



Chet Valley Churches

Weekly News 20 December—Advent 4

Welcome to the Chet Valley Churches. We hope you will find the service thoughtful, prayerful and a chance to meet with God. We are gradually getting back to holding services in our church buildings, but for the time being we are also offering a weekly service online. To find this go to the churches' website at www.chetvalleychurches.org In whatever way you are worshipping with us, you are very welcome.

Readings for today

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16
Romans 16.25-end
Luke 1.26-38

Psalm 89.1-8



Prayer for today

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs
of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dates for your diary

The contact details for this newsletter are on the back page.

- Each Sunday for the time being we continue with a full service online, as not everyone is willing or able to join in a corporate service of worship. (details inside)
- This Sunday (20 December) there are four services—Morning Worship at 10.30am in Hardley, Holy Communion at 10.45am in St John's, Loddon, All Together Worship at 11am in Chedgrave and a special service of Carols in the Churchyard at 1pm in Sisland. Numbers of attendees must be limited by social distancing regulations.
- Details of our Christmas services are on the back page. You're welcome to come to any of them, but for everyone's sake please stay at home if you think you might be ill.

Please note: All services are subject to social distancing and attendees must sit in the designated spaces until all spaces are taken. No congregational singing is allowed. Any books used for the service must not be shared, and must not be used again for at least 3 days. Face coverings are needed for all indoor services.

Prayers Please...

Please pray for people and situations in the locality and beyond...

Especially let's pray for people we know who are facing huge challenges in getting back to 'normal'. Let's pray for health carers, and all frontline and key workers who are still dealing with the effects of Covid-19. On a wider scale let's pray for research scientists who are working to develop vaccines to combat so many diseases.

Use the Prayer Shower

We have a 'prayer shower' for urgent prayer requests. Contact Ros Hoffmann email roshoffmann2011@gmail.com tel 01508 548200. Also contact Ros if you would like to pray for urgent needs as part of the shower.

Time for Prayer

On Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30pm we meet at St John's Chapel in Loddon for 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection', led by Jill Haylock. To sign up for Tuesday Prayers by email contact Jill at jillhaylock@aol.com

Morning Prayer, at home and in Church

Morning Prayer is now at 9am in Chedgrave church on Weds & Sat each week. Clergy are also continuing with Morning Prayer at 9am at home. You may like to join in. Use your own copy of Common Worship or the old prayer book, or you can find the service at <https://tinyurl.com/MornPray>. Scroll down and click on Morning and Evening Prayer.

News and Events

Weekly News for the Christmas Season

This is your last issue of the Weekly News until the New Year, although we will be emailing the online service details and any extra snippets of news that come in. Please do continue to send in anything that needs publicising. Paper copies of services will be delivered and your next News will be in the New Year.

Services Online this Week and Beyond

Alison Ball is leading our online service this week, which is a Service of the Word for the final Sunday of Advent. If you want to join in with the Christingle aspect of the service you may want to acquire an orange, some red tape or ribbon, 4 cocktail sticks and some dried fruits or sweets. There will also be a carol service going live at 7.30pm this Sunday. Our online services are on our website at www.chetvalleychurches.org, and we will send out the URL and service sheet for them—this Sunday's, Christmas Day's and 27 Dec, and also a PDF version of Last Sunday Praise on 27 Dec. You can also catch up with hymns and songs and recent services by going to our YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/chetvalleychurchesyoutube>

Live Advent Calendar—Are we nearly there yet?

If you need a copy of the addresses for our Advent Doors they are available on our website. This Sunday between 2pm and 4pm it's the turn of Holy Trinity church so do drop in. Houses all around Loddon and Chedgrave (and beyond) are taking part, with each one choosing to interpret some aspect of the Christmas story. They're fabulous—don't miss this week's doors!

Trees and More in Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity church in Loddon is doing its bit to cheer everyone up with a lot of brightly lit Christmas trees shining out of the windows. There's also a trail about St Nicholas—was he Saint or Santa? The crib is now in place, with the crib figures gradually arriving to complete the story. Do go and have a look—it's open every day.

Community Carol Singing—this Sunday

Will the community carol singers be down your road in Chedgrave this Sunday (20 Dec)?

Christmas Charities

Any carol singing money and collections at our midnight services are to be sent to St Martins Housing Trust. To add a donation, please drop it in to your church treasurer or go online to <https://stmartinshousing.org.uk/donate/>. Usually at least one of our Christmas services sends a donation to the Children's Society, who have had an increased workload and a lot less money this year. You can donate to them by dropping an envelope in to David Owen (4 Market Place), or online at www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Sisland on Christmas day—attendees must book a place

If you are planning to be at the Christmas Day service in Sisland please book a place by contacting Rowena Bryce on 520393 email family.bryce@btopenworld.com, or Jill Haylock on 520248, email jillhaylock@aol.com. It is a tiny building and we would hate to have to turn people away on Christmas Day as a result of social distancing rules.

Things to Note

Food Bank—extra items

The Chet Valley Churches are a distribution outlet, linking in to the Norwich Food Bank, but also with connections to Waveney. This year there has been about double the usual demand, yet we are aware that not everyone who needs help gets it. Currently there are extra items in store that can go to anyone in need—mainly nappies, light bulbs some toiletries and Christmas chocolates. If you know of a particularly needy family or individual, please speak to one of the clergy team.

Thanks to all helpers

Thank-you to all who helped with Chedgrave's December Fair, and to all who turned up to support. From a financial point of view it was a successful event, but more importantly it felt good that people were able to be there, even though masks had to be worn and distance maintained.

To send or not to send? That is the question.

Most charities have struggled for fundraising this year. If you normally send someone a Christmas present, why not go to your favourite charity's website and see if they offer the option to buy something in the name of your friend or family member.

Information

Licensed Clergy

Rev. David Owen 01508 522993
david.chetvalley@gmail.com (Not Thur)

Rev. Ros. Hoffmann 01508 548200
roshoffmann2011@gmail.com (Not Mon)

Rev. Alison Ball 01508 528126
ball880am@btinternet.com (Not Fri)

Rev. Jill Haylock 01508 520248
jillhaylock@aol.com (Not Mon)

Rev. Louise Morrissey 01502 717797
delilah.morrissey@googlemail.com (Methodist)

Church Office

The Church Office is just inside the door at St John's Chapel, Loddon. To contact the office email ohetvalley@btconnect.com. The office is currently not staffed, but email is regularly checked and post is collected on a weekly basis.

Prayer Shower

For situations that need urgent prayer, or to pray for others, contact Ros Hoffmann: 01508 548200, roshoffmann2011@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Send items for the Weekly News to news.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com (preferred) or phone to 01508 522993, by Wednesday evening if possible. Please include your name and phone number or email address.

Newsletter By Email?

Would you like to receive your Weekly News by email, making sure you get the news even if you can't be in church on Sunday? If so, send an email to news.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

Website, including events diary

(www.chetvalleychurches.org)
To submit information for the website, email david.chetvalley@gmail.com

Food Bank Contributions

To donate items to the Norwich Food Bank when the churches are closed, put them in the collecting box at the Co-op in Loddon.

Services and readings for Christmas and 27 December

The online services will be available to download from www.chetvalleychurches.org and the service outline will be sent to those who usually receive the Weekly News by email. (To sign up, see above.) In our church buildings there will be:

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Holy Communion Loddon (Holy Trinity) and Chedgrave

Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion Hardley

9.00am Holy Communion Sisland

10.00am Holy Communion Chedgrave

10.45am Holy Communion Loddon (St John's)

27 December

10.30am Holy Communion Chedgrave

A Communion service and also Last Sunday Praise will be available online

Tailpiece Christ is for Life, not just for Christmas!
