



News for the Pews... on the move!

Today's Joint Service

10.00am Holy Communion (St Stephen's)

President: Nick Davies

Preacher: Peter Quinnell

Readings: Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end and
1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24 (Sue Rowe, St Stephen's),
and John 1. 6-8, 19-28

Hymns: 46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
75 Long ago, prophets knew
30 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
39 Hills of the North, rejoice

Intercessions: Peter Cottingham

Anthem: Sans Day Carol – Trad., Arr. Rutter

No incense will be used at this service.

**Please note that this morning's service will be
livestreamed on our Facebook page.**

The Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your
Son:
Give us courage to speak the truth,
To hunger for justice,
And to suffer for the cause of right,
With Jesus Christ our Lord.

Upcoming Sunday Services

All livestreamed Team services can be watched (live or
on catch-up) on our Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/pipandjims.
You do not need a Facebook account to access these.

20th December: 10.00am Holy Communion
(P&J/St Stephen's service at St Stephen's, Tivoli)

20th December: 6.00pm Lessons and Carols
(A traditional candlelit service of lessons and carols,
sung by our Choir, at St Stephen's, Tivoli)

24th December: 11.30pm Midnight Mass
(First Communion of Christmas at St Stephen's, Tivoli)

News & Notices

Combined Service Arrangements

This week the Churchwardens and Clergy from St
Stephen's and Pip and Jim's met to discuss service
arrangements for the coming period. We agreed that
we will have two stewards from each Church on duty
at the back of Church to help with welcoming people
and 'Track & Trace'. We will be asking everyone to
use either the [NHS Coronavirus app](#) and our QR code,
or to bring a [piece of paper with their contact details](#).
(All information provided will be securely stored in the
Parish Office for 3 weeks and then destroyed.)
Following the government guidelines, we will
continue to ask everyone to use [hand sanitiser](#) and to
wear a [face mask](#) in Church. Due to our increased
numbers in Church, we feel that it is safest to bring
[Communion to people in the pews](#).

To help communication we will have one [combined
news sheet](#) to be sent out and printed each week,
starting on 20th December. Each Monday morning
Churchwardens will meet via Zoom to review the
service arrangements and to discuss any changes
required. Do speak to them or one of the Clergy,
should you have any thoughts. Please continue to
arrive for our Sunday services [between 9.30am and
9.45am](#), and follow the stewards' directions regarding
checking in, so we can ensure everyone is seated in
time.

Hymn Words

We will no longer be printing the hymn words in our
news sheet, as it is felt this might inadvertently
encourage people to sing! A separate hymn sheet will
be circulated by email each week, which you may
choose to print if you wish to follow along with the
words. Hard copies of this will not be available.

Worship Songs for Advent

The Music Group have recorded the following Advent-
related songs, which can be accessed by emailing
Colin at colindickinson2212@gmail.com:
*Wake up; Keep the banner flying high; Into the
darkness; Light of the world; There is hope*
We plan to add some Christmas songs mid-December
and look forward to playing and singing again in St
Stephen's Church on 3rd January.

Sunday 13th December 2020 – Advent 3/Gaudete

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Volunteers Needed

Cheltenham Borough Council is seeking non-medical volunteers to assist with the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination programme, at Cheltenham East Fire Station, Keynsham Road, Cheltenham GL53 7PX. Duties will include welcoming and ushering patients; sanitising surfaces; ensuring PPE is worn by all; assisting any patients who become unwell following the vaccination; and supporting medical staff. Volunteers are required for either a morning, afternoon or evening shift, and clinics start December 16th for 3 days, and then start up again from January 4th. If you can volunteer some time please email foena.lowe@ccp.org.uk or call 0300 365 6463 (9.00am – 5.00pm), and state your availability.

Daily Hope Phone Line

The *Daily Hope* phone line offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The *Hymn Line* section of this offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. These services are available 24 hours a day by calling 0800 804 8044. The line is free, and was particularly set up for those who are isolated and cannot join online Church services – please do share these details if you know of anyone who would benefit from the encouragement of this service.

Advent & Christmas 2020

Christmas Foodbank

Now that we are back to worshipping regularly in Church we can resume our regular Sunday collections for Cheltenham Foodbank. Combining with St Stephen's congregation we are now asking for Christmas goodies as well as the gifts of much needed day-to-day food items. A list of items which are particularly needed can be found here: <https://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. Please bring them to Church and we will see that they get delivered before Christmas. Thank you.

Advent Cryptic Crossword

The solution to our Advent cryptic crossword will be published in next week's news sheet. The first-drawn correct entry will receive an Advent-themed prize. Entries should be sent by email to Ian Jones (athomeimj@aol.com) by Tuesday 15th December.

Advent Windows

Every evening in Advent, a new window will light up somewhere in Cheltenham. Can you find them all? Visit <https://cnc.church/advent-windows/> for more information.

***Away in a Manger* Crib Blessing**

Join us for a candlelit Team crib blessing and trail, and hear the Christmas story from shepherds, wise men and angels! Drop-in at St Peter's Church, Leckhampton between 3.00pm and 6.00pm on Christmas Eve; no pre-booking required. Please note that there will be disabled parking only, and face masks are required (unless exempt). More details at <https://southcheltenham.wordpress.com/christmas/>.

Reordering News & Notices

***Stepping Stones* Certificates – Can You Help?**

Preparation of certificates is almost finalised and we aim to deliver them to sponsors before Christmas. If you would be willing to deliver a few in your neighbourhood, please contact Peter Cottingham on petergreendoor@aol.com. Many thanks.

Chair Sponsorship

We have now ordered the first batch of our lovely new chairs. Please consider sponsoring one, for just £230. There will be a list of sponsors/their nominees on display in the reordered Church. Please email saintspjleckhampton@gmail.com to reserve your chair. Many thanks. *Peter Cottingham*

Ecclesiastical: 12 Days of Giving

Ecclesiastical Insurance are donating £1000 to 120 nominated charities across the UK and Ireland, over 12 days in December. Each nomination increases a charity's chance of winning these funds, and nominations can be made here: <https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/> If you'd like to support Pip and Jim's and our community work plans for 2021, you can do so using Charity Number 1134837.

Aviva Community Fund – Social Media Support

Our Aviva Community Fund page is now live here: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/httpwwwpipandjimsorgukappeal>. If you use social media, please do share this link with your friends to spread the word about our plans for the reordered Church space. Funds raised will provide additional support to our upcoming Community Engagement Officer role.