



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
FULWOOD, PRESTON

Connecting people to *Jesus Christ* and each other.

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Monday 14 December

Dear All,

Welcome to our Christmas Parish Letter. There is quite a lot of news as we develop our plans for Advent and Christmas. Please do read through and remember if you are struggling at this time please do get in touch and we will help in whatever way we can. We begin with a reflective Christmas poem I recently wrote:

## A Christmas Poem

Immanuel  
God with us  
Laid in a manger  
No crying he makes  
Except  
That's not true  
Babies cry  
The stable smelt  
The straw was prickly  
Jesus cried  
He cried when he was hungry  
He cried when he was tired  
He cried when he stubbed his toe  
When he fell and grazed his knee  
When his friends called him names in the  
street.  
He cried  
When Lazarus died  
He cried out  
When crucified

Jesus wept at the pain  
He wept at peoples suffering  
He wept over Jerusalem

Immanuel  
God with us  
Laid in a manger  
Not in a sanitised  
Handwashed  
Cleaned out  
No crying here thank you we're Church of  
England kind of way  
But in the mess  
The hunger  
The tiredness  
The betrayal  
The hope  
The expectation  
The tears of sadness  
And the tears of Joy  
  
Jesus  
God with us  
Immanuel  
Crying he makes.

## Advent Activities

We have had a number of Advent activities to tell you about. Online we have been having a Zoom Advent Course and Graham has produced an online Advent Calendar with thoughts about Advent and Christmas each day. The Calendar can be found on the church webpage and Facebook. We also have prayer ribbons in the churchyard to tie onto the branches of the trees. Do come and have a look. Finally, a number of people across the parish have made posters of their favourite part of the Christmas story or their favourite Christmas Carol and displayed them in their windows. **Thank You to everyone who has helped make these happen.**

## Lancashire Sings Christmas "From Baubles to Bubbles" BBC Radio Lancashire

**Thursday 17th Dec, 7pm:** "From Baubles to Bubbles" is an invitation to tune into the annual 1-hour Lancashire Sings Christmas programme and to share this service of carols, readings, stories of hope and healing. (Song-sheets are available online to view or download.) Join with everyone in Lancashire across the airways to lift our voices, and to open our hearts and our minds. Due to a clash with a late football fixture, it will not be broadcast on DAB.

## Christmas Services

There will be a number of Christ Church Christmas services both online and in person (as restrictions allow). Our current plan is:

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Carol Service at 10:30am in Church

**Christmas Eve** – Crib Service at 4:00pm in Church – **please book in advance, contact Chris.**

**Christmas Day** – Carols and Holy Communion at **9:30am** in Church

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December** – 10:30am Morning Worship in Church

**Online Services** will go live on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. on our YouTube channel “ChristChurch Preston”.

*On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve) there will be no Communion Service and the church will not be open for private prayer due to the Crib Service and needing to Covid clean.*

A reminder that a face covering must be worn in church. Thank you for your patience in this.

## A note from Jean and Richard Clementson

We want to thank everyone at Christ Church for being so caring and loving to both of us whilst we've been ill. We have such wonderful, precious memories of so many different and varied occasions at Church - from family celebrations to moving Church services - especially Carol Services, and then at Easter going to Blackburn Cathedral on Maundy Thursday. We thank everyone for the joy we've shared at social events: sharing meals together and joining in with festive activities of games and dancing. It's been wonderful to be part of the Choir, flower arranging group and Crafters where we all support each other. We do thank you all for all your on-going support it means so much to both of us. [Jean & Richard]

## Phone a Friend

We are increasingly aware that the longer we live within restrictions the more our community suffers the effects of isolation. I'm sure you can all bring to mind friends in our fellowship who have been unable to attend worship services or access services online and those who may be finding these times especially hard. We can all help by letting them know that they are not forgotten, that their church family loves them and is thinking of them and the simplest way to do this is to pick up the phone and give them a call. If there are any ways in which we can help to support people practically, or any particular requests for prayer, please let Chris know.

Yours truly,



Revd. Chris Boland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Boland', written on a white background.



## Shoebox appeal update

Thanks to all who contributed to this year's appeal. 16 boxes were made, packed by Junior Church and Pathfinders with things donated from the church and things they brought themselves, packing for children of age 2 all the way up to teenagers, both boys and girls. A special thanks must go to Viki Cuthbertson whose own honeybee soap was placed into most of the boxes. There were even things left over to go to the Salvation Army. A big thanks to Graham for coordinating this important act of giving.

**May God bless you this Christmastime and through the coming year**