

Dear Friends,

This 5th November is the first day of the new national lockdown and so here I am with a pile of books to take me to December the 2nd, with *no idea at all* what will be possible after that! But here goes as far as I can, assuming that we return to the kind of restrictions that we have had up until now and recognising that everything will depend on the situation at the time so might change.

Advent Reflections

November the 29th is Advent Sunday and for the three Thursdays following I would usually be holding Advent reflections in Burnham Sutton Church. The theme this year will be a commentary on the famous Bible passages used by Handel in The Messiah and these will still happen but as podcasts which will be available for the three **Thursdays** in December before Christmas Eve. Please join in the sessions on Spotify where I can be found as Vicar Steve Sermons and Musings.

Carols on the Hour on Christmas Eve

I am assuming that there will continue to be some social distancing regulations over the Christmas period, at least for church congregations so I am expecting *not* to be able to hold the usual well attended and popular Carol service in Westgate Church on the Sunday before Christmas - of course if we can we will. But there is good news - we have five churches in the benefice with lots of musicians. Depending on how many singers we can have (presently six) we shall invite a different group from *each* church to gather to sing. No need to be able to read music or to be a member of a choir - just volunteer please. By taking advantage of multiple venues the idea is to hold short carol services for about half an hour so that you can drop in and enjoy them. In this way we can offer socially distanced services in each church - of course if one is full then please go to the next one!

10.00 Burnham Sutton

11.00 Burnham Thorpe

12.00 Burnham Norton

2.00 Burnham Westgate

4.00 Burnham Overy

Christingle

There is usually a Christingle service in Burnham Sutton church on Christmas Eve at 5.00 p.m. I am proposing this year to hold **two** services, one at **5.00** and another at **6.00** for which tickets will be made available to enable us to manage numbers.

Communion Services

The times for Communion services and the Family Service at Overy are shown on the services page of the magazine.

Everything I have said is subject to change but I really want to give you a chance to know what to expect and to be able to hope for a series of Christmas celebrations that could work even with hand sanitiser and perhaps still with no congregational singing.

Please keep a close eye on our Facebook page and the website.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Burnhams-Benefice-Norfolk-251327428093>

<https://www.burnhamsbenefice.org.uk/>

With best wishes and blessings