

Church Family Newsletter 9th January 2021

Dear Church Family

Last Sunday in our online service we looked at our hopes and vision for 2021. We are calling it our "Year of Community."

At this point we must encourage each other to continue to stay at home and only go out for essential reasons. The numbers of cases and deaths this week has shown the terrible cost of this disease once again and we must do all we can to help and protect our community and in light of this our church services will remain online.

I hear a lot of people talk in terms of individuals making choices to put themselves at risk of covid, but I think this disease has shown us more than anything else that there is no individualism when it comes to covid, our choices help or hinder the whole community, not only ourselves. It is strange that at a time when international travel has been curtailed, when movement has been reduced, when people are isolating, we actually realise just how truly connected we are.

As we see a way out of covid, through lockdown and then vaccines, it is right to be hopeful about the future. That connection that made covid spread so quickly and easily, can be utilised again to build the community that has been on hold. Will you be ready to join us (when the time is right after covid) to make 2021 a Year of Community?

It will require a lot of initial energy and effort, and right now we are planning and preparing for how we can build community again as we look past covid. It will need people to lead and serve in new ways. Community is something everyone needs to get involved in.

We will re-establish groups that were lost, we will innovate from what we had, and we will get new groups established.

I am praying for the church to be the centre of our village communities gathering back together.

This Sunday: Acts 10:34-48 "Everyone Welcome"

There are two bits of the history of people of faith which resonates with covid in my mind, the first I think is the exile in the Old Testament, and we have thought about that through Isaiah and Jeremiah particularly. This new year I want to return to the other moment, the scattered Church in Acts, which although really tough for those Christians, enabled the good news of Jesus to spread further and faster, and to welcome into the church unexpected people!

Join us online from 9:30am.

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

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

Share for Prayer

We had some sad news this week that **Betty Leefe** passed away. She had a very long life and was well known in Frant church and was in the choir over many years, and was for the last part of her life living in a care home. Craggs, her late husband was treasurer here many years ago. Pray for her friends and family.

Can we take the opportunity to particularly think this week of a person or people in our community or country as a whole who particularly need prayer at this time? Has God placed someone's name in your heart?

There is a local family on my heart who especially needs prayer today, the circumstances in which I can't share, but can say this family very much needs God's help right now.

If you would like to add someone to our share for prayer, please email the office:

office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk

Every blessing,

-Rev Brendan