



## The Broughton Bell

December 2020

# Christmas Isn't Cancelled!

2020 hasn't been the year that any of us planned or hoped for. If we had known, back on January 1<sup>st</sup>, how things would unfold, I doubt we would have believed it. So much of what we normally take for granted has gone, for now at least. As we enter the final month of the year, there is a lot of uncertainty about what the next few weeks will bring. Will lockdown continue? What new restrictions will be in place? What will we be able to do for Christmas?

A lot has been said in the press about the possibility of Christmas being cancelled this year. And the difficult reality is that, for most of us, it will have to be significantly different to what we normally do. But, whatever happens, Christmas isn't cancelled! Christmas cannot be cancelled! In what has been an incredibly difficult year for so many reasons, we need Christmas more than ever!

Christmas - when we remember and celebrate the birth of a baby in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. A baby who was God in human form, God in the world, God in the mess of life, God alongside us. Jesus said that he is the Light of the World, bringing light into our darkness, bringing hope, peace, joy and love into our suffering and pain. I know that we are really disappointed and, in some ways, heartbroken that there is so much that we will miss this Christmas, especially spending time with friends and loved ones. But let's remember the central message of Christmas - that God is with us. Jesus is sometimes referred to as Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'.

My hope and prayer for the rest of the year is that we will all know the hope, peace, love and joy that Jesus brings; that we will be able to be creative and start new traditions (we can't have our Christmas Tree Festival, but look out for the Advent Windows round the village!); and that we will still be able to connect with one another and God in new and different ways.

Whatever your experience of 2020 has been, may you know God's blessing and comfort as we approach Christmas and the New Year.

**Nicki**

## Services and Events

In addition to our services at 9.30am on Sunday mornings, we have the following special Christmas services and events:

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Pizza Praise video will be launched on Facebook and YouTube

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Nine Lessons and Carols video will be launched on Facebook and YouTube

Tin Can Band Blessing on Facebook, midnight

It looks unlikely that the Tin Can Band will be able to go ahead in its usual form this year. The blessing over our village will still take place but on Facebook instead.

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Christingle service in the Churchyard, 4pm

Please bring your own Christingle if you are able to. It doesn't matter if you don't have everything you need to make one - look out on Facebook and YouTube for "Make your own Christingle" instructions.

Christmas Raffle Draw live on Facebook, 6pm

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Blue Christmas service in Broughton Church, 7.30pm

A quiet reflective Christmas service, including candles lit in memory of loved ones. If you cannot join us but would like a candle lighting, please contact Nicki.

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Nativity service on Zoom, 3pm

We can still dress up! We can still sing at home! Contact Nicki for the login details.

Holy Night service on Facebook, Midnight

Short reflection as we welcome in Christmas Day. You can join us for this even if you're not on Facebook - contact Nicki for the link.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Communion at Cransley Church, 9.30am

Christmas Celebration at Mawsley Church, 10am

Christmas Communion at Broughton Church, 10.30am

This year we have have put together an Advent Window Route around the village. Starting on the 1st December the advent windows will be revealed at dusk with new ones opening each day until Christmas Eve.

## ADVENT WINDOWS

1	58 Church Street	13	26A Kettering Road
2	13 Church Street	14	54 Wellingborough Road
3	The Gables Church Street	14	48 Grange Road
4	56 Church Street	15	3 Hutchinson Avenue
4	3 Ivydene Terrace	16	28 Grange Road
5	Holly House 37 Church Street	16	3 Bakehouse Mews
6	52 Church Street	17	48 High Street
7	18 Church Street	18	19 Donaldson Avenue
7	25 Grange Road	18	7 Baker Avenue
8	The Red Lion	19	5 Donaldson Avenue
8	10 Oak Close	19	47 Cransley Street
9	21 Church Street	20	52 Wellingborough Road
9	61 Northampton Road	21	2 Kerley Close
10	Eastgate St Andrews Way	22	40 Cransley Hill
11	7 Church Street	23	21 Donaldson Avenue
12	1 High Street	23	2 Cransley Street
13	12 Glebe Avenue	24	St Andrews Notice Board at the Church

For those without internet access, we also have a Dial-a-Sermon phoneline which will have a new reflection added each weekend.

The number is 01536 909797 and costs the same as a call to a landline.

Depending on guidance at the time, our services might have to move online. Please look out for updates on the church notice boards, our website ([churchesbmc.org](http://churchesbmc.org)) and our Facebook page. Alternatively, you can contact Nicki on [revnicki@familyhobbs.org.uk](mailto:revnicki@familyhobbs.org.uk), 01536 799522 or Peter Horrix on 01536 790877.



## **St Andrews Church Grand Christmas Raffle**

**As we are unable to hold our Christmas Tree Festival, we will be doing the Christmas Raffle a little differently this year.**

**Tickers are 50 pence and will be available by contacting Camilla Veevers.**

**Payment by bank transfer or you can pop your money into an envelope and post through the letterbox of 58 Church Street.**

***Don't forget to put your name, address and phone number on the envelope.***

**We'll let you know your numbers and you can watch the draw on Facebook on 20th December.**

**A list of winners will be on the Church Noticeboard and posted on Facebook. Your prize will be delivered to you in time for Christmas.**

You can contact Camilla by messenger

on St Andrews Facebook Page or the Broughton Village Page

By email: [camillaveevers@btinternet.com](mailto:camillaveevers@btinternet.com).

By phone/ text: 07788 581273