

# Dates for your Diary

## Saturday Coffee Mornings

We do not have a date to start our monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings as yet, but watch this space.....

## Tuesday Coffee Morning

Nothing has been decided yet as the Tuesday Coffee Mornings are organised by Olive (Long) and the Salvation Army ladies.

## Prayer and Care

Prayer and Care will not be meeting for the foreseeable future.

Taketime is a series of relaxing guided meditations based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius

Taketime Together 

Will not be meeting for the foreseeable future

## UPDATE

14 filled shoeboxes and £55 for Blytheswood

Thank you!!!

## BIRTHDAYS

|                |                           |   |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| Diana Wiles    | 10 <sup>th</sup> December | Lynne Le Masonry 24 <sup>th</sup> January |
| Brian Gambell  | 27 <sup>th</sup> December |   |
| Stephen Morgan | 28 <sup>th</sup> December |   |

## Notices for January 2021

should be available from Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

please let me know if you would like something included

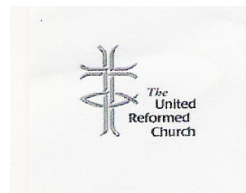
## OFFERINGS

Thank you to all of you who have continued to make your offerings. It is much appreciated. If you have not already done so, please consider making your offering by standing order or BACS transfer if you are able to do this.

If you are only able to make your offering by cheque or cash, please continue to do so. If you Gift Aid your offering, please remember to include your number if you pay by cheque or cash. Sharon or Heather can tell you what your number is if you are not sure.

There are some small envelopes available should you need them.

# The Church in Hope Street LEP



## CHURCH NOTICES

DECEMBER 2020



*They shall call his name Immanuel,  
which means God with us*

*Matt  
hew  
1:23*

### Mission Statement

*Our mission is to help all people understand and respond to the depth of God's love for them*

## A Message from Lynne



Hi Everyone

As I sit at my desk, the blind down to block the blazing sun from my eyes, it does not seem as if Christmas is near. But it is and my heart is aching, for it seems unlikely that we shall be together to celebrate. With the infection numbers, in Swale, rising at an alarming rate it is highly possible that a local lockdown will be swift on the tail of the national one we are currently in.

My heart aches, it is almost unimaginable, that we may not be able to celebrate together. Yet it seems this is what might happen, to keep us safe from this deadly and invisible foe. The battle goes on, the fight my friends is very real, despite the scoffers and doubters. We must continue to do all we can to stay safe and well. I will continue to do all I can to follow the government and church guidelines and keep you all informed. I am so very grateful to all who are helping keep everyone in the loop. If you do feel isolated and distressed then please contact one of the leadership team or myself. Sometimes just a friendly voice can make all the difference.

With our Advent and Christmas plans in doubt, I wonder whether it is a time to focus on the message of the seasons. Advent is a time of preparation- to look forward to the time when our Saviour returns. To focus on Hope - the prophecies of the prophets - the message of John the Baptist - and obedience of Mary the Mother of Jesus. Could it be a time to look beyond the shopping and wrapping; the tinsel and turkey and the washing up, and focus and ponder on the true reason for the season?

The hazardous journey of the anxious parents-to-be, because the law of the land declared it had to be. The birth of a baby laid in the hay, because there was nowhere else to lay him. The baby born with the burdens of a sinful world laid on his future life and death. To ponder on the life giving message of love he tried so hard to give to the world. Which brings us those traditional greeting of Hope and Peace and Joy.

Do we believe the Fathers message of unconditional love for us all his children?

Can we truly accept the gift of His Son he sent us at this time? –  
who gave his life that we might live in abundance.

Can we, knowing the joys of his gifts courageously share those gifts with the world - however the world hears or sees them! ?

We are undoubtedly facing a huge challenge at this time. Let us pray that he will see us through, and believe in our hearts that beyond what seems like darkness there **IS** the one true light that the darkness **cannot** extinguish.

I Pray that, whatever this season brings, you May have **Hope** and **Peace** and **Joy** but most of all you will feel enfolded by his **Love**.



*Christmas Blessings sent with Love  
Lynne*

## A Message from Kathy

Dear Friends,

For sometime now I have been aware that the time has come for me to retire on December 31st from the Church Leadership Team and all the other duties I have so enjoyed doing over the past years.

It has been absolutely amazing working for our Lord and the local community with a wonderful congregation and team at both The Church in Hope Street and the Hope Street Centre.

Thank you all for your efforts and support, especially during what has been a very challenging year for everyone. Your friendship, messages and telephone calls have meant so much to Brian and myself.

I pray that you will continue to use all of your skills and talents in serving our Lord and Saviour and supporting Lynne and the Leadership Team.

Remember that phrase, "God hasn't finished with us yet".

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Happy Christmas.

Love Kathy.

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The list below contains initials for the titles of well known Christmas Carols

Eg S N = Silent Night

O I R D C  
O L T O B  
C A S T H M  
G R Y M G  
A I A M  
W T K O O A  
T H A T I  
H T H A S  
O C A Y F  
A F T R O G  
B I T N M C  
C A J T C  
O C O C E  
I T B M W  
I C U A M C  
L C D A C  
S A T W S  
S H L O A B O S  
U U A B I B  
W S W T F B N  
A W G M O O  
H T G S T S C

**Good Luck! Happy Christmas and a better New Year**

Last done in 2013, so easy for those of you with good memories



*A Poem from Maureen*

### *Autumn*

*When we sleep Autumn will creep,  
turning trees from green to gold  
looking as all things unfold.*

*All too soon the nights draw in  
shortening the daylight hours.*

*Take a photo now.*

*Remember all Winter long these lovely flowers.*

*Winter chill, feel the air,  
it has gone so quick it seems so unfair.  
But beautiful colours will still be there,  
the nights will be darker but the stars will be brighter  
and the moon will shine for all to see.*

*GOD! Wonderful Creator,  
You have held us in your peace LORD  
when all the world is in pieces.....*

*We thank THEE.*



## More Messages

Hilary would like to say -

Happy Christmas to you all,  
no matter how you celebrate it,  
and I hope and pray that 2021 will be  
a happier and better year for us all.

Happy Christmas  
from Hilary

Maureen would like to thank everyone for her birthday cards

Heather M would like to thank everyone for  
the lovely cards and good wishes for her birthday.

A special thank you to Sharon, Maureen and Win  
who all phoned and sang Happy Birthday!

A lovely surprise. I even had a birthday card from Karon in  
the Coffee Shop that played Happy Birthday.

I had a brilliant day, a big improvement on last year.

Thank you! *Heather xx*

## PENS

Unfortunately, it was too late to order pens at a reasonable price to give out to  
everyone this Christmas.

However, there are some 2020 left over from last Christmas, so if you would  
like one of these, speak to Lynne or one of the leaders  
and they will get one for you.



*A special poem for Christmas from Maureen*

## *CHRISTMAS & STARS*

*Starlight, star bright, I wonder why you shine at night?  
Is it that you want us all to see  
all your beautiful creativity?*

*Sitting by the fireside this night  
I looked out of the window to a beautiful starlight.  
GOD'S creations for all to see made me feel all Christmassy*

*Although they say Christmas will be different this year,  
have no fear, our LORD will always be near.*

*The story of Christmas will never change  
although some things might seem a little strange.  
Our streets will be full of STARS and LIGHTS.  
But we can recapture once again  
the thrill of Christmas Nights  
and all the days that lay ahead*

*Keep Christmas in our hearts.*

