



SOUTH QUANTOCK BENEFICE CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to during
these COVID months since Pentecost?

West Monkton, Kingston St Mary, Cheddon & Broomfield
Contact office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Rev Jim is running our Confirmation class as well as playing a key part in our pastoral ministry, alongside his Area Dean duties. His book reviews can be found on our website: <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/about/book-reviews/>



Rev Mary

PRAYER BOARDS:
outside Rev Mary's
Vicarage in
Kingston and Rev
Tracey's, Cheddon



'Talking lifts our spirits'

Do call on 451189 or revmarie@gmail.com
Michele in the office 01823 451257
office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Call to prayer:

The clergy and many others have been joining in prayer at 9am and 5pm each day as we pray for our world, the church and our local communities. Do join us and pray as and when you are able.



Revs Mary and Tracey's doorsteps have been collection points for Foodbank as well as for hand cream to bless the staff at Musgrove Park Hospital to support them as they care for others. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Pastoral The team, the pastoral group and others have maintained contact and responded to individual needs.



Tracey: The Covid pandemic delayed and limited Curate Tracey's priestly ordination – it finally happened on 29th September – what a joyful occasion! *Pictured left to right: Mary, Bishop Ruth, Tracey & Jim*

Paul has been adapting his work to the COVID crisis– supporting individual families, being a Parish Councillor, supporting school children through the TLG programme and focusing on community emotional health, an even more pressing need during this pandemic. Has started training as a Life Coach in order to better walk alongside others.



The Benefice Office re-opened in mid July and has remained open since. We have upgraded our system to enable us to cope with Zoom. The office continues to deal with enquiries of all sorts, including funerals, baptisms, weddings as well as sending out the weekly newsletters, Zoom and YouTube links.

Small groups

are an essential way of going deeper in our faith – the team shares the leadership of the Advent groups, Tuesday morning and evening prayer and Wednesday evening Bible study. Newcomers always welcome!



Connecting with schools: The clergy are adapting to leading collective worship via a computer screen as we support our local schools through this challenging time.



Harvest : We celebrated the harvest in a limited way this year with services in each of the churches. We gave thanks for God’s goodness and for the work of our farmers and food producers. With just a few decorations, people generously gave food and money to Open Door, Foodbank and WaterAid.
Pictured: Harvest decoration at Cheddon

Zoom Services

We have continued our zoom Sunday services throughout these 9 months as well as holding services in our church buildings when possible. We are delighted to welcome some newcomers – and to provide for those who are not yet ready or able to attend services in our buildings. We’ve also had some zoom “coffee breaks” - to keep connected with friends.



Remembrance



Remembrance services were adapted (due to the 2nd Lockdown) this year: Small local moments of prayer were held by Benefice Ministers at each of our memorials on 8th and 11th November – wreathes laid and silence kept. Our main service was held on zoom – Rev Tracey and Christine had filmed at our 4 memorials and names of all the lost were read and shown at a very moving service, as we kept silence together as a Benefice this year.



West Monkton Church

Reader Christine at Cheddon

Rev Tracey



Busy as ever, Tracey has spent hours at Boots the Chemist and shopping for others as needed.



The Team have been doing a weekly video reflection from a variety of places; their homes, around the parishes and even from West Bay (as shown.)



Summer Holiday Fun through “Virtual Story Telling” on Youtube with Fun Activity Bags given to families with crafts linked to Bible stories. “Take 5” became a bit more pilgrim-like as community walks replaced meetings. We also stopped for the obligatory picnic. New Friendships across the Benefice were formed.



Lanterns were placed in windows across the estate to share and celebrate “Light in the dark” on Halloween. Families “hunted” the lanterns on a trail and found the message: ‘Let each of us bring light to our community Northwalls Grange’ – then received a “bag of hope” at the end.



Little Seedlings re-started as a support group (at Cheddon Memorial Hall) for parents / carers with small children under Covid 19 guidelines. Two sessions ensure small groups can meet in safety.



Community Sunflower growing competition to bring Joy (above)