

BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH
PARISH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021



*Wishing you all a Happy
New Year in 2021*

Dear Friends,

As we enter a new year, one is inevitably drawn into a reflection of the last one, 2020, which this time last year heralded the beginning of a new decade, indeed a year to look forward to with renewed hope and expectation. Who could have foreseen what was waiting for us? By March we were about to experience a way of life unknown to any of us and a new vocabulary ie lockdown, COVID19 and mass testing to name a few.

For the Church the changes were profound, faced with closure and no services, and when the doors were finally opened no hymns. Then just as we were getting used to a new style of service, we were closed down again. But Church people are nothing if not resilient as new electronic services via Zoom were introduced, unfortunately beyond my IT skills, but not to the thirty plus who joined in each Sunday—a service style that continues and, who knows, a glimpse of the future. By now the Christmas festivities are winding down, the turkeys consumed and the crackers pulled, and we look forward to a new year full of hope and great significance, a new year which sees the start of a vaccination programme and the pandemic held at bay, where life assumes normality and we can once again enjoy the company of loved ones and friends.

So, friends, we have much to look forward to in 2021, but let us not forget the staff of the NHS, the carers and those who supplied essential services to society in 2020 and remember with love all who were bereaved during that year.

Have a special 2021 and God bless you.

JANUARY 2021 SERVICES

These are the services planned at the time of going to press. If any changes are necessary, details will be given at the 9.30 Sunday Zoom Service and posted on the website -www.hachestonchurch.onesuffolk.net.

January			
3rd	9.30am	* Zoom Morning Service *	Epiphany (transferred)
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
10th	9.30am	* Zoom Morning Service *	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Parham
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Kettleburgh
13th	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Hacheston
17th	9.30am	* Zoom Morning Service *	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Easton
24th	9.30am	* Zoom Morning Service *	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Hacheston
27th	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Hacheston
31st	9.30am	* Zoom Morning Service *	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Marlesford

* For all zoom services contact Bill Clark - bill78@btinternet.com

Unfortunately, the communion service at Brandeston is cancelled. The archdeacon has been trying to get a clergy person to take this service but sadly no one is available. The elders will be leading the usual zoom service.

Pastoral support

Although we are unable to visit, members of the Ministry Team and others are available at the end of the 'phone to listen or to pray with you.

Canon Graham Hedger	01473 737280
Canon Deirdre Parmenter	01728 748145
Jackie Clark	01728 723623
Carol Cooke	01728 747625

Supporting others

For those who are in self isolation it can be a disturbing time. We continue to work with each Parish Council and other village groups to develop a support system via telephone and e mail, to remove some of the isolation. Also, to provide practical support such as collecting and delivering groceries. Some villages have adopted 'street wardens / contacts' to facilitate this process.

Please ring 685807 if you need any help.

Remembering others

These are very challenging times for many people, who face the possibility of the loss of jobs and livelihoods. Britain already has a large number of people who need the help and support of foodbanks. If you are able, when on your very occasional visit to a shop please continue to place an item in the foodbank collections. Please continue to remember in prayer all those who are continuing to work for our safety and wellbeing, especially those who are providing essential services.



Some of us will be glad to see the back of 2020. This time a year ago, we were looking forward to the start of a new year and a new decade. But, no one could have imagined quite how significant a Coronavirus outbreak, that seemed such a long way away in China, would become, and how much it would impact on all of our lives.

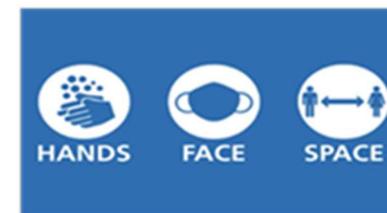
Whilst 2020 has certainly been one of the most challenging years in living memory, there is finally some light at the end of the tunnel with Covid vaccines being rolled out across the country. So, as we enter another New Year, I am optimistic that 2021 will be better for all of us.

We have known since the onset of this pandemic that a safe and reliable vaccine would be key to overcoming the virus and facilitating a return to normal life. So, it is an outstanding achievement that the United Kingdom has been in the vanguard, leading a world-class research programme to help deliver a number of Covid vaccines that are to be rolled out across the country.

There have been a number of media scare stories about the safety of the vaccines, but I am confident that whilst the vaccines have been developed in record time, they have still undergone rigorous safety testing. Huge investment in the vaccine programme has meant that tests that have usually been carried out in series have been carried out in parallel which has allowed the development time of the vaccines to be dramatically reduced.

The vaccines will protect people from Covid so that we can get our lives back to normal. For our doctors, nurses and frontline NHS and care workers, who will be amongst the very first to receive the vaccine, this marks a huge step forward and will allow a return to seeing more patients face to face as we move away from lockdowns and the restrictions of working constantly behind masks and PPE. The vaccines offer around 95% protection against Covid-19. So, it is essential that those who are at greatest risk, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions should be the first to receive it alongside our health and care workers. However, the rollout of a vaccination programme will be a vast and challenging logistical effort. But I am confident that our frontline healthcare workers, public health teams, the military, our supply chain workers and volunteers will pull together and rise to the challenge.

By Summer 2021, I hope that we can all look forward to a gradual return to some level of normality but in the meantime, it is essential that we do not drop our guard and that we all continue to play our part in preventing the spread of Covid. Suffolk has been at the forefront of following Government guidance, so please – stick with it, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We shall get through this and look forward to a happier and healthier 2021.



A poem of Hope...

Here are a couple of verses from America's inaugural youth poet laureate.... Amanda Gorman, a 22-year-old graduate from Harvard University, using her talent to offer words of hope and understanding for 2021.

I thought I'd woken to a world in mourning

Heavy clouds gathering, a society storming.

But there's something different on this golden morning

Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.

As one we will defeat both despair and disease.

We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;

With families, libraries, schools, waiters, artists,

Businesses, restaurants and hospitals hardest hit.

We'll observe the burdens braved by humankind

Are also the moments which make us humans kind;

Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;

Heeding the light before this fight is over.

When this ends we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing

In testing times, we became the best of beings.

Grass Grows Through Concrete!

So, let's leave 2020 behind and look at the positives on the horizon of 2021. First of all, we have two new vaccines with vaccinations on the way to everyone. So hopefully in the coming year we will have more protection against the pandemic and the misery it brings. Of course, all the hardships and heartache won't automatically disappear at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. The pandemic will still be here, and that can feel like an uphill battle. Obstacles will be thrown at us every step of the way, but there's good news: grass grows through concrete. We are more powerful than we realize. If we face pandemic opposition in 2021 with a positive attitude and emotional stamina, we can keep going no matter how frequent and difficult the obstacles.

