



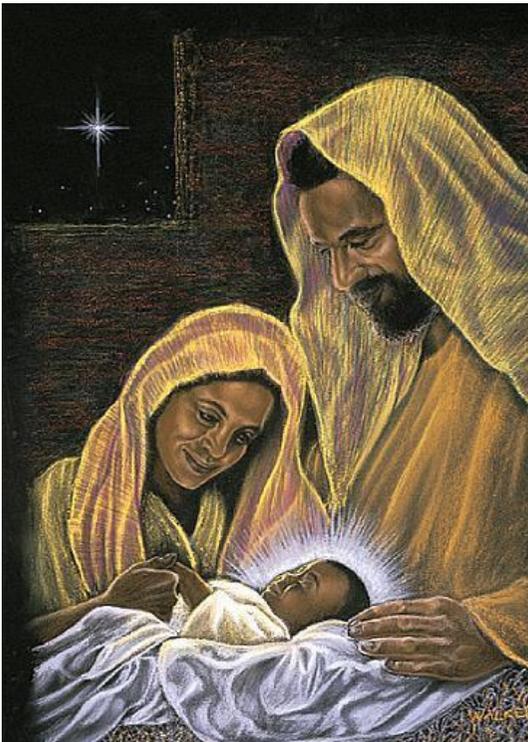
BROMLEY AND SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES WEEKLY HERALD



25 DECEMBER 2020

CHRISTMAS

**WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND
JOY FOR 2021**



When all is said and done, there is still God's gift of the Christ child – nothing will ever take that away from us.

“This baby, fully human, is also fully God. We can ignore him or make space for him, and when we do that, like the shepherds, we find this baby fills our lives to past overflowing with the love of God.

*Archbishop of
Canterbury Justin
Welby*

CHRISTMAS TO CANDLEMAS EVENTS

WORSHIP – KEY SERVICES TO MARK THE SEASON

Thurs 24 Dec - 5pm CHRISTMAS EVE WREN GARDEN

Blessing the Crib and Liturgy of the Shepherds

Fri 25 Dec – 10am CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebration of Birth of Christ, followed by Fizz and nibbles

Sat 26 Dec – 10am BOXING DAY

Liturgy of St Stephen, followed by Wine and something.....

Sun 27 Dec – 10am – St John
– Holy Communion

Mon 28 Dec – 10am – Holy Innocents

Thu 31 Dec – 5pm

BARBECUE details to be finalised!

Sun 3 Jan – 10am

EPIPHANY

Arrival of the Magi, followed by drinks and Epiphany cakes

Sun 31 Jan – 10am

CANDLEMAS Official end of Christmas!



Communion in ONE KIND distributed by the President. Masks are not compulsory outside if we are 2 metres apart. We hold each other in our prayers whether we are worshipping online, in person or quietly alone.

Secret Santa

Secret Santa presents will be laid out on a table. Their distribution will be supervised by Father Christmas.

Anything left over will be delivered!

A Sonnet of Christmas

When Night puts on his giant boots and stomps
around

and grinds the fallen leaves to porridge in the
ground,

He freezes all our hopes with icy breath
into the likeness of his cousin Death.

We boo Night's henchmen, Rain, Sleet, Snow
and Frost

then hunker down into our seats, for all seems lost.

We wonder why we didn't stay in bed –

When - from the trapdoor pokes the golden head
of Jack the Sun – who climbed up from the world below.

We thought he was a fool to sell his mother's cow
for magic beans – but now he steals the goose,
defeats the giant, sets the chorus loose.

We sit up straight and sing, follow the bouncing ball,
rejoice that Life comes round again to save us all.



Brandy Pearson

Many of our fellow collegians are missing out this Christmas and this creates emotional pressure. Please be kind and slow to judge.

Chaplain

CHRISTMAS SAFETY

We are in Tier 4 which generally means we should not be travelling to another Tier and not making any trips out of the colleges that are not essential.

The arrangements described below are for the colleges, anyone can opt out of any activity if they feel unable to join in for whatever reason.

WORSHIP

We will continue to worship outside.

Mulled wine and mince pies on Christmas Eve: sanitised glasses, individual mince pies and no helping ourselves to mulled wine from the saucepan! Are you listening Chaplain?! People must keep social distance and will gently remind each other if boundaries are crossed.

At other services normal "Sunday" protocols will apply.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

At the dreariest time of the year

We all need a dose of good cheer

So we put on a feast

For the most and the least

And dispel all the darkness and fear. Brandy Pearson

We are told not to travel outside Tier 4 to visit friends relatives unless we are in an existing bubble. Several collegians have already had to forgo visits from family who would have to travel to visit them and are not now permitted to stay overnight.

Under the "bubble" and "support group" guidelines we can meet as arranged: two households ideally, but maximum three.

If individual collegians are uncomfortable with this, they can make the decision for their own protection to cancel arrangements they have made. It will be up to the host to make arrangements with these guests as they see fit, e.g. delivering a festive meal.

HANDS	Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
FACE	Face covering inside with people you do not know
SPACE	Generally 2m or 1 m with face-covering and ventilation

Christmas Day

Collect

Almighty God,
 you have given us your only-begotten Son
 to take our nature upon him
 and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
 grant that we, who have been born again
 and made your children by adoption and grace,
 may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Scripture

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen

Prayer list

Anglican Cycle	Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem
Rochester cycle	For maternity wards, midwives and expectant parents
College	George and Jill Baisley
Community	Joy Bidgood, Our armed forces and Military Chaplains
Collegians who have moved away	David and Diane Cossar, Frank and Yvonne Gough, Charles Potter, Mary Roberts, Pam Dawson, John and Joyce Ilson, Mary Watts, Ken Hewitt and Sarah Grove
Those who are sick or have asked us to pray	Jenny Balmer, Joyce Brooks, Maureen Cooper, June Dakin, Rachel Easley, Ron Emmett, Charlotte Gould, Richard Hanforth, John Harris, Cecil Heatley, Geoffrey Howard, Stuart Leck, Margaret Mankey, Nigel McDougall, Aaron Roddan, Vic Shaw, Anne Townsend, Jo Walton, Liz Whiting, Julian White
Years Mind Anniversary	Doreen Reynolds, Katherine Stott, Franziska Williams, Gerald Treadwell, Bess Townsend, Sister Judith CSC
Those who have died	Brenda Withers

Please ask for copy of complete prayer booklet. Please let Jo or the Chaplain know when to take someone off the prayer list.

**Richard Handforth – Princess Royale – number at beside:
087 280 469 49 – it is 13p per minute and you will have to speak up!**