



**BROMLEY AND
SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES
WEEKLY HERALD
3 JANUARY 2021**



2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR



**We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking
we used when we created them.**

Albert Einstein.

CHRISTMAS TO CANDLEMAS EVENTS

WORSHIP – KEY SERVICES TO MARK THE SEASON

Fri 1 Jan – 10am NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST
followed by Prosecco and ?

Sun 3 Jan – 10am CHRISTMAS 2

Wed 6 Jan – 10am EPIPHANY – CORRECTION!

Arrival of the Magi, followed by drinks and Epiphany cakes

Sun 31 Jan – 10am CANDLEMAS Official end of Christmas!

Weekly diary

When	Service	President /Leader	Reader	Intercessor
Sun 3 Jan	10am	David Darling	Brandy Pearson	Valerie Pearce
Wed 6 Jan	10am	Chaplain	Rob Pearson	

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

Collegians – thank you for:

living here, taking part, encouraging, supporting, volunteering, challenging, reporting, participating, communicating worshipping, reading, interceding, preaching, presiding, sacristy-serving, not giving up, bearing the cold bringing your skills, talents, diversity, personality, memories, ministry, history, loving, chatting, sharing, caring, being good neighbours, self-isolating, social distancing, following protocols, keeping us all safe.

Building and maintenance team – thank you for:

maintaining, repairing, investigating, nurturing, quickly responding, emergency answering, quality working, refurbishing, replacing, advising, mapping

Friends – thank you for:

Donating the Christmas tree, supporting events

Volunteers – thank you for:

transforming and maintaining our grounds, breaking, clearing, chopping, burning, skipping, pruning, planting, advising, composting.



renovating, protecting, clearing basements, organising storage, hoovering, repairing and painting.

fund-raising, fund-giving, organising events, making and serving drinks, baking, brewing and sanitising.

tour-guiding, archiving, poetry writing, photo-taking, website updating.

Trustees – thank you for:

supporting, advising, correcting, approving, attending meetings and events, Zooming, bringing expertise, being critical friends.

Staff – thank you for:

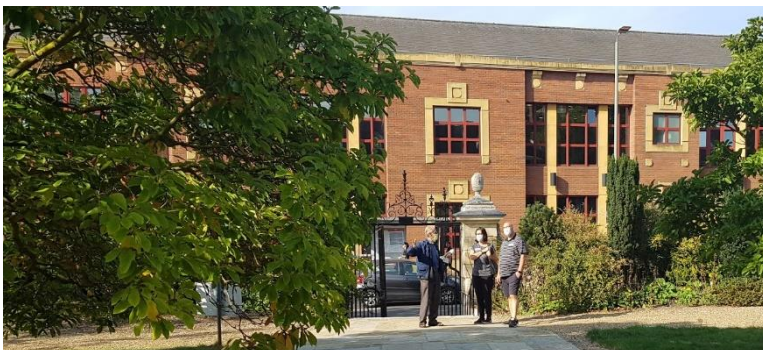
loyalty, flexibility, diligence.

doing what you could: shopping, masking, sanitising, working from home, going the extra mile, cooperating with change, improving our systems, running our house smoothly and safely.

Visitors – thank you for:

caring, cleaning, ambulance driving and examining, responding, delivering post, picking packing despatching and delivering online shopping

Open House visiting, social distancing, mask wearing, sanitising, sharing the joy of our house.



Christmas elves– thank you for

decorating, lighting, tinselling.

putting the tree up and rescuing it when it fell down

lighting fire pits, mulling wine, popping corks,

singing, praying, reading, creating liturgy

dressing up, joining in, blessing each other



Thank you for saying thank you, for sending flowers,
writing notes, praying and encouraging.

From RobbieD

Just a short note, of Thanks, for all your effort, put into making our Christmas celebrations, bearable, and welcome, and most certainly, filled with your particular brand of Vivaciousness, amidst what was and still is a most trying time in our modern history of Christmas.

The celebration of the Blessing of the Christmas tree, proved to be a Blessing indeed, particularly upon the "Lighting " up of the Christmas tree, which blessed all of us present, with a special warmth, despite the outside cold.

The crib service, once more proved to be a special time, of carols, in which you allowed us (Covid 19 Protocols of course) to join in listening to the Word , and participating in Joyful singing.....the bonus was that, your idea also gifted the people of Bromley as they passed in London Road with what I can only describe as the "Spirit of Christmas. "

Your sermon, on Christmas Day, kept to the rules that you made in keeping it short, informative, theologically in accord with Holy Scripture.

All these things, including your special effort of a secret santa , bringing that same spirit of Christ's **presence**, in the form of a **present** for all Collegians, has made for many of us a truly pleasant, different, and wonderful Christmas tide.

From Paulos

Dear Secret Santa, I for one, and I probably speak for most Collegians, very much appreciated the 'Secret Santa' Christmas Present. So whoever you are Santa - It was thoughtful and appreciated - Paulos at 5

From Anne Townsend

In 83 years of life, I've never shared in a "Secret Santa happening" but, secretly, have often longed to. It isn't on my bucket-list (because I don't happen to have a bucket-list), but it's something that BSC gifted me with this Christmas.

Being given the names of a couple of people who John and I were to find presents for, within the suggested price range was, at first, challenging.

Having to Safeguard meant that browsing shops and market stalls was out of the question. Could we find little presents to suit the two people John and I had agreed to gift? I rummaged deep in my depleted "presents' drawer", delighted when, at last, I found four little items that I thought would be just right for our recipients.

This took on a life of its own, when I found myself often praying for God's blessing on those two Collegians.

Next, it was challenging working out how to wrap the gifts attractively for presentation, because my hands are still anaesthetic (due to the side-effects of chemotherapy). I think we managed to make the presents presentable, and John posted them in Santa's red sack - and I stamped them with a Christmas blessing on the recipients.

On Christmas morning, our received Secret Santa gifts were the ones I wanted to open first, to see how other Collegians had wanted to gift and bless us, as we did them.

The "Covid-19 Christmas of 2020" is one I will always remember. We have lived in the Colleges for nine years and this was the most enjoyable Christmas we remember since coming here.

Thank you everyone - and especially the unknown two of you who gifted John and me in the Secret Santa.

May we all be blessed in 2021 in our lives together
Chaplain



Extraordinary blue skies in lock down!

Maintenance plan

We will postpone the flat inspections that were due to start on 18 January until all the collegians have been vaccinated. Linda Balmer and Helen have been contacting you to find out where we all are in the process. Please let them or the office know when you have received your vaccination. Work will continue on the outside of the buildings

Blue Christmas

It has been a Blue Christmas for many collegians who were unable to visit friends and family and especially unable to see new grandchildren. We continue to face restrictions under Tier 4 which curtail travel and group gatherings. We pray that there soon may be an end to restrictions and a chance to reflect and discover a “new normality”.

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

Recycling batteries

Paul J (Paulos) has offered to collect your used batteries for recycling - Sainsbury's has a disposal box - please place them in the box on his plant stand outside No.5

Recycling cardboard

With such a large quantity of cardboard coming in with our online shopping and going out in recycling, could everyone who is able, break down and flatten their boxes. If you are unable to do this, please let the office know and we will arrange help.

Vehicular access BR1 1PG

Vehicular access postcode for guests and delivery people.

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Collect

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,

might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Psalm 147.13

John 1:10-18

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. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Post Communion Prayer

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth
as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever. **Amen**

Prayer list

Anglican Cycle	The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria
Rochester cycle	Sidcup deanery The Rev Mell Jemmett, Area Dean Mr Andrew Young, Lay Chair
College	Anne and John Townsend and Bob Wallace
Community	The European Union, The Commonwealth
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, Eron and David and Leah Murphy, Aaron Roddan, Vic Shaw, Anne Townsend, Jo Walton, Liz Whiting, Julian White
Years Mind Anniversary	Hugh Graham Iliff and Walter Ronald Hares
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.