

Dear Friends,

Hope. It's good for you – for your blood pressure, mood, pain levels, general health, brain power, you name it. Christians are people of hope.

There are so many promises in the Bible that we can hold on to and hope in, 'when you pass through the waters I will be with you' (Isaiah 43:2) 'in all things God works for the good of those who love him....nothing can separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8), 'keep on asking, and you will receive, keep on seeking... knocking...' (Luke 11). These aren't salesmen's promises, they are God-guaranteed. Our hope even extends beyond death, because Jesus in his resurrection has overcome death.

Whatever the worst covid can do, God can overcome it. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him (Rom 15:13).

A new *Advent Reflection* is going up on Youtube every week. This week's is on Joseph, and you can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCZsnnFuQuc>

A new *Covid Support Drop-in* will be at St James church for the next 2 Thursday mornings, 10.30-11.30. A lot of people are struggling with the restrictions and a friendly face and a chat might just help folk to keep going. Please do come along (or point other people towards it) if that would help you.

There are still seats available for *Sundays piano recital* with the very talented local pianist Caroline Wallis-Newport, including music from Schubert, Liszt, Chopin and Grieg.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-piano-concert-with-local-pianist-caroline-wallis-newport-tickets-130775355609>

<<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-piano-concert-with-local-pianist-caroline-wallis-newport-tickets-130775355609>>. The recital is at 4.30pm and will be available to watch on Youtube as well.

At the end of Sunday mornings live stream there will be a short *auction* – we've had donations of 2 lovely pictures of St James, and some seasonal goodies from the co-op. So if you'd like to buy presents and raise money for the church at the same time, tune in!

The *Christmas Trails* around homes in the parish goes live on Sunday.

Thankyou to all the people who've been working hard to design and create their 'scene' in the Christmas story. We'll let you know on Sunday how to follow them and where to start!

*Christmas Services - *you'll have details of all of these from last week, /you must book seats for yourself and anyone you'd like to bring with you/.

* *Longest Night service 7pm 21st Dec *please book via Maureen Harris

[476379/maureenharris23@talktalk.net](mailto:476379@maureenharris23@talktalk.net)

<[mailto:476379/maureenharris23@talktalk.net](mailto:476379@maureenharris23@talktalk.net)>.

* *Nativity 3 & 5pm Christmas Eve book *via Rev Ruth

[579602/revruth@mail.com](mailto:579602@revruth@mail.com) <[mailto:579602/revruth@mail.com](mailto:579602@revruth@mail.com)>

* *Christmas Night 7pm, 9.30pm, 11.15pm, and Christmas Day 10.30am

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<[mailto:476379/maureenharris23@talktalk.net](mailto:476379@maureenharris23@talktalk.net)>.*

Please keep Barry and Liz Julier in your prayers, for strength and healing, and we're thankful that Mark Felstead is staying in good health despite testing positive and being in quarantine! Please pray for both of us as we do service for local schools and Scouts in the coming week.

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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