

Marking Christmas in Tier 4 ...



We were due to share a short newsletter with you to assure you that you will be in our thoughts and prayers over the Christmas season.

The announcement that looks like we are now in Tier 4.

I know this will affect many of us and our plans and hopes for Christmas and I ask that we all hold each other in our prayers over the coming days -



especially those who will be unable to be with their families and loved ones.

I hope that we will continue to show the care and support for each other and those around us over these days and to contact especially those who may be alone or vulnerable/

There is a glimmer of light in that the Prime Minister stated public worship can continue

There have been many twists and turns on the journey to the stable this year and they continue as we move into Tier 4.

As always, we will seek to ensure that our churches are safe places to gather and worship and that we will seek to care for everyone in our community.

The guidance for Tier 4 is that **we can continue to gather for public worship**, but in doing so **we should not mingle or chat inside or outside** the building.

When you arrive **once registering at the door with minimal conversation please go straight to a seat**, and likewise **at the end please leave without chatting and or gathering**



Also, it is advised that **those who are not in Tier 4 should not travel into the area.**

As before **hand sanitiser** should be used on entering the building, **face coverings** must be worn, and we should **avoid handling items** that others will touch.

We hope you will seek to support us in respecting one

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another's space and wellbeing with the extra vigilance and care we should all exercise at this time.

This does mean that **we are able to continue with our planned services to celebrate Christmas**

and if you wish to share in them you can do so via the website, Facebook or You Tube.

Alternatively, you can join us in the Churches – but **please do let us know in advance if you intend to be at a service.**- there are currently spaces at all listed here

The celebrations are

Sunday Dec 20th

6pm St Mary's Church - Readings and Music for Christmas - live streamed



At the following people can only sit alone or in household groups.

Christmas Eve

5pm St Mary's A celebration of the nativity story led by our young families - live streamed

6pm St Wilfrid's A Mass of Christmas Night – limited spaces please reserve a space with Revd Sam (assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk)

7pm St Faith's A Mass of Christmas Night – limited spaces please reserve a space with Revd Sue (sue.whitelock@portseaparish.co.uk)

11.30pm St Mary's - The Midnight Mass - live streamed - limited spaces. Contact vicar@portseaparish.co.uk if you would like to attend.

See the section below on how you can access live streams on facebook, youtube and portseaparish.co.uk.



Christmas Day

10am St Mary's - Parish Mass for Christmas - live streamed

Sunday Dec 27th

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10am St Mary's Parish Mass - live streamed

Email vicar@portseaparish.co.uk if you would like to attend either of these services.

There will be a **Noon Mass at St Mary's every day from Dec 26th to Jan 1st**

On **Sunday Jan 3rd** we will resume our current 'regular' Sunday times in each church

Monday Dec 21st

7pm A Reindeer Drive to raise funds for Hope into Action **on Zoom!**

A chance to have some fun and raise money for the house we will be supporting in the Parish in 2021.

Please contact me via email to book a place, receive a playing card and further instructions!



As always, your generosity has been overwhelming – thank you for all your giving and financial support over the last months.

If you would like to make a donation but are not sure how please contact me for details.

In particular I would like to thank you on behalf of all who were involved in '**Comfort and Joy**'. We were concerned that this year we would not be able to share so much with the agencies and those they support.

With the help of HIVE, the news and the City Council I am delighted to say that we have already distributed **£15k** and the figure continues to rise.

Thank you from all of those who will benefit from this project!

We are aware that over Christmas it will be a difficult time for some of you – and some of you may be on your own.

We are ensuring that a member of the Ministry team is available every day to talk with or contact.

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The best way to do this will be by phoning the Vicarage landline (023 92 822687) and a message will direct you to the person who is available on that day.

Please do not hesitate to call us.



Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us and worked with us over the last few months of 2020 to ensure that we continue to be a community which seeks to be rooted in worship, prayer and care.

I am certain that whatever 2021 brings this amazing group of people will continue to respond creatively and pastorally

However, you are marking the days we hope that you are able to celebrate 'God with us' in our homes and lives.

Perhaps this year we will be able to focus on the heart of the Christmas message and be aware of the peace of the Christ child and seek to share that peace with others.

Once again ending as I began assuring you of all our thoughts and prayers this Christmas and in the year ahead.



With best wishes

Father Bob