

Dear all,

I'm pleased to say that once lockdown finished on 2nd December, we shall be able to gather again for worship in the church. Services will again be at 10 am and 5.30 pm on Sundays, also broadcast on Facebook, and we'll continue with the systems to maintain hygiene. Weekday services and prayer group will also continue on Zoom.

Christmas Services 2020:

Sunday 20th December 5.30 pm Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 24th December 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm Crib Services; booking will be required for these services and can be done by contacting Robert Raven robertraven92dr@hotmail.com or 01733 708495 . Should numbers require it we will add a third service.

Friday 25th Christmas Day 10 am Sung Eucharist

Christmas Hamper and fundraising

I do thank everyone for continuing to support All Saints' in a variety of ways , not least financially. I'm grateful to those who have assisted worship, attended and those who offer pastoral and practical support. We would have had the Autumn fayre, Christmas Tree Festival and Advent Tea. These events usually bring in an important part of our income. As we continue to seek to maintain income donations may be given; by cheque, by text and now by entering the prize draw for a luxury hamper.



It contains a selection of Marks and Spencer sweet and savoury treats , biscuits, chocolates , jams, chutneys , gin ,bubbly ,wine , crackers and lots more to the value of approx £200. 'Tickets' are priced at a minimum donation of £5 each and can be bought in church from Susan or Deirdre or by donating via the Just Giving link which is also on Facebook and the website: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/allsaintspeterboroughxmashamperdraw>

Please enter your name, contact details and the amount you would like to donate and we will enter your 'Tickets' into the draw . For example a donation of £20 will put 4 'Tickets' into the draw for you . The draw will be made on Sunday December 20th.

All Saints' Church hosts the Peterborough Winter Shelter and many other community groups and relies on your generosity to support its income .

Please give generously and share with friends and family and thank you for your support .

Winter Night Shelter

At All Saints' we have supported the homeless of the city by working alongside other churches and groups to help host the Winter Night Shelter. This winter will be different due to covid. At the current time we have been invited to support by donating the following items,

Blue roll- for the garden house

Covid 19- cleaning materials for the garden house

Flasks- small suitable for hot drinks/soup for the guests

Hand towels- for the garden house

Greggs Giftcards-£5 face value for the guests

Takeaway containers- for the garden house

Travel size toiletries- for the guests

If anyone would like to support us in this endeavour then donations can be left in the foyer of the church when it is open. This is between 10.30 am and noon on Sundays and then again between 4.30 and 6.00 pm, also on Sundays. We will arrange for donations to reach the Garden House.

Advent Windows



An activity for young people and people of all ages: An online Advent calendar. The idea is to decorate a window at home with a theme (a Christmas Carol, a crib scene or Advent theme) and then a photograph emailed or messaged in to Fr Greg here.

I will then upload them one per day during Advent as a form of Advent calendar for this year.

The windows (a display, stained glass , model) could also be in church as well for those who would like to do that.

Address from last Sunday - Christ the King

Kings. One image of kingship seen recently is of the Thai king on a new metro train. He was on plush cushions, next to his Queen, and on the floor were crouching men in uniforms with many medals – crouching since protocol says no one is meant to be higher than the king.

In America, we see someone who thought that he had been elected a form of king, for ever, and is now finding it very hard to adjust to the election result.

This Sunday could be called “Christ the Shepherd Sunday” rather than Christ the King. The Old Testament reading gives us the shepherd metaphor in vivid and dramatic language, focusing on **God as the Great Shepherd**. A description and promise eventually leading to a human shepherd, King David, who became a symbol of a great king, but he was not a perfect king.

The hymns for today show a picture of a glorified Christ raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God ‘high in heaven above’.

The image of a triumphant military King is not the one we meet in the gospels. The ‘kings’ we meet are the **magi**, searching for a child, born to be ‘king of the Jews’. But Herod is already the king of the Jews and is threatened the news of another king. Who is this child born to be king? Out of fear he does what he has done before and kills potential rivals, in this case, the innocents of Bethlehem.

In Matthew’s gospel, a child is called king of the Jews, and no one in his family seems very surprised while the Magi recount ancient prophecies. There was the hope of a king, born of David’s line.

We hear the title again 33 years later, attached to the cross, and used with ironic intention, ‘**the king of the Jews**’, above Jesus hanging between two thieves.

What did the adult Jesus, the wise teacher and attractive prophet, do with the title “king”?

He used it in his parables. In his stories, we don’t have triumphant kings glorious in battle; we are given examples of **kings who make difficult decisions based on justice; kings who give banquets where everyone is invited**; and finally we are presented with today’s magisterial image of a king who bestows justice at the end of time. This parable, called the Great Judgment, is very familiar, and I’ve spoken about it several times. It prompted us to discover how we could further serve others in the name of Jesus and we embarked on the Winter Night Shelter project.

In the parable, the image of the king is one of unwavering justice. It’s a tough parable.

It brings together the teaching of Jesus. He taught that “the last shall be first” and here we have the king bringing to his right hand, a position of honour, those who have lived a life that honoured others above their own selfish needs. “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food”. This king invites into the heavenly realm those who paid attention to the poor by

giving them clothes to wear and food to eat. This king opens his kingdom to those who saw human injustice and took the time to visit the ones who were imprisoned unjustly; this king praises those who welcomed the stranger and the migrant by offering them hospitality and shelter. And they did it all, not knowing that in the process of feeding, clothing, and welcoming, they were responding to the Giver of all good things: “

“I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”

This is a very different image of a king for those who were listening to Jesus in the first century – and for those who recognise what it is to live under the leadership of people who promote greed and selfishness instead of compassion and humility. This Jesus ate with the poor and the outcasts and honoured women while holding up the value of children. This Jesus, this king, does not appear holding a sword but instead is a shepherd who searches for the lost and at the end hangs on a bloodied cross.

The Son of Man, as Jesus referred to himself, proved through his own death that **he is alongside us in the struggle, sharing our suffering and our miseries**. At a time of a lockdown, in a climate of anxiety and fear, this knowledge gives us comfort and hope, for Jesus, who rules with love, is the kind of king we can also love.

Sunday 29th Advent Sunday

Services are 10.30 am and 5.30 pm (a service of readings, carols and hymns for Advent) . Both will be on the All saints' Facebook page.

The during the week:

Tuesday Eucharist on Zoom and this will be led by Preb David Roberts and we'll keep the feast of St Andrew. Joining information is the same as usual,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2069378522?pwd=WkVWMUpZR01ieXE3dFFVK2ZVcHVkQT09>

Meeting ID: 206 937 8522 Password: 025232 Zoom is free and easy to install.

The same link can be used for the pop-in, cuppa and company on Saturdays at 11 am

On **Thursday** at 7 pm the Prayer Group meets on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81607057704?pwd=eUllNnhHNzRndzF1RUFpNERtMnBEQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 0705 7704 Password: 412317

Please do forward ton family/ friends if you think they may value connecting with our church life.

With every blessing, Greg

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