

Hello everyone

So where did this week go?! Can it really be a week since our last email to you.

Sitting here tapping away on a damp mid-afternoon it seems so cold, dark and uninviting outside.. but across the way, lights are twinkling on a neighbour's house which to coin a well-known Christian phrase 'shines in the darkness' and brings hope. I am reminded that this is the season of looking to the light.. to the Light of Jesus, a time during the Advent season to reflect, repent and prepare for the coming of Jesus, who is the light of the world.. and the reason for the Season!

Last weekend there was a lot of light at Harlington and Toddington churches. Both churches offered the joy of two Christmas Tree festivals, with twinkling lights and creatively decorated trees (contributed by local organisations), filling the churches with a sense of joy and anticipation. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the wonderful displays, and to all who came, or helped. Each church raised over £500 which was a brilliant result considering the current Covid climate.

On Friday Tingrith Church rang out with Christmas music and song at their 'fish n hits' evening, with the community choir singing a wonderful selection of songs. Today Harlington folks gathered outside the shop to sing carols and to raise funds for Keech Hospice, led by Barbara and with special guests Samson the donkey and his friend.

The Christmas carol services begin this Sunday at Chalgrave 9.30 am Carol Service, followed by Westoning's on Thursday 16th at 7.30 pm, Chalgrave's Carols By Candlelight on Saturday 18th at 7.00 pm, Harlington's on Monday 20th at 8.00 pm, and Toddington's on Wednesday 22nd at 7.30 pm. Other things to look forward to are Toddington Band playing their Christmas Concert at St George's Church at 2.00 pm this Sunday and next week Nigel and I have been invited to Parkfields and St George's schools to support their Christmas services and assembly, which we are looking forward to. We are also looking forward to Harlington pre-school visiting their Church to hear the Christmas story.

With Covid regulations tightening this week, please note that it is now compulsory to wear a mask in church (unless exempt on health grounds), and there will be a booking system in place for some church services (eg Westoning and Harlington Crib services.). At present, Toddington and Chalgrave churches are not proposing to introduce a booking system, but this will be reviewed as more information is received.

Please find attached posters with details of the Christmas services at Chalgrave, Toddington, Harlington and Westoning Churches.

Please also keep an eye on the church websites, Facebook pages, and especially the church 'A Church Near You' pages for any updates.

At the moment it is carry on as normal within our churches. We are not proposing to cancel any Christmas Services and sincerely hope we can all gather together safely this Christmas season - albeit with social distancing and masks in place.

Do please follow guidelines at each church where we will be requesting the wearing of masks and the use of hand sanitiser before entering the church. Let us look out for each other to keep each other safe.

Sunday's services 12th December 2021

Chalgrave Carol Service 9.30 am

Harlington Morning Prayer 9.30 am

Toddington Holy Communion 11.00 am

Westoning Holy Communion 11.00 am and 3.00 pm Family service

Tingrith Church - no service this week.

The Upper Room 6pm by zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86550250989?pwd=aHc5WnduRVppNVZ0TDJWaU1VRVk3dz09>

Please contact Revd Linda for details of how to join.

Other services and events this week:

Sunday 12th

Toddington Band Christmas concert 2.00 pm in church

Monday 13th

Morning Prayer Toddington 9.30 am

No mums and tots group this week.. we will restart in the new year. Toddington

Advent course at the Rectory 11.00 am, Toddington

Seated Pilates 2.00 pm is not on this week and moves to Monday 20th instead. Toddington

7.45 pm Alpha Advent online gathering

Tuesday 14th

Funeral of Dale 10.00 am Westoning Church

Westcaf 10.00 am Village Hall, Westoning

Sewing Bee Christmas gathering 1.00 pm Village Hall, Westoning

Toddington Youth Group 5.30 pm Wilkinson Hall

Wednesday 15th

10.00 am Morning Service at Harlington Church

Thursday 16th

Afternoon with Friends 2.00 pm Wilkinson Hall, Toddington

7.30 pm service of readings and carols at Westoning Church

Friday 17th

Little Stars 1.15 pm Westoning Church

Friday Fellowship 2.00 pm village Hall, Westoning

Saturday 18th

Chalgrave Carols by Candlelight service 7.00 pm

I have spent hours this week setting up Chalgrave church with a card reader and an online donation button on the A Church Near You page. I encourage you all please to consider checking each church's respective 'A Church Near You' page which has lots of information about the services and a calendar of events. There is also a donation button on each church page (Tingrith's still to be set up) should you find yourself in a position to be able to make a

donation online to support your respective church. It is also possible to make regular monthly giving online if you like me, are short of cash nowadays.

Here is Chalgrave Church link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7698/>



[Chalgrave Church \(All Saints\) - A Church Near You](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7698/)

Update on Services We are delighted to be back in church each Sunday at 9.30 am for our morning service, to which all are welcome. We follow Social Distancing guidelines and continue to wear face masks in church and sanitise our hands before entering church. At present we are able to sing in church wearing masks. If you are not able to come to church you are very welcome to join us for the ...

www.achurchnearyou.com

Toddington Church link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7714/>



[St George of England, Toddington - A Church Near You](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7714/)

Update on Services We have resumed our regular Sunday Morning 11am Holy Communion Service in Church and our Monday Morning Prayer 9.30am Service in Church. PLEASE NOTE: Those attending church will continue to be invited to sanitise hands on entering the church, to use the NHS Covid19 QR code or to list their names for track and trace purposes and to wear a face mask, and there will be ...

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Harlington Church link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667/>



[St Mary's Harlington - A Church Near You](#)

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Harlington, this beautiful, historic church which stands at the centre of this much loved, pretty village. The Church family are friendly and warmly welcoming and enjoy meeting together to worship and for social events. The Church is led by Ministers Revd Nigel Washington and Revd Linda Washington, with assistance from Robert Johns, Reader.

www.achurchnearyou.com

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Westoning Church link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7664/>



[St Mary Magdalene - A Church Near You](#)

WESTONING CHURCH is a thriving community of worshippers drawn from Westoning and it's surrounding villages. If you've just moved into the area or are a visitor you can be assured of a very warm welcome. We have a range of services suitable for all ages. Our Vicar, Reverend Nigel Washington, or Associate Minister: Reverend Linda Washington 01525 714442 or nwashy2@gmail.com or Linda

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www.achurchnearyou.com

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Tingrith Church link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7663/>



[St Nicholas - A Church Near You](#)

Held each month on the fourth Sunday of the month.. all welcome. This week is a Holy Communion Service
www.achurchnearyou.com

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I am excited to have also set up Chalgrave Church to join with Harlington and Toddington Churches on the 'Easyfundraiser' site, so if you haven't quite finished your Christmas Shopping an easy way to help your church to fundraise is to click on 'Easyfundraiser' first before you shop, and then at no extra expense to yourself you can click to raise funds for the church, and continue on to shop with your chosen retailer, who offer the church charity a donation. It is very easy to do.. but makes such a difference to our churches. Toddington has now raised over £550 and Harlington over £1,000. Here is the link to click: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



[Fundraising | Charity Fundraising Online | Easyfundraising](#)

Join over 2.1 million people raising free donations at over 5,100 shops and sites every day the easyfundraising way! Over £35 million has already been raised for good causes.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

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In the lead up to Christmas you can also take part in the Easyfundraiser Advent Calendar challenge.. with opportunity to win a cash prize for your charity or to be entered into the big draw.

We sincerely thank you for all your support and help in so many different ways.

Please look after yourselves and keep safe and well.

with every good wish
Linda and Nigel

PS: if you need any lateral flow tests, there will be boxes available at each church for you to pick up.