



St. John's Wednesday Weekly News

25th November 2020

The Church is now open for Private Prayer Sunday to Friday between 9.00am and 12 noon.

St. John's is preparing to resume Church services on Sunday 6th December and also working toward Christmas Services – we are just waiting to see what format they can take.

News from Richard and Kim

Zooming family services seems to be working as well as it can with 16 families, with about 45 people attending - that's a lot for a zoom! So we're ploughing full steam ahead into all things Christmas with a soon to be launched Follow the Star initiative. This consists of a trail of stars around Southbourne ending up at the Stable at the Church where visitors receive a Christmas Gift including a Bible Society Christmas Publication. It's all happening 21st, 22nd, and 23rd December! Further information including how to book coming soon



FOLLOW THE STAR
NATIVITY TRAIL **21ST 22ND 23RD DEC**

Dress up as your favourite Nativity Character and Follow the Star around Southbourne all the way to the Stable Photo Booth to receive a Christmas Gift for every child who takes part.

If you're happy to get involved with the wrapping of the free gift for the above event, scan this with your phone camera to join the Whatsapp group.





Christmas Card delivery to the Village

Would you be able to help delivery the St. John's Christmas card around the Village or maybe deliver to your road? If so, could you please email admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com. Thank you!

News from Callum Adams

Dear St Johns,

The Adams Family in Belgium is writing to Thank you for your support. We are so thankful for you continued support for us wherever we have been over the past years and the impact you have enabled us to be. The donation has been very timely in our financial situation and we thank God for this. I also just wanted to say a huge thank you for the continued support you and the Timothy Trust have given me and my family over the years. It has been life changing for me and has enabled me to live where I believed God has called me over the past 6-7years. I will never forget the amazing support St Johns has given me not just financially, but spiritually as well, while I was there growing up but also now I have move away. It has been incredible. We are in the process of making a short video to go along side to give a way for people to know what they are supporting.

As a short update. We are seeing God move here in many ways. Rianne is seeing a deepening in relationship with many Iranian refugees, she currently runs a bible study in Dutch and Farsi to help disciple them and we are seeing many grow deep roots of faith and a personal faith. The Church is seeing an awakening happening. God has been leading us further down this path of restoration of the families and the church beginning in the homes as a foundation and seeing people being filled by this. Which then enables the other elements like house groups and Sunday services be a place where we go to and give into rather than a place for 'refilling'. We have further testimonies of the presence of God filling homes and changing live with our Friday evening Table. We are back to livestream only probably and potentially including our Christmas service to we shall see how things go forward. But the church is not suffering in this time as God has prepared us for this.

For the family. Elissia is doing alright. She is managing well at school in a wheelchair. It is frustrating at times which is expected but the school has been incredible in working together to find solutions. We get our next update from the doctors December 23rd. Furthermore, we are excited to announce that we have begun a venture of starting our own merchandise company. God put the idea us back in August and we launched back at the beginning of November. It is called Pilgrim Apparel. Selling fair trade, good quality clothes which have meaningful content on. In hope that we can begin to clothe people which good quality clothes which stand out and can link to us being a witness but a representative of God to those around us. Our vision is to have some more clear Christian designs and others which are less obvious but still carry meaning. God made it clear its his business and he has a plan for it so we trust him for the way forward on it. Emmelyn our youngest is growing up well. She is 16 months soon and developing very well, loving life and getting on well with her sister. Rianne's job is virtually unaffected by the pandemic as day-cares are considered essential and my work carries on

still a lot in person doing recordings etc as we do a lot technically and I oversee all of this as well as leading services etc.

Over the summer we prayed about our future here and we felt God lead us to commit to stay here in Belgium for a further season. A date has not been set due to the current situation. We shall see as things settle into a new normal and see what God has in store for us here. There is a lot for us to grow in here and the guidance we have from others has been incredible.

We are looking forward to coming in person again once the situation allows.

Blessings

Callum Adams
Pilgrimapparel.be

What does the Diocese do with the money we give them?

The major source of the Diocesan Board of Finance's income comes from the generosity of parishes through the Parish Share. Parish Share represents approximately 75% of the Diocese's total income. In addition, the Diocese generates investment income from historic endowments and from letting out vacant properties.

The majority of the Diocese's expenditure is spent on the clergy who serve our parishes. The cost of providing ministry across the diocese represents approximately 80% of total expenditure. This covers clergy stipends, NI, pension, housing, and the costs of training current and future clergy. It also includes money spent on supporting ministry through the work of the Archdeacons, Rural Deans, Continuing Ministerial Development and the payment of removal and resettlement grants.

The remaining expenditure is spent on parish support services such as the provision of buildings advice, supporting church schools and safeguarding services, as well as a contribution to the National Church. **

**from Chichester Diocese website. For more information please look at the Chichester Diocese Finance website

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/diocesan-finances/>

The amount the Diocese asks us to contribute as our Parish Share is usually around 50% of our total income.

Thank you for your continuing financial support for St John's Church. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a better way for you to give to the work of St Johns and the Diocese and is supported by Chichester Diocese and agreed by the PCC. Your regular giving every month helps to keep St Johns running especially now while the church is in lockdown and we cannot worship as we usually do.

So far this year our income has reduced by £13,000 due to reduced giving in the offertory, not being able to hire the church center and loss of income from Coffee Connect. Upgrading the path from the car park and essential repairs to the church have cost us £22,000. The PCC would like everyone to join the Parish Giving Scheme. If you usually give cash or cheque into the offertory (the basket we pass around during the service or at the back of church) then please give by PGS.

If you are a tax payer then the HMRC gives us 25% more on your giving. Just sign the declaration on the PGS form.

If you are not a UK tax payer then the Parish Giving Scheme is the better way to give.

If you have any questions or would like a form or more information then please contact me, Alan McNeill on

treasurer@stjohnssouthbourne.com

Thank you

Alan

Face Masks

If you would like a new Face Mask Julie Fair is still taking orders for Christian Aid

Please contact Julie on 01243 372070 or 07899077035 or email her on julie58fair@btinternet.com.



Afternoon Tea and catch up with friends on Zoom

This is every Wednesday at 4.00pm, where you can catch up on the news with other friends at St. Johns over a cup of tea and maybe a slice of cake!

The details are as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting



Quiz Night Results



...and don't forget to keep our spirits up doing Lockdown, the Quiz is now going to be once a week, so it will be on this Friday at 7.15pm on the Website and Facebook.

Street Prayers

Tuesday 1st December (9.30 to 10.15 am) By Zoom – contact Anne Marsden for full details.

We will be praying for the following streets and our local schools: -
Stein Road – South of the Railway Crossing including Stein Close, Lodgebury Close, Northcote Gardens, The Retreat, The Drive and Eden Place.
If you are aware of any item for prayer in any of the roads or at one of the schools please us know – peter.p.b.pearson@btinternet.com or 371591

If you have any news, photos, funny stories to share, do send them to admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com for inclusion in the Weekly News.