

The Church in Preston – 25th November 2020

For events in the New Year please let me have details (and a poster?) by **Monday 21st December**.

We have much to celebrate - we can gather again, in our churches for Sunday worship, from the 6th December.

Advent Blessings.

Ken

Main news:

1. by 27 Nov: SA request new TOYS & Christmas Food – see below
2. **OPEN again from 03.12.20** Christian Resource Centre, Lune Street: other details in last month's email 28.10.20
3. Thurs 17th Dec, 7pm: **Lancashire Sings Christmas "From Baubles to Bubbles"** - see below
4. **Christmas Day Meal** – do you know anyone, on their own, to have this free gift? – see below
5. **Christian Aid info** and **Quiz** (mainly for Longton Area) – see below
6. **Online Retreats** - led by **Donna Worthington** – details in last month's email 28.10.20
7. **A single bed** – available to **anyone in need** – see below
8. **GOOD NEWS: Transform Your City – Launching Re-Work** – see below

Reminder

7. **Monday 30th November**, 11am: **Hope Together Leaders** (on Zoom) – see last month's email 28.10.20

Details

1. **Salvation Army: Christmas Food and NEW TOYS (0-18yrs)** - see last month's email 28.10.20

Claire is delighted – THANK YOU - cars have been coming into the Salvation Army Centre one after another with the gifts of food and new toys – THANK YOU. **The closing date is this coming FRIDAY, 27th Nov.** If possible, please let them have any further Christmas Gifts (unwrapped) by then.

What a wonderful, amazing response. So many have recognised how difficult Christmas 2020 will be for many families in our city. Normally, through Social Services, the Salvation Army send to about 400 families at Christmastime, but this is not a normal year, there is a much greater need.

If you can help as a volunteer, please contact Claire/Natalie by next Monday (30th Nov)

From Monday 30th Nov to Friday 18th December, The Salvation Army are in need of volunteers on weekday mornings between 9.30am - 1pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are looking for **people who are classed as Covid low risk** due to the nature of the volunteering role. If you are interested and think you may be suitable, please email us at info.sapreston@gmail.com [Claire Bowerman]



3. Thursday 17th Dec, 7pm: Lancashire Sings Christmas "From Baubles to Bubbles" BBC Radio Lancashire 7pm – 8pm on Thursday 17th Dec. This year the impact of the Coronavirus Virus means that

we cannot gather in the public places to sing. **"From Baubles to Bubbles"** is an invitation to tune into Lancashire Sings Christmas 2020 and to share this service of carols, readings, stories of

hope and healing in the many safe Bubbles of contact that exist across the County. Song-sheets will be available nearer the time to view or download. Join with everyone in Lancashire across the airways to lift our voices, and to open our hearts and our minds. Pray we may all receive afresh the light and the joy of the Christ Child that God gives to the whole world walking in the darkness of these times. [Anton Muller]

4. Christmas Day Meal – do you know anyone, who'll be on their own, to have this free gift?

West Preston Methodist Church are working with 'Here for Humanity' and Miller's Taxis to cook and distribute 100 hot meals on Christmas Day. We want people to let us know of people who will be on their own who and would like to have this free gift. The permission of the person needs to be gained and they need to be at home on Christmas Day. We need names, telephone number address and allergies. Reply to: inclusion@wpmc.co.uk [Andrew Pratt]

5. Christian Aid info and Quiz (mainly for Longton Area)

I attach a letter giving information about the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal for Ethiopia. I shall be very pleased to let you have any items on the list, including raffle tickets and a paper copy of the quiz. Please phone if interested 01772-613500 NOTE: the quiz is particularly related to the Longton area. (Cath Greenlees)

6. Online Retreats - thru into 2021 - led by Donna Worthington

Please use the new website to apply: <https://www.christianretreats.live/>

Sun 29th Nov, 6.30pm - A Desert Father of These Islands – Saint Cuthbert

Sat 12th Dec, 2pm - Advent: A Way of Seeing (or Mon 14th Dec at 9.30am)

In 2021

Sun 10th Jan, 6.30pm: Entering the Heart of Christ

Sat 16th Jan, 2pm (or 18.01.20, 9.30am): The Healing of The Blind Man

Fri 22nd Jan, 2pm: The Tiger & The Tree of Light

Wed 27th Jan, 9.30am: The Woman Who Anointed Jesus and The Celtic Story of The Selkie

7. A single bed – available to anyone in need

A family in our parish have a single bed that they no longer need, and they wondered if you know of anyone in need that this could be donate to? [contact via Ken & Joan by email]

8. GOOD NEWS: Transform Your City – Launching Re-Work

The Preston Minster #LoveYourNeighbour Hub has received a £90,000 award to focus on pandemic related issues. Three Hub partner churches (Crossgate, Salvation Army and Fulwood Free) will increase food and debt relief activities Preston Minster will start the 'Re-Work' programme which aims to see 75 people ready for re-employment in one year. All of this will be co-ordinated by Kezia Ryde.