the cocktail sticks.

We will be back in church for a Holy Communion service on 13 December at 10:30am, which will also be streamed live on Facebook and appear on YouTube around noon.

Christmas cards from St John's for the village:

St John's has ordered 2000 Christmas cards (postcard format) with a Christmas greeting and details of our services. These will be delivered to each household in Elmswell. If you are happy to help post some cards in a road or two in the village, please let us know. We would be very grateful.

Seeking a new treasurer:

The Halls have now left Elmswell and we will miss them greatly. We are also very grateful to Chris Hall who has been treasurer over the last few years. If God is calling you into this role or if you have any suggestions, please let Peter or Mike know. Can we all, please, pray for God to raise up somebody to take on this important role in our church's life?

Coming up this week:

Tue 1 Dec 8:00pm	Compline Night Prayer online (Facebook only)
Wed 2 Dec	Various Home Groups
Thu 3 Dec 8:00pm	Celtic Prayer online (Facebook only)
Sat 5 Dec 9:00am	Church prayer meeting (using Zoom)
Sat 5 Dec 10:30am	Coffee and Chat (using Zoom)
Sun 6 Nov 10:30am	All Age Christingle online – Facebook, YouTube and St John’s web site. followed by coffee & chat (using Zoom)

How to connect with us online:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/live>

St John’s

<http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/>

YouTube

Accessed from home page of St John’s web site

Zoom

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6852951296> or, load Zoom
and use Meeting ID: 685 295 1296 and Password: 816262

Christmas with St John’s Church

Sun	20 Dec 6:30pm	Village Carol Service	(online - Facebook/YouTube)
Mon	21 Dec 3:00pm	“The longest Night”	(in church)
		<i>A more sober and reflective carol service with the opportunity to light a candle.</i>	
Thu	24 Dec 3:30pm	St John’s Nativity	(online - Facebook/YouTube)
Thu	24 Dec 11:00pm	Late Night Communion	(in church)
Fri	25 Dec 10:00am	Christmas Day Service	(Zoom)

We finish with an Advent Prayer:

Come Lord, come again

Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning for you to come again.

Come Lord, your weary world is crying out for you to lift us up

out of our despair, our hunger, our thirst for something better, our need for the food that will last.

Come Lord, come again, we need to begin again.

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

With every blessing in Christ,
Peter