

An early Voice from the Vicarage 29th Dec

Dear All,

I had not intended to send a 'Voice' this week, but just a rather truncated few paragraphs as we prepare to ring out the old year and ring in the new.

I suppose there can't be many folk throughout the whole world who will mark the passing of 2020 with much regret. For those in places still very much gripped with the virus the hope that 2021 will bring an effective vaccine will surely be uppermost in their minds and prayers. Let us pray that it may be so!

New Year's Eve

Because of the need for caution in closeness, celebrations will be somewhat muted, but here at Christ Church we will continue the tradition of gathering to ring the church bell at midnight, ringing out the old year and ring in the new—a hope expressed by the donor of the bell.

To gather in church is a lovely reminder that each year is a gift, and that each year is a gift during which the Grace of God abounds and is available to those who call upon the Lord. We all have our plans, and hopes, and perhaps some fears about the year to come, but in the midst of whatever 'changes and chances' may befall us, the reliable love of the Saviour can be our constancy...

The Blessed Sacrament in which Jesus promised to be found and experienced under the form of bread and wine is reserved in our church and is a beautiful sign of his constant presence to the world, bidden or unbidden, and a reminder that the church is a 'home'; set aside for him as well as a home set aside for us. It is a deep, silent presence. Jesus is not one who makes his presence felt in clamour or noise...

FROM 11 p.m. the Sacrament will be exposed as a focus for silent prayer for those who would like a time of silence

At 11.30 p.m. there will be a simple 'Watchnight Service' which will end with those present gathering in the church porch to ring in the New Year. All who wish to are invited to try their hand at the ringing!

...and we will raise a toast with a glass of bubbly (or orange juice...or both together!)

You will be welcome to come for any or all of that time as we consecrate our 2021 to the Lord, and pray for the world and its needs.



This Sunday, January 3rd we will celebrate the

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

the visit of the wise men to the Christ Child

8 a.m. Low Mass according to the Book of Common Prayer

10 a.m. SUNG MASS

There will be no 5 p.m. informal service during January.

During January, the 'holiday season' the Sunday 10 a.m. mass will have slightly simpler ceremonial.

But the daily rhythm continues by and large as 'normal' and the church is open for prayer, not least at the crib which remains in place until the Feast of Candlemas at the beginning of February.

REMEMBER! The ANNUAL MEETING of the parish will take place after the 10 a.m. mass of **SUNDAY 10th JANUARY.**

The new electoral roll is now displayed in the church porch.

NOMINATION FORMS for the ministry of churchwardens (2 persons) and for the parish council (6 persons) will be at the back of the church, and nominations must be with the vicar by midnight on Saturday 9th January...

And finally, what wonderful services and gatherings we had at Christ Church over Christmas.

Thank you to all those who shared in the offering of worship and hospitality, and many thanks to those who gave tangible signs of 'good will' to the vicarage household.

+ *Lindsay*