

Our Benefice For the next month

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From the Editor's chair

Dear All

As the latest variant of Covid advances, we are not entirely sure what the new year will bring in terms of our services and other events. This newsletter assumes things will remain as now, however, as we know, things can change very rapidly. Please note there is a service at St Mary's Temple on Christmas day (details below).

For those who have not already heard, one of our much loved church community, Sue Lake, has finally slipped away following her long battle with illness. Despite the physical restrictions she experienced, Sue was a real inspiration to us all, and took a full part in church services and activities with her lovely smile, when she was able. As we give thanks for Sue's life, we send all our love to Frank, and thank him for his years of devoted help to her.

Sadly the planned Christingle service was unable to take place, but special activity packs are being distributed across the Benefice, so that Christingles can be made at home.

The Lite Bites Christmas Lunch took place last Wednesday and was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to everyone who helped to prepare and serve a lovely meal. The collection at the lunch was for the Children's Society and £340 will be donated together with £115 raised by the Dolce Singers carol singing at the Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade. With gift aid added, the total will be £570.

2022 will see a major development process starting for both churches. The PCC have decided to create two development groups which will begin their planning work on 1st April. The formal notice will appear in the January Bridge. As the aim is to expand the uses of both churches into providing additional general community facilities, this is a process which will affect all who live in Chapmanslade and Corsley, so this will be the opportunity to contribute towards the decision making, which hopefully secures the long term future for both buildings.

The previous edition of this newsletter and the Bridge contained a plea for someone to take on the editorship of both this and the Church pages in the Bridge. While the PCC will be able to maintain the Bridge pages, sadly nobody wants to offer to edit this newsletter, so this will be the last edition, unless anyone comes forward. Thank you to all those who have appreciated this and the previous 607 editions.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2022.

With very best wishes

Ian

Benefice of Cley Hill Villages Services

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib Service at St Philip and St James Chapmanslade
4pm Crib Service at Longbridge Deverill

Christmas Day

9.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's Temple Corsley
10.00am Eucharist at St Philip and St James Chapmanslade
10.30am Eucharist at Kingston Deverill
11.15am Eucharist at Horningsham
11.15am Christmas Worship at Longbridge Deverill

Boxing Day Sunday 26th December

No services in the benefice

Further Services and Events are shown on the calendar below.

Benefice of Cley Hill Villages Calendar

Date	Time	January 2022 – Service or Event	Place
January 2	0930	Eucharist	St Margaret's Corsley
January 2	1030	Morning Worship	St Peter and St Paul Longbridge Deverill
January 9	1115	Benefice Plough Service	St John the Baptist Horningsham
January 16	0930	Eucharist	St Margaret's Corsley
January 16	1030	Eucharist	St Michael's Brixton Deverill
January 20	1000	Church and Community Coffee Morning Covid permitting	Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade
January 27	1930	Quiz for Maridi South Sudan	Warminster Conservative Club

Whats on?

Christingle

Because of the continuing level of Covid cases, we are unable to hold a Christingle Service this year, but we will be distributing packs to enable you to make your own Christingle at home. The date we will be doing this will be advised on all the usual church information sources, the school and the two village Facebook pages.

Crafternoons in Chapmanslade

We would like to resume our craft afternoons, not just craft but games and a thought for the day as well with the opportunity to chat as we enjoy our respective pastimes. If you would like to learn a craft, between us we should be able to find someone to teach you. If you are interested in joining in come along to a meeting at the Three Horseshoes on Thursday January 6th at 3pm so that we can make arrangements. Of course we will abide by any restrictions regarding Covid-19 and we should be able to spread out well at the tables.

We hope to see you there!

Our Friends in South Sudan

Dear friends,

In the midst of our own anxieties and preoccupations, let us spare a few moments to think of and pray for our friends in the Sudans. With more pressing concerns of hunger, flooding, waterborne diseases and malaria, and political instability, Covid receives much less attention. Yet potentially it could be just as lethal.

Covid update: As of today, Sudan had reported 44,877 cases (36,009 recovered) and 3244 deaths. South Sudan reported 12,873 cases (12,576 recovered) and 133 deaths. These figures may be an under-estimate. Last Thursday 168,000 vaccine doses arrived in South Sudan, a gift of the US through COVAX. So far 139,364 people have been fully vaccinated with either AstraZeneca (2 doses) or Johnson & Johnson (1 dose). The priority now is to provide second doses to the 51,833 people who have so far had their first AstraZeneca dose

- **Pray that the virus does not spread widely through the population**
- **Pray for all involved in the distribution and administration of vaccines, and for those still working to spread the health messages**
- **Pray for more generosity by the rich nations with vaccine stocks - may they remember that no-one is safe till we are all safe.**

Maridi: Please continue to pray for Bishop Moses as he undertakes visits to his archdeaconries and parishes; pray for the lay readers, parish evangelists and Mothers' Union leaders commissioned, for those confirmed, and for all who are encouraged by his visits.

Pray also for the Chaima Christian Institute, staff and students, as they begin their long Christmas and New Year holiday.

- **Pray for the Institute's development as a campus of the Episcopal University (of South Sudan)**
- **Pray for the acting Principal, Revd. Titus, and staff of the institute as they struggle to meet huge demands of the college with stable finances.**
- **Pray for scholarships for Theology students and other vulnerable students**
- **Pray for the provision of Library and science room to the Institute.**
- **Pray for the completion of the students' Hostel.**

Sudan: As the uneasy political situation continues, and prices of food, fuel and other essentials continue to rise, pray for Archbishop Ezekiel, his bishops and clergy, and all the Christians of Sudan. Many fear a return to the vicious discrimination of past years, and are living with great uncertainty.

There has been more tribal violence in Darfur, with 100 killed in recent clashes in West and South Darfur and thousands forced to flee. The Government has sent a force of 3,300 to protect civilians in the area

- **Pray that violence can be contained and that the different tribes can learn to live in peace.**

Flooding in Unity State: The UN Special Representative in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, has reported after a recent visit to Bentiu that the situation is "dire". The flood waters are not receding, and hundreds of thousands remain displaced and in

desperate need. of assistance. Nearly 3 million lack any access to basic health care. The infrastructure including farms and dykes is deteriorating, and the water will still be there when the next rainy season comes - the estimate is that it will take 15 years to evaporate naturally. And funding partners for humanitarian aid are "unable to close the gap" because of competing needs in other conflict-affected countries.

- **Pray for so many people without homes, without hope - and pray fervently for some way of meeting such urgent needs**

Small steps towards implementing peace agreement: It was announced last Saturday that President Kiir had released funds to start the process of graduating the trained troops into a unified force.....but the government spokesman Michael Mukuei said "We will graduate them with sticks " due to the alleged shortage of funds for weapons.

Separately, it is reported that President Kiir and Vice-President Machar are to meet in Uganda, in January or February. under the chairmanship of President Museveni, to negotiate sharing the ratio of senior posts in the unified command structure of the army. If the troops, once graduated, are to be placed in properly structured and balanced units, this agreement becomes an essential part of the peace agreement implementation.

- **Pray for the graduation of troops, for agreement on the command structure, and for the establishment of a non-sectarian, non-tribal, disciplined national army**

**With every blessing
Jane**

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Benefice Contacts - www.cleyhillchurches.org

Clergy

Rector and Rural Dean (day off – Friday)	Reverend Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com	01985 841290
Associate Priest (day off – Monday)	Reverend Gay Maynard revgmaynard@gmail.com	01373 832490

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Barbara Hughes		01373 832273
Claire Tanner		01985 218099

Churchwardens

St John the Baptist, Horningsham	Tim Moore	01985 844336
St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley	Position vacant please contact Rev Gay Maynard	
St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill	Robert Shuler	01985 844291
St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill	Richard Lucas	01985 841164
St Peter & St Paul, Longbridge Deverill	Maggi Ratcliffe	01985 219456
St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade	Ian Buick	01373 832318

Deputy Churchwardens

St Margaret's, Corsley	currently vacant	
St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade	Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752

Benefice Team

Administrator	currently vacant	Phone not being used
Please note that the Office is not currently open . Please contact Rev Pauline Reid		
Safeguarding Officer	Reverend Pauline Reid	01985 841290
Webmaster	Mike Palmer	

For Parish or benefice contacts please go to the Benefice website www.cleyhillchurches.org