



'WHAT'S HAPPENING & PRAYER SHEET'

January - February - March 2021

“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:4.

“Those who were scattered went about preaching the Word...” Acts 8:4.

“...and there was much joy.” Acts 8:8.

COMING UP:

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Theme: “ABIDING IN CHRIST”

Launch service on **Sunday 17th January 2021** at **6.30pm** hosted on Zoom (link is in a separate email, also tel. numbers, or ask me - corbell.hm@gmail.com if you need it) by Trinity Methodist Church, Bury St. Edmunds, led by Rev. Debbie Borda, with speaker Fr. David Bagstaff of St Edmund's RC Church, Bury St./ Edmunds.

Also lunchtime prayers (12.30-1.15.) hosted / led by...as follows:

Monday: St. Mary's (Laura Pope)

Tuesday: West Road Church / Westley Community Church (Graham Jack)

Wednesday: Trinity Methodist Church (Debbie Borda & David Wakeford)

Thursday: St Edmund's Church (David Bagstaff)

Friday: Christ Church Moreton Hall (Andrew Caldecott)

Saturday: St. John's Church / North Bury Team (Adrian Mann)

'Zoom' links will follow, or ask as above.

DATES AHEAD:

ALL SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS.....

Good Friday Service and Walk of Witness provisionally **Friday 2nd. April 2021** at the Cathedral and in town.

Churches Together Summer Celebration provisionally **Sunday 27th June 2021** in The Abbey Gardens. (afternoon).

Give thanks for all the new things happening at cross-church neighbourhood level, and 'on-line', growth in numbers and faith, and the extension of the Kingdom of God.

CORONAVIRUS: Pray for the controlling of the Coronavirus outbreak, healing for those ill, and comfort for those dying and those bereaved. Pray for the vaccines programme. Pray for those for whom restrictions bring particular problems.

Pray for the NHS, Care-staff, and other key workers. Pray for local businesses and those who have lost their employment, home, relationships.

Pray for schools, and for students away from home.

Pray for Parliament to have integrity and God's guidance and over-ruling, and for peace and unity in our country, that as a Nation we will work together for the common good, and with mutual respect.

PRAY for our churches, for gospel outreach, pastoral care, and neighbourhood concerns, and Christian influence in national and local public life.

Please circulate this sheet in whatever way you can.

For more information about Churches Together see our web-site: Churches Together in Bury St. Edmunds and District. For regular information about activities join our google group (instructions are on the web-site). HC.

Some Encouragements and Concerns from Churches:

All Saints, Bury - good news, we welcomed several families, including new ones, and over 30 people to our Outdoor Crib Service on Christmas Eve in spite of the freezing cold! It was lovely to be able to sing carols together. For prayer - that the right person will respond to our advert for a new Team Rector so that the post can be filled soon. Thank you.

For St Peter's: -

- Item of good news – we put our Crib Service and Carol Service online via Facebook so that we could reach as many people as possible. Even if we ran these services twice we would not have been able to reach a quarter of the people we had in 2019. We were really encouraged that there were over 250 engagements with the Crib Service and we know that people who do not normally go to church watched our Carol Service
- Item for concern – that people stay safe during this new lockdown and that families find ways to engage with the church family and spiritually.

Christ Church Moreton Hall will be in lock down for 3 weeks from the 10th Jan We give thanks that we are able to live stream our morning services each Sunday due to the generosity and expertise of some of our church members. This has been a great blessing to many people and we intend to continue it for the foreseeable future. We pray for the health and safety of everyone during this pandemic and that God will move across our nation bringing healing and renewal in this stressful time. Thank you.

From **St George's**

We were encouraged to hold a successful Christingle and Nativity service in December. One of our biggest concerns is how we minister to children in these Covid times. Blessings.

From St. Mary's, Bury: here are our pieces for the prayer sheet.

- Item of good news – Despite restrictions we have had enquires for baptisms in the church and two new families have begun attending on Sundays. Prayer that this ministry will continue.
- Item for prayer – A new support group for our 20's-30's.

We have also updated our service times in St Mary's and throughout January and February we will have one service in person at 10am in St Mary's alongside our 6pm Zoom service. You do not need to book for this service and all are welcome to attend.

In Horringer Benefice: Sunday services are currently reduced to one each Sunday at just one of the Benefice churches. We are thankful for continuing prayer support and Zoom meetings with other Christians across our villages. One of our prayer needs is for an up-coming 'inter-regnum', and the possible appointing of a new Rector.