

# St Thomas Newsletter



## **Lockdown 2 : what does it mean for us at St Thomas Church ?**

As you can see from the photo we are allowed to stay open for private prayer: Mondays & Thursdays 11.30 – 1.30 pm. Our church sitters are delighted to see you.

- Sadly, we are not allowed to continue with services in church with a congregation there, so it's back to *ZOOM Church on Sundays at 10* – everyone on email will receive the link. If you would like to join us by phone, please contact Malcolm Gibbs (07906 665530) and he will give you the number to ring and what to do.
- We produce *a weekly video for Sunday*, which is posted on the facebook page at 9.30am.
- We will *livestream the Eucharist on Wednesday* mornings at 10am from Church on facebook/stthomasipswich.
- We will stay in touch by post and phone. And please, do help us to stay in touch. The ministry team ( pink box on the weekly sheet news page) are really happy to receive your phonecall to have a chat.

**The Christmas mini market** which we were going to hold on 18<sup>th</sup> November will now come to you as a 'Mail order market' for jam, handmade cushions, christmas tree decorations and wooden bowls made by +Martin. There will also be 4-5 hampers which we raffle off! In a couple of weeks we will send -by post & on facebook – a list of items available for sale, cost of raffle tickets and how to place your order. For anyone who is housebound, we will deliver your order! How exciting is that!

**Shoebox -crafts:** Thank you to everyone who has brought shoeboxes and wrapping paper. You can drop your shoe box, wrapped or unwrapped at St Thomas Church during church open times on Mondays to Thursdays, or contact Emma and she will collect. We are looking for two more people to prepare crafts – contact Emma for more info: (emma.knight1@hotmail.co.uk; mobile: 07900 378930)

**Hymnathon fundraiser:** Simon, our Director of Music is offering to do a hymnathon on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December when he will play hymns and carols we can choose, if we sponsor him to do so. Look out for more information!

## **Prayer for the Nation**

One of the things we can and must do is to pray! Amongst all the hardship, challenge, grief and loss we trust in the power of prayer, enabling God's kingdom to grow among us.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and senior church leaders have called a month of PRAYER FOR THE NATION during the second lockdown. The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6pm each day. Attached is a leaflet with prayers and themes that are offered as tools to enable all to participate and are intended simply as suggestions.

If you access to the internet, the link below takes you to a website with daily prayer resources:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

## **Plans for Advent and Christmas**

We hope that at the end of the lockdown we will be able to meet again for worship in church, and we are very aware that many of you will not be able to join us. We are thinking of you, too. Our Advent and Christmas services will be in Church (if we are allowed) and also online. For example, we are planning to hold a Carol Service in Church and also on ZOOM; a Christingle service in Church and something online for the children.

God will come to us this Christmas, too, perhaps in more surprising ways than usual. Let's be open to that. Remember, his first coming at Christmas was a complete surprise for everyone!

With love and prayers,

Revs Jutta, Cat and the ministry team