

## Church Family Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Church Family,

We have just been told this week what Christmas will be like for Church, and it is pretty much as was before 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown. We are therefore gearing up for our very different, but we hope really special Christmas services 2020.

Demand will be high, and we cannot take as many people as we would like in our services, you will need to book for all our Christmas services.

We will email the newsletters to book onto all Christmas services before advertising – and the first Christmas service you can book now!

### Christmas Concert Service 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 5pm Rectory Field

Join us for a musical Christmas service, we may not be able to sing but we will have a professional brass ensemble!

This will be **the closest thing to a traditional carol service** we will have this year and is open to both **Frant and Eridge** to join us for what should be an amazing evening.

If you can we ask for a donation towards the cost of the evening and the professional musicians of £10 for over 12s. Children free. This is optional and can be given when you book online. If you know people who can't book online, perhaps you could help them by booking online for them?

We will be **OUTSIDE** (dress warm!) in the Rectory field at 5pm (**bring a torch**) - you will need to **bring your own chair**. Walking shoes or wellies might be advisable too for uneven wet ground. The service will include traditional Christmas readings, music and a choir.

The rule of 6 applies, so you can sit in groups. However as before you need to not interact with others outside your group and maintain social distancing. Something we are all very used to by now.

There will be fairy lights, real fires and torchlight. The event will happen outside even if it rains so **bring a brolly!**

#### Things to bring:

**Good strong shoes**

**Foldable Chair** (if you are unable we will have a few, or you can sit on a log!)

**Torch**

**Brolly**

**Warm Clothes**

**A hot drink?!**

**This will be popular and places are limited due to covid.  
(Church family get early access... we will advertise next week)**

**Other Christmas services will be available to book next week:**

**Sunday 20th December**

6pm: Eridge Outdoor Nativity Service with Christingles

### **Christmas Eve:**

4pm Frant Outdoor Crib and Christingles Service  
11pm Eridge Midnight Communion (joint service)

### **Christmas Day:**

9:30 Frant Family Celebration  
11:15 Eridge Christmas Communion

## **This Sunday is advent Sunday! Isaiah 64:1-9 When the Lord Comes**

We will start our Journey towards Christmas, remembering that Christ has come and Christ will come again. Getting ourselves ready, not just for Christmas but for Christ.

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDtsdqyqX6S8yZZI5S-pK6Q>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/frantchurch>

As I say, if you subscribe and like the service, more people will see it.

## **Helping others in need this Christmas...**

- **Family Support Work – hampers for families in need in Sussex**

As you know, as Churches, we very much support FSW in their ministry to families in need in the diocese. If you want to give in this way, you can leave gifts in our churches (leave a note saying "for FSW") or bring direct to me at the Rectory, we need these by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

*"Chocolate Santas and selection boxes and likewise family sized boxes of biscuits. With food we also need the usual selection of Christmas Puddings, tinned custard, tinned fruit, jelly, cranberry sauce, bread sauce, stuffing mix, gravy granules, minced pies and packs of savoury snacks again that the family can share.*

*With presents we can accept any new toys but please encourage people NOT to wrap them. We especially need toys for the over 5s, and of course toys includes things like games, jigsaws, colouring books and pens and of course books. For teenagers, gift vouchers are good. We really must stress that we can't use soft toys this year so please tell everyone that we DO NOT want teddies."*

- **Women's Refuge**

**Toiletries:** We would like to receive donations of everyday-type toiletries, which the Refuge can use throughout the year. Also, luxury items, which can be used as gifts at Christmas and on other special occasions.

**Donations can be left in Frant Church during opening times:**

Wednesday : 9am-2pm    Sunday: 9am-2pm

There will be two boxes for donations (for each type) so please separate accordingly, in order to minimise handling of items.

There will be a cash collection on 6<sup>th</sup> December also.

- **Book sale to from Friends of Bells Yew Green to raise money to support families (in our parish and beyond) in need**

NEW children's books and others, have been donated by a generous friend who is a bookseller. We have a range - displayed on many tables - including picture books and easy-readers and more, plus some new and good used adult titles. 100% of the proceeds will support local families and food banks.

They are happy to open the hall quietly to local families, who can benefit from some lovely books, perhaps for Christmas presents, at give-away prices. (As mentioned, most titles would be £6.99 and we're selling them for fifty pence!).

**Please TEXT Sue on 07944 712000 to book yours.**

## **Share for prayer**

Continued prayers for **Colin and Ros Burgess' family: Daughter Claire, husband David and their family** who lost their home last Wednesday to a tragic fire taking everything but thankfully not their lives. Pray as they come to terms with the trauma they have gone through but also guidance for the future as they rebuild their lives.

Remember **Audrey Dicker** after her husband Roy passed away.

Also pray for **Roy Randall** who is awaiting heart surgery.

Finally, continue to pray for **Lydia Packman**, who has written an amazing update and reflection which I think will really encourage you...

*"Thank you so much for your prayers. I still have lots of non-epileptic attacks / seizures each day. Some are small, and some are horrible and violent, but I am trusting God for the future. Please keep praying for me.*

*I went to youth group and we were doing about when Jesus' disciples were fishing all night and didn't catch a thing. Then Jesus told them to throw their net on the other side of the boat and the net was overflowing. Then Jesus called them onto the shore and cooked them breakfast.*

*This had just been an incredibly tough time for the disciples. Jesus had just died and there were even rumours he had risen again, and it had completely changed their life. It all happened really fast and no-one understood, they were really struggling and weren't at all sure why any of this had happened or how to feel about it.*

*Then Jesus turns up and does a simple thing - cooks them breakfast. In the midst of all their deepest fears, problems, worries and feelings, Jesus gave them a small reminder of how much God loves them and how even in the darkest times he cares and always has a plan.*

*I've had a really tough few months, being in and out of hospital and having so many seizures, and I felt quite similar emotions to the disciples - my life has completely changed, except for one thing, God. He stays the same. And through these difficult times there have been certain Bible verses, lyrics from songs, quotes that have put a smile on my face and just like Jesus cooking the disciples breakfast that morning, reminded me that God is in control and this is all part of his AMAZING plan! I trust him! In all things God works for the good of those who love him."*

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Every Blessing,

-Rev Brendan