

## **Church Family Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Church Family,

Happy Christmas! We still have Christmas services you can sign up to:

### **Sunday 20th December 5pm**

Eridge Outdoor Nativity Service

Book: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/9ubkyoqa>

### **Christmas Eve**

4pm Frant Outdoor Crib Service

Book: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/mmtпойar>

11pm Eridge Midnight Communion

Book: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/kkv4pgsd>

### **Christmas Day**

9:30am Frant Family Celebration

Book: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/zzjq2eal>

11:15am Eridge Christmas Communion

Book: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/9t0zayee>

**Sunday services as usual on 27<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January.**

9:30am at Frant, 11:15am at Eridge, and online.

**When meeting outside**, you can sit and interact in groups of 6, or household bubble. Please keep distance at all times with others.

**When meeting inside**, you cannot interact socially with anyone except within your household bubble. Please keep distance at all times with others.

**Please remember that we comply with guidance in order to care and protect each other, and safeguard our NHS.**

## **Remembering to thank God for the good things of 2020**

As we head to Christmas and into new year, I wanted to focus our minds on some of the positive things of 2020. Of course, we mustn't forget how awful and horrific it has been for the world and individuals affected by covid, and we continue to work and pray, doing what we can in the crisis safely to support and protect others.

Yet in amongst the horror of 2020, we want to remember and give thanks to God for some of the good things we have seen this year in our church and community:

- We had our communities coming together every Thursday to clap our NHS in the first lockdown.
- We had people helping out neighbours they didn't even know, with lifts, food and help. This Christmas we gave more to our charities to help families in need.
- We have expanded the number of people that connect with church through online services (over 10,000 views of our services this year) and emails (go out to over 175 people every week).
- We had people praying in our month of prayer and fasting leading up to the announcement of the first vaccine.
- We started Festival Church and realised the joy and fun of outdoor worship and had 30 children join us for our Festival Church Sunday School. The diocese is very interested in what we have been doing with this, I hope we might be able to inspire other rural churches.
- We were blessed by our Reader Roy Goodship's reflections during the lockdowns, who sadly passed away last week.
- We built a new office (it was finished yesterday!) and we look forward to setting it up in January.
- We had new people giving money towards the work of the church, and established people stepping up to help us financially through this crisis.
- Ed completed Forest School Instructor Training, leading to our outdoor children's groups and work with Frant School.
- We established our Forest School area in our woodland.
- We maintained our ability to pay towards our costs to the diocese, despite the huge loss of funds from not hiring out the stables and our usual concerts and activities.

Let us give thanks to God for his sustaining grace on us, as we look in confidence to 2021.

## **Please pray for God's help this Christmas:**

- For safety in our services, which we are doing everything we can to be safe. Pray that all who attend will help us to keep each other safe and well this Christmas.
- For the good news of Christmas and the light of Christ to lighten dark hearts this Christmas
- For those families who we supported through Family Support Work, Women's Refuge, Food Bank, Shoe Box Appeal.
- For those that lost loved ones this year from our community, Christmas will be a hard time for them.
- For those right now who we know in our community who have covid (I know of two families right now).
- For the staff of our local GPs and Hospitals and their families as they battle growing covid rates.
- Pray that as a whole community we can work together to help and protect others.

## **Onto 2021!**

Join us next year! In January I hope to share my vision for what we pray will be a better year generally and a year of growth for the church as we hopefully look beyond covid.

I pray every blessing for the Christmas Season and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

-Rev Brendan