

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it *John 1:5*

Wishing all our congregations and communities the peace, joy, hope, love and light of Christmas. The circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus were not what anyone would have wanted, but they did not prevent God coming to us in Jesus. Nor do our present unwished-for circumstances prevent his coming each day. The good news at the heart of Christmas is that Jesus, Emmanuel - God with us, comes to us in the midst of all the mess and muddle and fragility of our lives – may you experience his loving, life-giving, peace-bearing presence afresh this Christmas.

Comfort and Joy – The Church of England has prepared some Comfort and Joy for us from Christmas Day to 2nd January: readings and reflections for each day based around different Christmas carols. We have a supply of these booklets: please contact Kate if you would like one for yourself or others. Alternatively this link will take you to a web page where you can register to receive the daily readings in various ways: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>.

Our churches are open for public worship over Christmas for those who wish to gather in person. In order to keep us all safe:

- Please stay at home if you have been asked to self-isolate or have symptoms of Covid-19
- Please arrive close to the start time – no more than 10 minutes before the service is due to start
- Please leave promptly at the end of the service
- Please keep a 2 metre separation between yourself and other households, and avoid mingling
- Please wear a mask unless you are exempt, and use hand sanitiser

Christmas Eve

Walk Through Nativity for families Studley Church – *fully booked, but check our website for cancellations*

11pm Midnight Communion Studley Church – *nearly full – contact Kate if you'd like to come*

Christmas Day

10am Holy Communion Mappleborough Church – *no need to book*

10am Family Worship Studley Church – *no need to book* we may start by singing carols in the churchyard.

11.15am Holy Communion Morton Bagot Church – *just about full – contact Kate if you'd like to come*

11.30am -12.00pm Zoom festive chat with Kate: not going to church but would like to enjoy the company of some Arden Marches folk at Christmas? Then join me with a drink and a nibble for a chat, a carol and a prayer - to share some joy and peace and love on Christmas Day. Same Zoom login info as for our Sunday 10am Zoom services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6792975230> or meeting ID 679 297 5230

If you do not know the password please contact Judith, Kate or Dan.

Or you can join on your landline or mobile phone by dialling 0208 080 6591 (London number – national rate applies).

Enter the conference ID (679 297 5230) and password when requested.

Sunday 27th December

You are invited to join the live-streamed Coventry Diocese service at 10am (or watch it later if you prefer):

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/sunday-27-december.php>

The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, and the clergy will be taking holiday time. Kate can be contacted at the Vicarage if there is an emergency.

Thank you from Kate and Dan for so many wonderful cards and good wishes from Arden Marches people. It is a privilege to be part of this amazing church community that has pulled together and reached out and trusted God in new ways through this past year.

Sunday worship in January

During January we will continue to hold 10am services via Zoom every Sunday using the same login details as in previous news sheets. If possible, depending on guidance nearer the time, we hope to hold the following services in church buildings:

3 rd Epiphany	10am Holy Communion in Studley Church
10 th Baptism of Christ	8am Holy Communion in Studley Church
17 th Epiphany 2	10am Holy Communion in Mappleborough Church
24 th Christian Unity	8am Holy Communion in Studley Church
31 st Candlemas	4pm Holy Communion in Morton Bagot or Oldberrow Church

There will be no online **Weekday Prayer** between Christmas and New Year, we will begin again on 4th January. You might like to use the CofE booklet Comfort and Joy for your personal prayer times in the Christmas season. The Church of England App '**Time to Pray**' has Daytime Prayer and Night Prayer to read or to listen with each day – looks good and worth a try. And there is also the Daily Hope phone line:

Daily Hope: for Christmas there is a wonderful range of festive content including Bible readings and Christmas Carols available on the line.

Breakfast-time Prayer for our community, 5th January 7am

Regifting your Christmas presents? As we receive our Saviour once more this Christmas, let's start 2021 giving away what we have received. If you want to see our local area transformed by and for Jesus, join us in prayer, first Tuesday of every month.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84915271155?pwd=N3VwU21pZHIXYIZ4dXpNdzNxWmtYQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 1527 1155

Passcode: 236002



Friends of Amasango Quiz 7pm Friday 15th January

Join us for a quiz to raise funds for Amasango School in South Africa. £5 a person, £10 a household.

[Buy tickets for Friends of Amasango Virtual Quiz, Fri 15 Jan 2021](#)

For your prayers

Contact Judith McLelland to add the names of people in urgent and critical need of prayer (with their permission). People remain on the list for 4 weeks (contact Judith if they need to remain after this).

We pray for people in particular need including: **John Mann, Peter Holmes, Angie Holmes, Linda Moffat, Sylvia and Roy Sealey, Tony Drake, Melissa Lammas, Val Greathead and Sue Ludlow**

We commend to God all who have died recently and pray for their families, including: **Peter Wright, Pat Cund and Trudy Rowney**

We remember those for whom the anniversary of their death falls at this time: **Robin Jarman, Roger Chacksfield and William Noke**

Prayer for the week 27th December

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer for the week 3rd January

God our Father, in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Making a donation to our churches

You can make a donation using a bank card by phoning Dan Corlett, or by electronic bank transfer

(please include your name as the reference for Gift Aid purposes)

To give by cheque, use the church name as in this table, and send the cheque to The Vicarage or pass it directly to the treasurer. Cash donations may be taken to The Vicarage.

	Sort Code	Account
Studley Parish Church	40-43-54	61000861
Mappleborough Green Church Committee	40-43-54	00558532
Morton Bagot PCC	40-43-54	60600547
Oldberrow PCC	40-43-19	61173928

Contact details:

Rector: Revd Kate Mier

3 Manor Mews, Studley B80 7PR rector@ardenmarches.co.uk 01527 852830 *Rest Day: Friday*

Curate: Revd Dan Corlett

curate@ardenmarches.co.uk 07543 370637 *Rest day: Monday*

For safeguarding concerns:

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Kay Middleton 07867492938

Diocesan safeguarding Team (24hrs) 024 7652 1345

Church Administrator: Judith McLelland

Available 2.00pm-4.30pm Monday to Thursday parish@ardenmarches.co.uk 01527 850130

News sheet deadline 2pm Thursday

Our website is www.ardenmarches.co.uk

You can find us on Facebook as Arden Marches Churches or join Arden Marches Church Family