



# St. John's Wednesday Weekly News

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you are well and are staying well. I hope you have been refreshed by the Christmas reminder of God's love and care for us all.

I am writing in light of the Govt's lockdown to inform that we are suspending 10am Holy Communion services until further notice. This is because:

1. Most people attending are already in higher risk categories. It would be foolish to risk each other's safety with a vaccine so nearly within reach.
2. It is unclear at the moment how the new variant is transmitting so quickly and we may need to increase our Covid protocol.

So we will go back online for now, as with many other churches in the area. In the meantime:

1. St John's will remain open for private prayer every day.
2. Jon and Ian are making preparation for streaming morning services live
3. Books, gifts and food for those who may need them are also freely available in the church.
4. Family services will continue, with reduced numbers.
5. Love Southbourne's Love your Neighbour is exploring how to help people who may need additional help.
6. Zoom based groups will continue, including daytime study groups. If you are not part of one, please contact me about joining or running one.

I appreciate, after an exciting Christmas, how much we want to pursue our fellowship with Christ gathered together, but at this point, the risks outweigh what we are able to do in other ways. I am minded of Paul's entreaty to Timothy to bring him the things that were helpful to him, (2 Tim 4:9ff) and we should approach this situation in the same way.

Grace and peace

Matt

## News from Richard and Kim

Happy New Year Family!



Kim and I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us and the Ministry through prayer, discussion and practical support in 2020. What a year! Who would ever have thought that we would have had a pandemic to deal with! Can we please ask you to continue to support us through 2021, as the challenges of COVID 19 and implementing ever changing government guidelines continue. But we shall not fear or be dismayed! As God is powerful and in-control (even when the opposite looks true). As it says in Phillipians 4:6:

***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”***

Amen!

On that note, Kim and I are continuing to develop ideas to serve and connect with the wider Southbourne Community as we have entered into this new national lockdown.

### Alpha Youth:

As from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January, Alpha Youth will continue to run at 10am. The Alpha Youth Team and I are really excited that the group is back on after the Christmas break.

### The Family Service:

Likewise, the Family service (Sunday afternoons at 4pm) will continue this Sunday. Kim will be offering families the opportunity to connect with that service either in person (in the church) for those families that wish to meet, and remotely for those who wish to connect with the service over Zoom.

### The Alpha Course:

In addition to this, and new for 2021, Kim and I have been and are continuing to promote the Alpha Course. So far, we have 1 sign up so please pray that others may wish to accept the invitation to explore the Christian faith through Alpha. There is both a day time and evening course available, so if you or anyone you know would like to sign up, then that would be fantastic!

### Ideas factory:

Lastly, Kim and I are formulating other ways in which St. John's can fulfil any perceived need in our village. At the moment we are continuing to develop these embryonic ideas but as soon as we have cemented the idea and communicated to it PCC we will add them to the weekly news.

Thank you and God bless,

Richard & Kim Carter

## Street Prayers

**Tuesday 12th January 2021 (9.30 to 10.15 am) By Zoom please contact Anne Marsden for the full details.**

We will be praying for the following streets and our local schools.

Garsons Road, First Avenue, Second Avenue, Lazy Acre, Mons Close, Longlands Road, Trafalgar Close & Prinsted Court.



If you have any news, stories or photos you would like to share with the St. John's family, please send them to Susie at [admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto:admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com).

