

# St. Peter's Church



## Welcome

'We are here to demonstrate God's love for all as shown in Jesus to people where we live and work'

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Advent Sunday

Over the following weeks we continue to be church together outside of the church building. The website and Facebook page are regularly updated with information to help us to continue to pray, worship, show God's love and support for one another.

Facebook: St Peter's, Ditton

Website: [Dittonchurch.org.uk](http://Dittonchurch.org.uk)

Live stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQtJNwfnLD0xSPnfBzUxknw>

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### Advent Sunday

Today marks the start of the season of Advent as we remember the great hope, expectation that Jesus Christ will one day return to our world and we will be recognised by all as the worlds true King. This hope is something which resonates throughout the pages of the New Testament and was a central theme of the preaching of the Apostles.

A big thank you again to Ruth Campbell who has made our Advent ring for use throughout this season.

### Return to Public Worship

From December 6th will be back in the Church building for services both morning and evening. ***Please remember to book!***

**Over the next 3 Sunday mornings** we will be continuing to explore Hebrews chapter 1 under the general heading of '**God's final Word**'

Christians believe in a God who speaks and who has spoken finally and decisively in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. There is always the temptation especially in our time to seek to detract from the person and work of Jesus Christ. The letter to the Hebrews will not allow us to do that - this first chapter speaks of the majesty of Christ in almost unrivalled language in the New Testament. The perfect chapter to study as we prepare for Christmas.

**This evening** our focus is the new Jerusalem as we look at Revelation 21.

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### Christmas Services

We will be holding an *online Carol Service* this year. The decision was made because we are still unable to sing and if you can't sing at a Carol Service ..... ! The service will be available to watch on **Sunday evening December 20th**.

There will be as usual a service of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve at **11pm** and a Christmas Praise Service for Christmas Day at **10.00am**

We are exploring the possibility of Carols on the Green from the Church building streamed live at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve with an interactive element. Watch this space!

**It is imperative this year that you book for either of these services.**

**Please let Jane know in the Church office.**

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## Church Open

From 6<sup>th</sup> December, the church building will be open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm

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## Church maintenance

Alan and John have once again been working on the inside of the building. They have been cleaning the mould behind the arch and also have removed the screen for repair work. They will also be working on the sound system with Stephen Kemp. Alan is in the process of applying for a faculty from the diocese to enable the necessary improvements to be carried out to the roof and guttering as well as getting quotes for the Church Centre flat roof.

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## Gift Day

Thank you for your generous donation to Our Gift Day. The amount raised so far is over £11,500. This will be directed in the two following areas:

**The maintenance and development of our Church buildings** -both Parish Church and Church Centre where significant work is already happening and will be ongoing.

**Mission agencies we already support.**

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***We are now able to give money to St Peter's Church by using a card machine!***

***This is available in the Office during the week and by asking the wardens after Sunday services. (When we resume!)***

***You can also visit the website for details on how to make online payments direct to St Peter's account.***

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## Advent study

This advent, we encourage members of St Peter's to buy a copy of **'The One True Gift'** by **Tim Chester**.

This book has daily readings for Advent as well as ideas for reflection, prayer and application as we lead up to what is likely to be an unusual Christmas day.

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## Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who has donated food for the Pilsdon food bank in West Malling.

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## Christmas card appeal

This year's Family Christmas card scheme will be raising funds for Maidstone Homeless Care. If you are able, please transfer your donation directly to St Peter's Bank account (add your name and Maidstone Homeless to the reference) or pay using the card machine. Cash and cheques can be accepted - please make cheques payable to

**St Peter's Ditton PCC**. This year, please provide your own envelope with Maidstone Homeless written on the front.

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## Christmas gift cards for children and young people

The Salvation Army are not distributing gifts and toys this Christmas due to the pandemic. They have suggested as an alternative, that people might like to purchase gift cards for distribution to children and young people who will get very little this Christmas. If you would like to take part in this, please bring your gift card to church on **December 6<sup>th</sup>** or give it to Jane in the church office (office open Tuesdays & Wednesdays) The last day to do this is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no toy service this year, but we hope very much that there will be one next year!

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## 20 years of Ditton Church Pre School

On 9th January 2020 Ditton Church Pre School will have been open for 20 years! They are hoping to organise a variety of activities over the year to celebrate this special birthday and to engage past and present staff, children, parents and committee. Due to the current pandemic their plans will have to be based on what it is safe to do at what time over the whole of 2021. They have formed a small working party to start thinking about 20 ways to celebrate and will be giving updates once they have a confirmed list of events and ideas. If you would like to be involved, your help and support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Caroline Gibbons or Jane in the Church Office for more information.

### Thought for the Week

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son*

Hebrews 1 v 1-2

### **Prayer Themes for the Week**

Pray for peace in Kampala and throughout Uganda and pray for wisdom and humility for all those in positions of leadership.

We continue to pray for all those involved in the development, manufacturing, and deployment of vaccines for Covid19.

Please pray for all the planning and preparation for the Christmas services.

Pray for all those bringing help and support to those who have no home this Christmas.

### **Mission Prayer** **Armonia**

Pray for the Armonia team as they continue to support the poorer families of students who have had to return to their homes in the southern Mexican mountains. Also pray for the students remaining in Mexico City and living in the Casa Blanca residence during the quarantine.

### **Church of England**

For information from the Church of England please visit their website where you will find guidance on live streaming of services, radio broadcasts, daily prayers and useful information. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

#### **Recommended on-line Church websites**

All Souls Langham Place. <https://www.allsouls.org/>

Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. <https://www.htb.org/>

**Daily Hope** The Church of England have a free phone line of hymns, services and prayers. Tel: 0800 804 8044  
**The Church of England** are encouraging us to join together in prayer each day during this second period of closure.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>

### **Christmas Services at St Peter's**

Carols by Candlelight 20<sup>th</sup> December available to watch online only.



Christmas Holy Communion 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm

Christmas Praise 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am

**Please contact Jane in the Church Office or the wardens, John and Alan to reserve your seat for these services.**