

Dear all

We are approaching our new run of lockdown services again. Don't forget that we will be live-streaming our Sunday morning services at the usual time of 10.00am. Sonia and I will be sharing the services as previously, but this time we will have some live music with Chris playing the organ.

There will be a live-streamed Act of Remembrance at 3.00pm on this coming Sunday, 8th November. Unfortunately, actual attendance will be by invitation only. This complies with Government guidelines.

And on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, there will be a live-streamed evening service at 6.00pm.

All of these services will be found on the church Facebook page. If you haven't found it already, search in Facebook for DSJ Priory Church.



As I mentioned in the last letter this year, we will be running an Advent course, based on the book *At Home in Advent* by Gordon Giles.

The Church Times says about this book: *In the BRF Advent Book, Gordon Giles identifies the three Advent themes that his reflections seek to explore: "hope, expectation and trepidation". At Home in Advent is intended both for individual use and for groups. With daily thoughts accompanied by questions, activities, and prayers, it offers a "domestic journey from Advent to Epiphany". The unpretentious text takes account of the coronavirus threat without traumatising the reader. Its very domesticity would make this book the perfect present for someone on lockdown.*

The author believes in the "bounty of Christmas" and is happy to find this bounty in the everyday. Here is a timely reminder that, while some of the celebrations may be different this year, it is impossible to "cancel" Christmas.

We will try to set this up via Zoom. Zoom is very easy to manage – you download the app, and sign in with the meeting code and password that will be given. If you have a computer with camera and microphone (as in most laptops, tablets or smartphones) you can interact. Otherwise, you can still follow.

The book can be ordered from our local Christian Bookshop, Peterborough Christian Bookshop at <https://www.p-christianbooks.co.uk/> They will take phone or email orders, and books can be sent or collected (by arrangement).

You may be used to ordering things from Amazon, but if you are looking to do internet shopping, I would heartily recommend <https://www.aslanchristianbooks.com/> They are very prompt (not quite next day, but not too far off), and are very regularly as cheap, if not cheaper than Amazon.

As an Eco-church, we seek to find as many ways as possible to act on climate issues, both by direct action, and by speaking out. The Fairtrade Foundation is encouraging us to support an initiative called 'The Time is Now'. This is what they say about themselves:

The Time Is Now is a campaign run by The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change.

Along with our sister organisations Stop Climate Chaos Cymru and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, we are a collective of over 140 organisations — including the National Trust, Women's Institute, Oxfam, and RSPB — and 22 million voices strong. We are reaching across the UK to show our love for all the things we want to protect from climate change, and to ask politicians to put aside their differences and commit to doing whatever is necessary to protect them.

We are at a turning point. Our best chance of building a stronger economy goes hand in hand with tackling climate change. By working together, investing in growing clean industries and preserving green spaces we can build a cleaner, fairer world for future generations, instead of locking in pollution for decades to come.

The UK will be the hosts of the UN Climate Summit - also known as COP26 - next year. This is our opportunity to lead the world into a greener future, but first we need to invest in the solutions to climate change at home. Ahead of the summit, the UK must lead the world by ensuring our recovery gets us on track to net-zero emissions and limits the rise in the global temperature to 1.5 degrees C.

We are launching a Declaration addressed directly to the Prime Minister. We are bringing together businesses, community groups and people from all walks of life to send a strong and unified message that we want to see the UK forge a resilient recovery for a healthy and safer world, and inspire other countries to follow.

We're also going to be championing climate ambition the whole way through to COP26, while supporting communities to get active throughout the country.

<https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration>

I asked people if they would send me anything they would like to share – either deep and meaningful, or funny. I'll leave you to decide which is which!

Terry Noble sent this:

No Nativity this year because the three wise men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have all been furloughed.

The Inn Keeper has had to close under tier three regulations and had a slump in bookings.

Santa will not be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose he should be isolating and taking a test.

Juliet Mills sent this. How many do you recognise?

A Pageant of English Verse. Anonymous (sent to me by a member).

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,

I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.

I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all.

I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu,

But I shan't be seeing him just yet, and nor, I think will you.

While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay,

I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonny boat across the sea to Skye,

or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.

About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go,
to see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.
And no, I won't be travelling much within the realms of gold,
or get to Milford Haven, all that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends,
nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

And Chris Pearce sent this link to a beautiful service of Music and Readings for Remembrance Day, 2020, by the Bath Abbey Choirs. <https://youtu.be/TN7ALL4xhJY>

Finally, I don't usually repost cat memes, but I couldn't resist this COVID trap!



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark