



Sunday 19 December 2021
@ PPT Bovey Tracey & St Mary's Hennock



The Vicar writes

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1.4)

The nation seems to be floundering, if not in darkness, with a grey fog of gloom and anxiety, among conflicting messages: infection rates are rising, but COVID hospitalisations are falling, and yet the NHS is under huge pressure.

The call to have a 'sensible Christmas' this year means that people are having to choose which if any social engagements to attend and risk being isolated for the rest of Christmas: I have been making fewer pastoral visits in order to make sure I can lead the Christmas services. Others face Christmas alone. We are holding some events outside, and we will live-stream the 9.30am Christmas Day service and the Midnight Communion to Youtube.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged people to make a priority of worship at Christmas. Let us not help the darkness overcome the light of Christ, so if you can, please make a priority of supporting at least one Christmas service, whether inside or outside. Let us be thankful that we are not in the same situation as last year. We must let the light of Christ shine, and not hide it away in fear.

Sadly the heating at PPT has not yet been fixed. We managed to warm the church a little with electric radiators last Sunday, and we will do so again this weekend, and pray that the engineers fix the heating for Christmas itself. There is better news from Hennock where the new kitchen servery has now been completed. The decorations are beautiful, and there is heating!

We have decided to hold the PPT Carols by Candelight service inside church rather than outside, as a biting north wind is forecast. It will be shorter- with just congregational carols. We are planning to hold Carols by the Crib at 5pm on Christmas Eve outside (weather permitting), with refreshments served from the church room. There will be a Farmyard Crib service at Warmhill.

Please pray that despite the challenges and restrictions, that God's people will gather to sing his praise, and that many will hear and believe the good news of Jesus Christ.

This is the last newsletter of 2021, so let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will return to duty on Friday 7 January.

yours in Christ,
Graham

What's on soon:

19 Sun

PPT Readings

9.30am

11.00am

St Mary's

4.00pm

PPT

6.00pm

7.00pm

20 Mon

9.00am

21 Tue

9.30am

22 Wed

10.00am

7.00pm

23 Thu

7.00am

24 Fri

9.00am

St Mary's

3.00pm

PPT

5.00pm

11.00pm

25 Sat

PPT

9.30am

(• live-streamed to [PPTV](#))

St Mary's

11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

am: Micah 5.2-5, Luke 1.39-45

Sunday Praise: Canon Michael Sansom
(Lord's Supper)

Morning Worship: Canon Michael Sansom

Carols service: Rev Graham Hamilton

Carols by Candlelight: Rev Graham Hamilton
14-18s at Rellian, Liverton

Morning prayer on Zoom

Mums' bible study in the church room

Communion service: Rev Graham Hamilton

Midweek Prayer Group (on Zoom- see notes)

Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room

Christmas Eve

Morning prayer on Zoom

Crib service at Warmhill Farm, Hennock

Carols at the Crib: outside at PPT Bovey

'Midnight' Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton•

Christmas Day

Christmas Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton•

Christmas Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

Sun 26: Sunday After Christmas

PPT Readings

10.00am

Isaiah 61.10-62.3, John 1.1-18

Holy Communion: Rev Paul Reynolds

no service at St Mary's

2022:

2 Sun

PPT Readings

9.30am

11.00am

St Mary's

11.00am

Epiphany

am: Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday Praise (all age): Rev David Harris

Holy Communion: Rev David Harris

Morning Worship: tbc

7 Fri

12 noon

Funeral of John Mann at PPT

9 Sun

9.30am

11.00am

5.00pm

7.00pm

Baptism of Christ

Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton

Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton

14-18s in the Church Room

Notices

Midweek services will resume in the New Year on Monday 10 January

New to PPT?

We email this bulletin every week (with working hyper-links) to the members of the Church Family Roll. If you would like to receive this, to join the electoral roll, or find out more what it means to be part of the church family, then please complete a "Connect" card from the pews.

Please [click this link](#) for **news from James & Rachel Sandels** in Albania.

Hope Explored:

If you want to learn more about the hope, peace and purpose that Jesus brings, why not join us for three Friday evenings of 'Hope Explored' starting on Friday 14 January at 7.00pm in the Church Room? Three sessions, led by Graham



Mon 20 December: Ps 46, Malachi 1
Pray for the protection of our civil liberties, of free speech and protection of conscience against state encroachment.
Tue 21 December: Ps 121-123, Malachi 2.1-16
Pray for restaurants and hotels whose seasonal trade has been massively reduced that they may survive to flourish again next year
Wed 22 December: Ps 124-127, Malachi 2.17-3.12
Pray for the work of Open Doors, and for Christians facing persecution and prejudice, especially in Nigeria, facing intensified attack from jihadist groups, to persevere in faith.
Thu 23 December: Ps 128-131, Malachi 3.13- end 4
Pray for those who are hoping to travel to be with family at Christmas by car or public transport, and for the transport network and police
Fri 24 December:: Ps 45, Nahum 1
Pray that amidst the rush of Christmas travel, shopping and preparation, people would find time to be still and honour God their Lord and Saviour
Sat 18 December: Ps 110, Isaiah 62.1-5
Give thanks for Jesus, the Word made flesh to share our nature and unite us with God. Pray that no-one may be forgotten this Christmas
Sun 26 December: Ps 13, 150, Acts 6 (St. Stephen)
Give thanks for those who gave their lives to proclaim the gospel, and pray that the blood of the martyrs may still be the seed of new gospel growth.

Prayer List:

Greta Maslen, Nina Coleby Clark, Juliet Borowiec, Pat Savage-Jones, Ann English, Michelle Sadd, Mary Bambridge, Veronica Laurie, Lucy McIlhenney, Wendy Harrison, Theresa Samuels, David Elliott, Paul Monahan, Hans Hodes, Ester Weeks, Ann Goulden, Carola Saunders, Joan Codner

In memory: John Mann, Fr Michael Crowe

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Mon 27 Dec: Ps 105, 1 John 1

Pray for the parish of St John the Evangelist, Bovey Tracey and Fr Nick Debney parish priest for them and St Luke's Milber, that they may flourish in the service of Christ.

Tue 28 Dec: Ps 36, Matthew 2.13-18 Holy innocents

Pray for children and all civilians caught up in conflict, persecution, and driven from their homes as refugees or asylum seekers. For fair and wise policies to receive them.

Wed 29 Dec: Ps 19, Isaiah 57.15-end Thomas Becket

Give thanks for Thomas Becket, who resisted state interference in the Church, and pray for good relations and understanding between church and state.

Thu 30 Dec: Ps 113, Isaiah 59.1-15

Pray for the Heatree Activity Centre, and give thanks for a busy term. Pray for it to flourish and be a blessing to schools and churches in the year ahead.

Fri 31 Dec: Psalm 102, Isaiah 59.15-end John Wyclif

Give thanks for John Wyclif who first translated the scriptures into English, and pray that every tribe and nation may have access to the bible in their own language.

Sat 1 Jan: Ps 103, Genesis 17.1-13 Circumcision of Jesus

Give thanks for Jesus, who fulfilled the demands of the law in order to bring us freedom from sin to worship in spirit and truth.

Sun 2 Jan: Ps 18.1-30, Isaiah 60.1-12

Pray for the regular services resuming tomorrow, and for faithful perseverance in our witness and service in the coming year.

Collect for First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Mon 3 Jan: Ps 71, Colossians 2.8-end Pray for all refugees from famine, persecution and conflict, and the homeless, especially during harsh winter weather
Tue 4 Jan: Ps 89, Colossians 3.1-11 Pray for the work of the Peninsular Gospel Partnership, for the bible training course on Wednesday mornings, and the preparations for 'Passion for Life' at Easter.
Wed 5 Jan: Ps 48, Colossians 3.12-4.1 Pray for schools which are opening today, and for any pupils and staff who are not able to gather, but must work online as best they can
Thu 6 Jan: Epiphany: Ps 132, John 1.29-34 Give thanks that Christ came to save all nations, and pray that all nations may have the grace and wisdom to turn in faith to him
Fri 7 Jan: Ps 18.1-30, Colossians 4.2-end Pray for the family of John Mann, whose funeral takes place today, to find comfort and hope through Christ.
Sat 8 Jan: Ps 46, 1 John 4.7-end Pray for ambulance crews, care home staff and NHS workers struggling to care for the sick during the COVID outbreak
Sun 9 Jan: Baptism of Jesus Give thanks for our status as God's adopted children through baptism, and pray that we may be filled with his Holy Spirit to imitate Christ in fruitful service.

Collect for Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.



Open Doors - the Centre of Hope

Being Christian in a non-Christian Country

Open Doors tells of many harrowing incidents happening to Christian believers in non-Christian countries. This all too frequently applies in most Muslim countries, but, sadly by no means exclusively.

India (mainly Hindu), Sri Lanka and Myanmar (mainly Buddhist), and China, Laos, Vietnam and North Korea (Communist) are all becoming increasingly, virulently anti-Christian and persecute Christians on an industrial scale. Communist countries are determinedly atheistic, and despise and fear all religions, hence the genocide of the Muslim Uighurs in China.

In many Islamic states, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia the assumption is that all citizens are Muslim, and to be of any other religion is regarded as treachery, therefore it is not hard to see that anybody having the courage to leave Islam and follow Christ either has to keep it very quiet or expect to be shunned by family, friends or neighbours and reported to the religious authorities, with punishments being very severe, even death, for those who will not recant.

Open Doors does very much valuable work, quietly, in these situations to assist these people wherever possible, with food, Bibles and spiritual support and helping secret Christians to contact one another. Their work deserves prayer and financial support.

Also we should thank God every day for the fact that we still have religious freedom in this country and also pray that the pressure exerted by anti-Christian pressure groups on government to curtail this freedom will not succeed.

Roy White.

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 St Peter's Vicarage, Coombe Cross, TQ13 9EP.
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 Day off -Tuesday

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 ansaphone checked regularly during the week

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 Mike Limb 832705

(Hennock)

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 Miles Pomfrett 331062

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Captain of the Ringers

Chris Dell 834994

Choir Co-ordinator:

Margaret Steele 832137

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:

Jill Hosford 832966

First Steps Toddler Group:

Camilla Matheson 01364 661195

Church Room Secretary:

Jane Midgley, 832751

Flower Rota:

Sarah Gilbert 833934

PPT Bovey is a registered Charity: 1128849.

The PPT Bank account is
 'P C C Bovey Tracey', acct no. 01219910,
 sort code 30-96-06.

The Hennock bank account is:

*Please note that the Church office is no longer
 staffed, but ansaphones, emails and post will be
 checked regularly during the week.
 Contact the church wardens for details.*

*The Church Website contains details of all events,
 audio sermon files and documents for download: go
 to www.pptbovey.church*

*"PPT Bovey is committed to the safeguarding of
 children, young people and adults.. If you are
 concerned that a child or adult has been
 harmed or may be at risk of harm please
 contact the Parish Safeguarding officer. If you
 have immediate concerns about the safety of
 someone, please contact the police or local
 authority Children or Adults Services."*



Scan. Pay. Go.

Ways to pray for Christians in Nigeria this Christmas



For many of us, the approaching festive season is cause for excitement and celebration. But for Christians globally,

Christmas brings acute risk of attack. This is certainly the case in Nigeria, where believers are experiencing escalating and targeted violence at the hands of extremist groups and bandits. Nigeria is [number nine on the World Watch List](#) of countries where it's hardest to follow Jesus – but it has the highest violence. More Christians are killed for their faith in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world. Your prayers are desperately needed.

1. Protection of church activities over festive period

Following the deaths of several of its leaders, so-called Islamic State of West Africa (ISWAP) have sworn in replacements, and the new leaders are committed to attacking Christians in Nigeria and beyond. And they aren't the only persecutors. In northern Nigeria – which is majority Muslim – the church is experiencing a high level of threat, with Christmas and New Year festivities likely to be targeted. Only this week, the church in Zamfara State, northern Nigeria, received a letter from a group of bandits demanding that they close churches or risk 'ferocious' attacks.

Heavenly Father, bring supernatural peace to fearful hearts in Nigeria as Christmas approaches. Thwart the plans of those intent on harming your people and protect all Christian gatherings over the festive period. Amen.

2. Provision for families devastated by ransom demands

Christian families are carefully selected and targeted for abduction from schools, church services and while travelling, with perpetrators demanding overwhelming sums of money for their release. It's a calculated strategy that's led to the impoverishment of thousands of Christians, with families even forced to part with their homes to pay ransoms.

Lord God, provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of families devastated by such calculated acts of evil, and heal their trauma. Intervene to bring about the release of Christians held captive. Amen.

3. Fresh revelation of God's grace

Many Christian families are losing enthusiasm for the gospel, and struggling with feelings of anger and resentment towards those who persecute them. This reflects how increasingly unbearable life is for many Christians in Nigeria, and how much they need your prayers to stand strong in their faith.

Lord Jesus, we can't imagine how challenging life is for our family in Nigeria. Give Your children a fresh revelation of Your love and grace, and use this to strengthen them to stand firm despite persecution. Amen.

4. Stable economy and reunited families

The activities of extremists across northern Nigeria have led to rising food prices. Many families are living in hunger and uncertainty. Large numbers have fled to internal displacement camps (IDPs), with families even being separated from each other.

Father, reunite families, provide for their needs, and enable Christians to return to their homes. Stabilise the economy through a reduction in food prices and opportunities to earn a living. Amen.