

St John's News from the Pews – 16 March 2021

Dear friends,

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Easter is coming, hope is re-awakened and the church is re-opening

Perhaps you are filled with feelings of hope as the days get longer and the vaccine programme continues to progress in leaps and bounds. I know I do. However, our main source of hope remains the message of Easter. The powers of sin and darkness have been defeated by our Lord and we now have hope of life that is eternal.

We are planning to re-open the church starting on Easter Sunday. Our main service will be a 45 minute Easter celebration at 10:30am. You are very welcome - social distancing measures will be in place, but please bring a mask. There will also be an earlier BCP Holy Communion service (without music) at 9am in the chancel.

Sunday School will continue to be held over Zoom at 9:30am on Easter Sunday.

On Good Friday, the Christians Together In Elmswell Service will be over Zoom at 10:00am (see Zoom details below).

National Day of Reflection and this Sunday

Next Tuesday, the 23 March is the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown. There will be a minute's silence at noon. During this Sunday's service, we will be also take some time to marking the anniversary with a special video and prayers. After the Facebook/YouTube service, you are invited to a short celebration of the Lord's Supper over Zoom (Zoom details below).



Recycle those crisp bags



Do you have any crisp packets you would like recycled? If so, please pop them into the box in the church porch.

These will be collected regularly and taken for recycling. Please only put empty crisp packets in the box - no crisp tubes (e.g. Pringles), no popcorn bags and no other plastics.

Please also remember you can drop off foodbank donations at the Rectory.

Twin your vaccine

A reminder that if you would like to twin your vaccine (make a donation equivalent to the cost of your vaccine), you can do so using the following page that a vicar colleague has set up. The Astra-Zeneca vaccine costs between £5 and £10 for two doses. Would you consider donating this much to enable someone, somewhere else in the world, to have the vaccine?

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/donatethecostofyourvaccine>

Last Sunday's Service

In case you missed the service on Sunday, you can access it by clicking [here](#):



Coming up this week:

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| Tue 16 Mar 8:00pm | Compline online (Facebook only) |
| Wed 17 Mar | Various Home Groups |
| Thu 18 Mar 8:00pm | Celtic Prayer online (Facebook only) |
| Sat 20 Mar 9:00am | Church prayer meeting (using Zoom) |
| Sat 20 Mar 10:30am | Coffee and Chat (using Zoom) |
| Sun 21 Mar 10:30am | Zoom Sunday School (Please contact Lisa for details) |
| Sun 21 Mar 10:30am | Sunday Worship online on Facebook & YouTube followed by the Lord's Supper on 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

God of Love,

*As we think about all that has changed this year, help us to trust that you are always with us.
As we remember those who have died, comfort all those who experienced loss and are grieving.
As we reach out to others with kindness and care, may hope shine out in every heart and home.
Amen.*

With every blessing in Him,
Peter