

December Letter

Dear friends,

As this strange calendar year draws to a close our Church calendar begins again with the season of Advent. This holds both expectancy and excitement as we look forward to celebrating the coming of the Christ child once more, but also awareness of judgement on all that is wrong in the world. The differing responses to the pandemic highlight the way humanity has the potential for great good – the dedication and cooperation of scientists and all key workers, the outpouring of community volunteers offering support – but also the selfishness, corruption and violence that lurks within our society.

This December the sense of expectancy and excitement about Christmas will be muted or non-existent for many in our communities. Yet as Christians we have a message of hope. It may be hard to believe but God has come among us and continues to come among us. For we worship the one who is Emmanuel – God with us.

We will continue our pattern of holding one Holy Communion service each Sunday but with Christmas this will be slightly different in December. The pattern of services are as follows:

Sunday 6 December 10.30am	St Stephen's
Sunday 13 December 8.00am	St Pancras
Wednesday 16 December Noon	St Pancras
Sunday 20 December 9.30am	St Olave's
Friday Christmas Day 10.00am	St Stephen's

Sunday 27 December No service

During January the services in St Stephen's will be on the 3rd, 17th & 31st;
the 8am St Pancras service is on the 10th and the 9.30am St Olave one on the 24th.
Wednesday at noon in St Pancras will be on 6th and 20th.

Though we are not able to socialise and mix together this year and are unable to host our regular Christmas coffee mornings or concerts we are holding one musical event to raise funds for St Petrock's Centre for the Homeless and for Lifting Hands International (refugee work) on Saturday 19 December in St Stephen's from 2.30pm- 3.30pm. Unfortunately, we will have to limit the seating so please contact admin@parishofcentralexeter.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support to the parish and may you each know the joy, peace, hope and love of Emmanuel, God with us day by day.

Best wishes

Sheila