



Hello Everyone,

Here we go again with more Covid restrictions in the run-up to Christmas but it looks as though we should be able to get out and about a bit more than last year. Let's hope so! The full set of Christmas Services is enclosed. Please note that you need to book for all services except our regular Sunday and Wednesday mornings. Janice Wones, has just contracted Covid. A Lateral Flow Test with a very faint second line raised the concern and she has had it confirmed by a PCR test. Thankfully, she hasn't any symptoms and we hope and pray it stays that way!

*Please do take LFT's within the 24 hours prior to attending any services in church.*

Despite the snow we had a remarkably successful **Christmas Fayre**. Rowena and her team did a great job and the total raised is now over £1700. We've also raised £286.05 for the Children's Society from the collection boxes with the Christingle Service still to come.

Some of the glass for the porch has now been fitted but it is unlikely it will be finished by Christmas. The faculty for the lighting work has now been received so that can start in the New Year.

One of the lovely things about Christmas is receiving news from friends far away. Earlier this week Gerardine drove down to see Anne Morrell who is missing us and sends her best wishes. I've just spoken to Joan Fisher whose health has not been great (we think her body isn't taking kindly to leaving the lovely soft water of Birmingham) but she is joining in activities and has even won at her first ever game of bingo. Her cousins are churchwardens and take her to the local church occasionally. Her new address is Avon Valley Care Home (Rm 75), Tenniscourt Rd, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4JW

We recently received a lovely email from Rodney Newth, whose wife Joan (nee Whitaker) sadly died in October, a few weeks before their Diamond wedding anniversary. He says:

*"my mind went back to 18th November 1961 when I married Joan in your lovely church...We broke with tradition and both took communion on the morning of our wedding day. The service was conducted by Father Morton who also married us later the same day...Thank you St Laurence's for starting us on our life together."*  
We pray for Rodney and his family, and all who are facing their first Christmas after the death of a loved one.

The charity [AtaLoss.org](http://AtaLoss.org) offers a wide range of support for those who are bereaved including an 'on-line chat' counselling service. We've sent their 'tips' for surviving Christmas, together with a Christmas Card, to those whose loved ones funerals we have taken this year.

The refugee situation is still horrendous with so many people risking their lives crossing the cold waters of the English Channel. 28<sup>th</sup> December is 'Holy Innocents' when we recall Herod's slaughter of baby boys which necessitated the Holy Family becoming refugees so this prayer seems very appropriate...

God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is every far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need. Amen

Thank you to those who have returned their 'PP PP PP' forms which were in the previous pack and to those who have transferred their church giving to the Parish Giving Scheme – the latter will really reduce the work load for our treasurer.

*Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,  
Canon Janet*

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021