

# ALL SAINTS'



## This week's Newsbulletin

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

### Do not be Afraid

Dear Friends,  
2020 really has been a time that has driven up a sense of fear and anxiety for many.

'Fear Not' is used 365 times in the Bible and we become particularly aware of its important reassurance as it is a phrase often used during the Christmas Story. 'Fear Not' Mary is told by the angel, when she is invited to give birth to Jesus. Joseph is told in a dream that convinces him to stay faithful to Mary, 'Fear Not'. The Shepherds in the fields are told by the angels, not to be afraid when they are greeted with the good news of the Messiah's birth.

There were many reasons to be afraid in the Christmas story. Who wouldn't be afraid when life seemed out of control and way beyond normal expectations: Mary, being away from home with nowhere to stay and about to give birth? Who wouldn't be afraid living in an occupied country with a tyrant like Herod in charge and life being so precarious? And this is just the fearful, anxiety-ridden, life and death situation into which Jesus is born. Not a place of peace and stability but into a desperate, needy world.

He was born and there was no room for him, he was born into poverty, loneliness, disease, and extreme danger, with death always at hand.

Christ comes to be with us in all our fears and anxieties, born into a dangerous world, and he grew to be a man who had to face suffering and death himself.

This is God, coming to live alongside us, within us, to bring us hope and love in a world of fear. That is the true joy of Christmas.

It may well be that, in order to stay safe this Christmas, many of us will be alone, from a human perspective. Yet our faith brings us comfort and – yes - joy, for the truth of Christmas is that Jesus has come to this troubled world to win and offer eternal life, the darkness has not overcome the light. It is into just this situation of alienation and loss that the Saviour comes with love, joy and peace - and the greatest hope.

'Fear Not' for God is truly with us. Emmanuel.  
Love, Jo

### Services for Christmas 2020

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Video: prayers and reflection for Advent 4 at  
<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php>  
16.00 Messy Church Christmas on Zoom

#### 18.30 A Service of Lessons and Carols on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87606340051?pwd=dXdnNVF2R2RFM0IPSEN4V0ZGeHpwUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 0634 0051 Passcode: 356713

This service will include many familiar carols for everyone to sing along to at home. We have room for 100 households!

#### Christmas Eve

#### 16.30 Crib service on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85657093711?pwd=Znl4U3l4QURRUlVwUkp1NExZUTExdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 5709 3711 Passcode: 214270

This service will include many familiar carols for everyone to sing along to at home.

#### Christmas Day (Friday)

**10.00 Christmas Communion in Church.** Please email us on [ymas@allsaintshertford.org](mailto:ymas@allsaintshertford.org) if you plan to come to this service.

Video: prayers and reflection for Christmas at  
<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php>

#### Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup>

#### 10.00 Service of Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86171003223>

By phone: Meeting ID: 861 7100 3223

#### Tuesday December 29<sup>th</sup>

#### 11.00 Morning prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88015708219>

Meeting ID: 880 1570 8219

#### 'Zoom'-ing by 'phone

Call 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131460 1196 and use meeting id followed by #

### Contact information

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#### Vicar (and Team Rector of Hertford)

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