



WREXHAM MISSION AREA ARDAL GENHADAETH WRECSAM

ST JAMES' CHURCH RHOSDDU

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RHOSNESNI

From the Revd Sarah Errington
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Hallo, and Happy New Year!

If we look at the world around us as we move into 2021, there's not much to be happy about. I trust that you're able to focus, not on the world around you, but on Jesus, as our Advent book, *Fixated* constantly advised us. If you didn't read your copy during Advent, it's not too late! Get it out, read a section each day, and fix your eyes ever more on Jesus. When Peter fixed his eyes on the Lord, he was able to walk over a stormy sea; when he looked instead at the waves around him, he began to sink (Matthew 14:28-32).

Sunday Worship

As you should already be aware, our churches are not open for services at the moment. St James' Church Council took the decision just before Christmas that we should not meet for worship while we are under Level 4 Coronavirus restrictions. St John's closed last week, along with all the other churches in Wrexham Mission Area, following some strong advice from the Bishop. As Mission Area Leader, Jonathan has said, "We will keep it under constant review . . . and return to 'in person' worship when levels of infection begin to recede (Genesis 8.6-12)."

I hope you are aware that our online services continue. You can take part at 10.00 am each Sunday morning, when the pre-recorded service goes 'live' on both our Facebook pages (<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesWrexham>, and <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWrexham>). Or you can watch later, either on Facebook or on either of the church websites: <https://stjames.wrexhamparish.org.uk/index.php/streamed-services/> or <https://stjohns.wrexhamparish.org.uk/index.php/streamed-services/>. Please do take advantage of this opportunity to join in (remote) corporate worship with members of your own church family, if you possibly can. And if you are on Facebook, please share our worship videos to invite your own family and friends to join us.

Worship at home

Over the course of the last 10 months, I have sent out a number of Simple Orders for Morning Prayer, which between them now cover all the seasons in the Church year. The order for Christmas and Epiphany was distributed in November, and takes us through until 2 February. Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) falls this year on 17 February. If you want to use the 'correct' seasonal order, the days between those two dates are 'Ordinary Time'. Orders for Lent, Holy Week and Eastertide were distributed at the beginning of the first lockdown in March last year, and

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<https://stjames.wrexhamparish.org.uk/>

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<http://stjohns.plwyfwreccsam.org.uk/>

Eglwysi Anglicanaidd Wreccsam: Escobaeth Llanelwy, Eglwys yng Nghymru

Wrexham Anglican Churches: Diocese of St Asaph, Church in Wales

the order for Ordinary Time in May. Please contact me if you would like replacement copies (but if you are on email, please first check back on your emails to see if you still have the attachments).

The latest sheet of Collects and Sunday readings lasts until the end of this month, when a new sheet will be distributed.

'Roots at Home'

With this letter is a sheet entitled *Roots at Home*, which includes some reflections and activities around the gospel reading for this coming Sunday, 17 January. The material is designed to have 'something for everyone', across all ages. On the back of the sheet you will find two versions of the reading itself. While our churches are not meeting, we will be distributing these sheets each week. I hope you will find something each week which inspires you, encourages you, or challenges you, as you engage with the reading in a different way to hearing it explained in the online service or elsewhere. I am very grateful to those who are making it possible to distribute this to all our members each week, whether or not they have access to the internet. It's a big commitment, so please do make use of the materials.

Praying together

Those who are online will be aware that a small group of us has been meeting on 'Zoom' to pray together for 30 minutes up to four times each week – usually from 12.30 – 1.00 pm. (The group is only small because most of our online members are unable, or possibly unwilling, to take part!) For those who are not online, it is possible to 'phone into a Zoom meeting. If you would like to do that, please let me know, and I will send you the details. Prayer is one thing which every single one of us can do, and praying together with others is a vital part of building up the life of our churches. Even if you're only available on an occasional basis, we'd love you to join us when you can. In the words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson (in *Idylls of the King*), "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

As we travel through these difficult times, let's thank God for all those who have contributed to the development of the vaccines which we trust will bring the pandemic under control; and thank him and pray for all those who are putting themselves at risk to care for the sick, and keep essential services running. I trust that the day will come, sometime this year, when we can all gather safely in church once more, and sing the praises of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in him

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.