

**Occasional Offices**

**Funeral (Graveside Service)**

**17th December:** Barbara Halliwell



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



Daily Hope is a free telephone line offering hymns, prayers, reflections and church services from The Church of England. Daily Hope grew out of Connections and Hymns We Love, two initiatives for seniors created by Holy Trinity Church Claygate, and has been supported by the charity Faith in Later Life.

Created in direct response to Covid-19, it is aimed at the 2.5 million over 75's who do not access the internet, representing some of the most isolated and vulnerable at this time.

***"With many in our country on lockdown,  
it's important that we support those who are feeling  
lonely and isolated, whatever ages they are."***

**Archbishop Justin Welby**

**St Cross Newsletter January 2021**



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*The Vicar writes.....*

I want to take this opportunity to reflect back on what has been a very busy Advent and Christmas. Whilst the life of the church as we know it has been significantly hampered in 2020, our outreach and mission has, if anything, increased. New ways of working have given us the impetus to widen our exposure through social media.

We had a lovely service in the Church in mid-December with a superb array of wrapped gifts to be given to local children, our food bank Donations increased during this month too and the ribbons on the railings were a very visible sign of our support and care. Thank you, everyone. Our 'light-a-light' open church event which was attended by a handful of people last year, welcomed around a dozen families this year who were invited because we could not have a Requiem Service. I do think, though, that this has given us an opportunity to offer families a quiet breathing space and time for reflection at a time of year where the joy of the Christmas Season is often tinged with sadness or loss.

At the time of writing, I will not know how our Christmas services went, but I do sincerely hope that everyone who wanted to, was able to come to church at some point, and that our YouTube Christmas Night service has been well received by a wide congregation.

At a personal level, I feel deeply honoured to continue as the Knutsford Mayor's Chaplain until May 2022. Councillor Stewart Gardiner was elected as the Mayor recently and he will have a Civic Service at St Cross

which is likely to be in May of this year. His predecessor, Councillor Andrew Malloy, had a challenging extended year as the Mayor but he nonetheless represented the community with distinction and total commitment with the support of his family too. Thank you, Andrew.

Earlier in December I was present at the town centre crib with Stewart to record a short service for the Knutsford Town Council virtual Crib Service which alongside the 'Mayor-Making Ceremony' is available online via their Facebook page.

As I write this newsletter and look ahead to next year too, it is so hard to predict what will happen, the political landscape surrounding us being at this time still in a state of flux. However, I am optimistic for the future and I'm sure many of us are eagerly awaiting a phone call from the doctor's surgery to go for a Coronavirus vaccination! Hopefully then we can really look forward to coming together once again as a Christian community and build up the social aspects of our church life again. And yet through all this year we have learned important lessons too, and how we can do things differently in the future.

You may recall in Matthew's Gospel that the Wise Men were warned in a dream to go back a different way to avoid King Herod (Matthew 2.12). We too must continue to be open to the voice of God this year and be prepared to see things and do things a little differently as the Holy Spirit guides us.

May you all have a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Yours, in Christ

*Paul*



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	Morning	Evening
<b>MP</b> = Morning Prayer <b>SE</b> = Said Eucharist <i>(in church 10am)</i> <b>CE</b> = Celtic Evening Prayer <i>(in church 6.30pm)</i>		
<b>Sunday 3 January</b> <b>Christmas 2</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> John 1.(1-9)10-18 <b>SE plus</b> Jeremiah 31.7-14 or Ephesians 1.-14	Psalm 135 Or 135.1-14) Matthew 2.13- end
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>6 January</b> <b>The Epiphany</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> Isaiah 60.1-6 or Ephesians 3.1- 12 or Matthew 2.1-12	
<b>Sunday 10 January</b> <b>Baptism of Christ</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> Mark 1.4-11 <b>SE plus</b> Genesis 1.1-5 or Acts 19.1-7	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>13 January</b>	<b>MP</b> 1 John 2.18-25 or John 8.25-32	
<b>Sunday 17 January</b> <b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> John 1.43-end <b>SE plus</b> 1 Samuel 3.1-10 (11.20) or Revelation 5.1-10	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>20 January</b>	<b>MP</b> Mark 3.1-6 or Ps 110.1-4 or Hebrews 7.1-3, 15-17	
<b>Sunday 24 January</b> <b>Epiphany 3</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> John 2.1-11 <b>SE plus</b> Genesis 14.17-20 or Romans 19.6-10	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>27 January</b>	<b>MP</b> Psalm 110.1-4 or Hebrews 10.11-18 or Mark 4.1-20	
<b>Sunday 31 January</b> <b>Candlemas (transferred)</b>	<b>MP/SE</b> Luke 2.22-40 <b>SE plus</b> Malachi 3.1-5 or Hebrews 2.14-end	

To access the Online Services from St Cross

<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>

<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/video/>