

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,
Friday, December 25th, 2020

ePEWS NEWS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



Susie and Ian Maslin thank you for all the cards and good wishes they've received and wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas.

THIS WEEKEND'S DUNSFOLD SERVICES

4pm Christmas Eve Crib Service*
Please wrap up warmly as this service is being held outside and there will be no access to the church building.
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist*

10am Christmas Day, Family Eucharist*

OT: Isaiah 9: 2-7
NT: Titus 2: 11-14
GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-20

Collect for Christmas Day: Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***To ensure we meet Covid-19 restrictions please pre-book your places at the above services either by emailing your requests to dandhchurchbooking@gmail.com or calling Reverend Ian Maslin at The Rectory on 01483 200048.**

AT LAST WE CAN FOCUS ON THE REAL MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Joy to the world, Christmas is here. The waiting and preparation is over as we celebrate the sheer joy and hope that are found in the birth of Jesus.

In recent months many people have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, either directly or by the frustrations it has caused to them in changing their lives and curbing their freedom. We now know the situation will not improve for several weeks.

The stresses of preparing for Christmas have been different this year but are still present - even for those who have spent much of 2020 working from home.

Here we are on Christmas Eve and we can firmly shift our focus to the real meaning of Christmas. Wherever we are we can focus on the miracle of Jesus's birth. How God sent his Son to be with us through the young virgin Mary. The baby Jesus was, and is, the greatest gift given to mankind. With that in mind here is a special prayer for Christmas.

"God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ."

WITH THANKS FOR PUTTING 'CHRIS' INTO DUNSFOLD'S CHRISTMAS 2020

We offer a sincere thank you to Chris Paul, his wife Rebecca and their family for the beautiful hand-made Nativity scene (below) that is on display outside the Dunsfold Village Shop.

Chris is a very talented guy and we appreciate the efforts he's gone to in adding a special glow to Christmas in our village this year.



COMING UP ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 27

8am BCP Holy Communion, Dunsfold
10am Joint Parish Communion, Hascombe



REVEREND IAN MASLIN ON WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE SHEPHERDS AT CHRISTMASTIME

Why on earth were the shepherds, these ordinary, low-class working men, chosen by God to be given the honour of being the first people to be told the news of Christ's birth?

The truth is God came to the world just as it was. He didn't wait for it to be good enough or clean enough or holy enough. He shone His glory into the ordinariness of a day's work.

"Do not be afraid" the angel said, "for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people"

Can you imagine all the angels of heaven bursting into your office, or your work, or your kitchen, how would you feel?

As it was, they left their sheep and rushed to find the stable where the new-born baby was, watched over by His young mother.

We have heard this story so often that we can forget its enormous impact.

What was in the hearts and minds of the shepherds when they found everything was just as the angels had said?

Perhaps a slow dawning that something life-changing; world-changing had really happened, even if they didn't fully understand what it was.

As they stood in that stable, wearing their smelly work clothes, faces shining with sweat from the exertion of getting there; they met with God. They told the baby's young mother about the angels; and perhaps she needed that reassurance herself.

She had given birth for the first time, far away from her home and her family, in a dirty stable. Perhaps she wondered where God was in it all? Perhaps she feared that things were not going the right way.

The visit from the shepherds, and their message from the angels, would have reassured and comforted her at such a scary and vulnerable time.

And what about us?

Where is God in the pandemic situation that we have found ourselves in this year? Well, He's where He has always been; right here with us helping us through it.

During this extraordinary year God has never left us, He has always been at our side. Despite the changes in all our lives imposed by this terrible disease the message that God sends us is always the same.

The message of Christmas is that God, out of His great kindness, meets you just where you are.

You don't have to go somewhere special to find Him. He knows who you are, and He knows what you need.

He is much more interested in the openness of your heart to Him than He is in the tidiness of your house or the quality of your Christmas dinner.

Let's invite Him today into the ordinariness of our lives and let us pray that we may have the simple faith of the shepherds, the quiet trust of Mary and Joseph; and may we also know that same capacity for joy and wonder.

And may we all also enjoy, Peace on earth and goodwill to all men

Amen

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

On a recent home visit in Dunsfold Reverend Ian was met at the door by a three years-old. An adult indoors shouted: "Who is it?" The little boy replied: "It's the big teacher from church." Ian has been called worse!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: Christians and church leaders in areas where they can not celebrate Christmas openly and face hostility because of their faith.

WORLD: We pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the people of Bethlehem.

THE SICK: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Barbara Crabb, Sarah Godwin and John Davies, Norman Edsall, William and James Mason, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Bill and Tracy Wood, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith.

THE DEPARTED: Dru Ridley, Sheelagh Thomason.

SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR CHURCH

We take safeguarding seriously in Dunsfold Church. If you have any concerns or information you wish to pass on please contact our safeguarding officer, Hazel Wiltshire on 01403 753847 or email her at hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net

THE LAST WORD...

JOHN SENTAMU

"I believe the coming of Jesus Christ as a poor and defenceless baby remains our hope for the world. It's a story that can never be drowned out. It's the greatest news there is."



