



CHRIST CHURCH
FULWOOD, PRESTON



*Connecting people to **Jesus Christ** and each other.*

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12th November 2020

Dear All,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As well as we begin with a reflection on Prayer. Please do read through it and remember if you are struggling at this time please do get in touch and we will help in whatever way we can.



Reflection – Prayer

Recently our Archbishops called for us, and Christians of all denominations, to pray for our nation. This week our Bishop is launching a call to pray and give as we consider the financial implications of Covid-19 (see below).

I have often reflected on the importance of prayer in keeping our relationship with God alive. But today I want to reflect on the question of does it make a difference? Many people report that prayer makes a difference to them and how they feel. It gives strength and comfort in troubling times. It is also comforting to know you are being prayed for. Prayer also changes us. As we draw close to God in prayer, we don't just give him a list of our needs but also open our hearts and minds to his work. Our perspective is brought more into line with his. We learnt to see the world through his eyes and so become better able to make a difference in the world.

Both of these things are true. Sometimes though they lower our expectations about prayer. Because prayer is coming before the Almighty God, it has the potential to change the world, and change lives. But prayer is not like magic, say the words just right and you'll get the right result, it is coming before the living God. Therefore, prayer is answered according to his love, his wisdom, and his purposes. Let us therefore be bold in our prayers, asking for God to change the world, as well as letting him change us and bring us comfort and strength.

Advent – Daily Reflections

The Diocese has produced a really good resource of daily readings and reflections based on Isaiah to take us through Advent. I have about 30 copies at the Vicarage and would be pleased to deliver one to anyone who would like one.

A Christmas Carol Trail

We are not able to do all we would like to build up to Christmas this year. However, one idea that we hope will bring a little joy and light is to put up homemade posters in our windows. In the first Lockdown many put up pictures of rainbows. I invite us all to make a poster of our favourite Christmas Carol or song and display it through Advent. Get thinking and drawing. Advent begins on Sunday 29th November. It would be fabulous if we could remind people of the joy of Christmas by filling our neighbourhood with posters.

Christmas Services

At this time all plans are provisional but our current plan for Christmas services in church is:

Sunday before Christmas, 20th December – 10:30am All Age Carol Service

Christmas Eve – 4:00pm Crib Service

Christmas Day – 9:30am Holy Communion with Carols

We will also make a number of services available online via our YouTube channel.

Communion Table in Church

The PCC have been looking at ways a priest might be able to use the main communion table and preside facing the congregation. This is something Bishop Julian has raised with us. It has been noted that the table is made of 3 panels and if one was removed it would still be wide enough to use but a person could stand behind. Plans have been drawn up and a proposal has been put to the faculty board. If you would like to know more please speak to Chris.

A Call to Pray and Give

The pandemic has had a number of very serious effects. One of these has been on people's finances and the church has not been immune. Because of this the Bishop of Blackburn has announced a call to pray and give. We are invited to consider if we might make a one-off gift, in addition to our regular giving, to our local church. This will enable the churches across the Diocese to meet their financial obligations. We recognise that the current pandemic has affected us all and many have seen a drop in their own incomes. Please take this time to pray and consider carefully how you might respond. There is a Gift Envelope and card from the Diocese to help with this. If you would like one please contact Chris.



A prayer from the Diocese for this call:

Generous, gracious and giving God, You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and He gave Himself even to death on a cross. You now give Your Spirit that "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". We pray that as Your people we may learn to give out of what You have given to us, and so meet the needs of ongoing ministry and mission in this diocese. Direct and inspire our giving, we pray, for the honour and glory of Your name. Amen.

Worship and Prayer in Church

Following the second Lockdown public gathered worship has been banned by the government. It is important we take our obligations to the well being of the nation seriously and follow the guidance given. It is also important that we do not give up praying for our nation as our Arhbishops have reminded us. Please continue to pray at home, and the church will be open for private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays from 10am-12noon until services are allowed to resume. **We plan to return to gathered worship on the 6th December following the current information.** In the meantime we will continue to put services onto YouTube.

Yours truly,



Revd. Chris Boland