

FROM NICHOLAS

The congregation at All Saints expressed a strong desire to receive Holy Communion in both kinds as Upnor has recently started doing). Sharing the common cup as previously does not, at present, seem wise so administration will be by intinction by the priest. A 'dipped' wafer will be placed in the hands of the communicant as at present and people will be invited forward, socially distanced' and with a mask, to receive.

- Those who are gluten-free will be administered first to avoid transferring gluten to the wine.
- Those who have mobility difficulties will be given communion *in situ* as at present.
- Those who wish to continue to only receive in one kind will continue to be able to do so.
- Those who only wish to receive blessing will continue to be able to do so.

It will probably feel a bit strange and if it doesn't work as well as the CWs and I hope, we will review it.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year places will be limited at the services below and we shall be taking bookings on a first come first served basis. To book, from Tuesday 29 November, please email to pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk or phone 01634 296050 and leave a message detailing the number of people you are coming with. In the seating plan we will assume you are happy to sit together in that group.

Please note that these are subject to change based upon any local changes in COVID risk or national advice.

All Saints, Frindsbury

Sunday, 12 December 10.00am All Age Worship with Christingle
Sunday, 19 December 6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service
Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Day Communion

St Philip & St James, Upnor

Sunday, 12 December 6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve 12noon Crib Service
Sunday, 26 December 8.30am Parish Communion

**At the heart
of Christmas**



NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING WEEK

15-21 November was *National Safeguarding Week*. Jesus said 'love your neighbour as yourself' and 'however you want people to treat you, so treat them'. During COVID we have learnt to behave differently to keep others safe from an invisible virus. That practice can and should be carried over into other areas of our lives so that we keep others safe from abuse, in whatever form it may take. If we were suffering abuse, how would we want to be treated, how do we want our children and children to be cared for so that the risk abuse made as small as possible? The volunteer role agreements currently being distributed are an important part of that – describing the tasks for church volunteers, identifying the risks (for all parties), establishing the training and checks needed etc. However, ***safeguarding is everybody's business*** and all of us carry responsibility for keeping our eyes and ears open and notifying the appropriate people if we have concerns i.e. particularly Victoria, Nigel and Nicholas for concerns surrounding church activities, the local authorities for other cases or the police for more immediate threats.

Given the current national situation is it worth highlighting some particular areas where our actions can make a difference and help to keep others safe from different kinds of risks:

1. COVID – cases are rising. We continue to encourage people without breathing difficulties to wear a face covering in Church, to leave details for test and trace and to socially distance. If you have not been vaccinated is there a good reason? Have you found out the facts? If you have been vaccinated have you had you booster and/or flu vaccination.
2. Abuse takes many forms. Domestic violence, financial abuse, psychological (e.g. racial) abuse, sexual abuse, neglect etc. If you suspect someone is suffering any such abuse, please speak to an appropriate person or authority. Contact details are available on a separate sheet.
3. Terrorism or other form of attack. In the very rare event of a weapon attack the recommended response is Run, Hide, Tell:
 - Run - to a place of safety.
 - Hide – if there is nowhere to run to, hide, turning electronic devices to silent.
 - Tell – phone the police as soon as it is safe to do so.

Finally, gents, consider signing up to the White Ribbon Campaign. A global movement to end male violence against women. Find out more: www.whiteribbon.org.uk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

Paul's words are recorded in Acts 20:35: *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* ”

As we approach Advent and Christmas there are numerous opportunities to give.

- Medway Food Bank have a 'reverse Advent Calendar'
- Children's Society boxes will be distributed for Christingle
- Alan Ellis is collecting toys for the Salvation Army. We felt it would be appropriate to bring those on Sunday December 5, the eve of the feast of St Nicholas.
- Coat donation for the homeless (see below)

CONFIRMATION SERVICE – STROOD CHURCHES

This year our confirmation service is at St Nicholas, Strood, this Sunday, 28 November at 6.30pm. Daniel Vallente-Kerr will be confirmed along with other candidates from St Nicholas and St Francis. If you would like to attend in person, please speak to Sue Vallente-Kerr as places may be limited. However, you may like to follow the livestream of the service - the link is below.

<https://youtu.be/NSIqIknlg3M>

SAFEGUARDING – VOLUNTEER ROLE AGREEMENTS

The Church of England Safeguarding Requirements expect all members who have already have a voluntary role in church to complete a Volunteer Agreement. These will start to be sent out to you in the following week by email or post. If you need a printed copy, please contact Sue Jones on 01634 296050. Please sign and return within the next week if possible. You will require two referees and these will be provided by the Church Wardens.

TEARFUND QUIZ BY ZOOM

With thanks to Alison and David for organising the quiz last Saturday in aid of Tearfund.

David is inviting us all to join in some more Parish Quiz evenings in the new year – watch this space for details!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We introduced live streaming and re-introduced audio-visual support for our services at All Saints. We have a small team who are setting this up on a Sunday morning. This includes Nicholas, who often advances the projected slides whilst leading the service and preaching. Whilst it is possible, it is far from ideal. We would therefore like to add a couple of people to this rota, meaning that individuals only have to do it once a month. It is not technically demanding and training will be arranged.

After several years helping with the Parish Hall, most recently as Bookings Secretary, Vince Howell has decided to step down from the role. I'd like to thank Vince for his hard work. As we try to generate hirings for the Parish Hall, this is a key role (no pun intended!) and we are seeking a replacement. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be suitable, please let Nicholas or the Churchwardens know.

World Day of Prayer

The Strood World Day of Prayer Team would like a representative from All Saints/St Philip & St James to help organise the yearly service which takes place on the first Friday in March? Please speak to Nicholas or Sue if you are interested or would like to find out more.

ECO CHURCH

There will be a meeting for all those interested in Eco Church on 28 November, in All Saints, following the service at All Saints. Everyone interested, from both churches, is invited.

ACCESSIBILITY GROUP

For those who are interested in being part of this group, or would like to find out more, there will be a meeting in All Saints, following the 10am service on 12 December.

VIRTUAL DROP-IN CAFÉ – 'ZOOMOFFEE'

This continues to 'meet' on Wednesdays at 10.30am via the Zoom application. Message Sue for more details.



PRAYER CHAIN

Carole Morrad has asked me to remind you that the Prayer Chain are always willing to take prayer requests. If the prayer is not for you then we do ask that you have the permission of the person you are asking us to pray for.

DEMENTIA RESOURCES

At this time, those who live with dementia are understandably disoriented and upset. It has been a difficult and concerning time for their families too. Carole and Annie, our Anna Friends, have gathered some resources which are now available on the website. In particular there are a number of online training and awareness courses available at no cost.

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

RELEASE THE PRESSURE - new helpline from Kent County Council
Mental well-being remains a huge concern at this time.

A new phone line is available through Kent County Council, offering 24/7 access to a highly trained and experienced team, to provide expert support no matter what a person is going through.

People are encouraged not to suffer in silence and to text the word Kent to 85258 or call the number 0800 107 0160, for free confidential support.

SAFE HAVENS


Mental Health Matters can help any resident of Kent or Medway aged 16+ by offering a warm, welcoming, safe and comfortable environment. Contact: 07850 901151 or 07808 79503


CONTACT US

Vicar: The Reverend Nicholas Cooper	01634 717580	vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Pioneer Minister: The Reverend Sue Vallente-Kerr	07940 161044	pioneer@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Administrator: Sue Jones	01634 296050	pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vicki Webster	01634 515580	webstervictoria95@gmail.com

Prayer Diary 28 November – 4 December 2021

Church's Ministry	Praying for the people, groups and mission and outreach of the churches in our parish, diocese and worldwide Anglican communion
Community	Praying for our community, our parish and Medway
People of the Parish	Praying for those who live in Frindsbury and Wainscott, (FW), Upnor (U), Chattenden (C) and those who work on Medway City Estate (MCE)

	Sunday, 28 November
Church's Ministry Advent Sunday 	<p><i>Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Pray for all meeting at Up4It today. Pray for those being confirmed this evening at St Nicholas, Strood</p>
Community	Give thanks for family life and those we hold dear in our hearts, praying for their health, well-being and hope.
People of the parish	Chatsworth Drive (FW), Richmond Close (U), Windmill Close (FW)
	Monday, 29 November
Church's Ministry	This week is National Tree Week - pray for our stewardship and care of creation
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for the staff and pupils of Hilltop School
People of the parish	Chattenden Lane (C), Riverside (FW), Windmill Street (FW)
	Tuesday, 30 November
Church's Ministry Andrew the Apostle	<p><i>Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; 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.</i></p> <p>Pray for Pioneer Minister, Sue Vallente-Kerr and family</p>
Community	Pray for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable; pray for those who care for them that they would be strengthened and encouraged. Pray for staff and residents of Shaws Wood
People of the parish	Choir Close (FW), Rolvenden Road (FW), Wingrove Drive (FW)

		Wednesday, 1 December
Church's Ministry		Give thanks for our pastoral team supporting the elderly and isolated
Community		On World Aids Day pray for those living with HIV and for the work of charities and agencies supporting them.
People of the parish		Church Green (FW), Royal Eagle Close (MCE), Winston Drive (FW)
		Thursday, 2 December
Church's Ministry		On Abolition of Slavery Day pray for all people in modern slavery, forced labour and forced marriage; pray for the work of the Clewer Initiative
Community		Pray for wisdom and discernment for all in roles of leadership and authority
People of the parish		Cliffe Road (FW), Schooner Walk (U), Woodfield Way
		Friday, 3 December
Church's Ministry		Pray for the appointment of the new Bishop of Rochester
Community		Pray for all NHS and community keyworkers that they may be upheld and strengthened and protected in their work.
People of the parish		Clipper Close (MCE), Hancock Close (FW), Yalding Close (FW)
		Saturday, 4 December
Church's Ministry		Pray for ministers and lay leaders preparing Sunday worship
Community		Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
People of the parish		Commissioners Road (FW), Haven Street (C), Gill Avenue (FW)