

Dear friends

Today is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the wonderful season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation as we look to celebrating the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world. As you are aware, we are not able to have services in church today, but I am very grateful to Sarah and the choir members for their filmed contributions to our video worship for Advent Sunday. This was filmed yesterday morning, under careful socially distanced conditions, in the Church of Our Lady, Merevale, and I hope you will all enjoy the service.

<https://youtu.be/8Lvm-QnBkGY>

Although legally we are permitted to hold public acts of worship in church from December 3rd, we have taken the decision that in view of the continuing high rates of covid infection in our region it is wisest to continue to worship at home for the next two Sundays. However, from Sunday 20 to 27 December we expect to hold a range of Christmas services across the five churches (as well as providing online and posted materials). Details of those services will be drawn up during this coming week, and I will let you know more in next Sunday's email. Christmas is not cancelled - but it will be different, as I am sure we will all understand.

It also seems sensible not to hold in-person meetings at present, unless essential, and so the PCC meetings scheduled for early December are now postponed (except for Merevale's which is being conducted via Zoom). Where decisions need to be made, we shall consult via phone, post and email.

During Advent, we remember that there is a light that shines in the darkness. Let us rejoice and trust in that light.

With prayers and blessings

John

Revd Dr John White

Priest in Charge of Kingsbury, Baxterley with Hurley and Wood End and Merevale with Bentley

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