

The Parish of Halas

Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



Hello everyone

History does not record what Mary and Joseph said when they realised there was no-where to stay in Bethlehem, but they must have reckoned that there was nothing else left to go wrong. They were in a situation neither of them could have foreseen nine months before, facing an uncertain future a long way away from the people they loved, compelled by law to stay in a place they would not necessarily have chosen. You may be wondering what Christmas will be like this year, last year's plans long since abandoned, but aside from a rowdy visit from some unexpected shepherds, the first Christmas was a quiet, uncertain affair, and if Christmas 2020 isn't what we'd planned, we're in good company with Mary and Joseph!

Christmas in Church will inevitably feel different this year. Our bigger Christmas events will have to be reimagined and some of our traditional services may well be limited for numbers. We will need to know in advance if you're intending to come so that we can maintain safe distance for everyone: the last thing we want is to be turning people away at the door, like a grumpy innkeeper in a school nativity, but we cannot exceed the safe number for any of our buildings.

We won't be singing carols indoors, but we may be singing in churchyards or on doorsteps and being sung to by small choirs in quiet carol services. We can't have children running everywhere in all-singing, all-dancing crib services, but we can make provision for families and individuals to make their own journeys to the manger on Christmas Eve with their prayers and their candles, so from the outdoor crib at St Peter's Cradley (you can even stand in as one of the Magi!) to the window displays at St Peter's Lapal, we hope you'll find something to help you to *"in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem, and see that thing which has come to pass, and the babe, lying a manger."*

Each of our Churches intends to hold a Communion before midnight on Christmas Night (the night of Christmas Eve into Christmas Day) and although that will be the only Christmas Communion at St Kenelm's, there will be Christmas Morning Communion in each of the other four Churches at which everyone will be welcome but please with prior notice. If you plan to come to **Communion on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day** please phone or email and let us know in advance, leaving a message with your name, the service you want to attend, including place and time, and the number of people coming from your household or bubble.

We also need to know in advance if you want to come to the **Carol Service** at St John's at 6:30pm on Sunday 20th December, or if you're coming to one of the **Outdoor Nativities** at St Peter's Cradley on Christmas Eve. And if you want to Zoom with St Margaret's, on Christmas Eve, you'll need to ask for a log-in code to join the service.

There is a list of planned services and events on the back of this letter, along with the number to ring if you want us to reserve a space for you. You can also let us know you're coming by email if that's easier, but remember your name, number of people, which service in which church at what time! Some of our churches will also have sign up sheets for these services.

We shall broadcast services on our Halas Team Facebook page and at halasteam.org, including a full service of Holy Communion on Christmas morning. If you prefer not to go out, and would like to receive Communion in the days around Christmas in the comparative safety of your own home, please let us know; if you are happy to receive a home visit, we can bring the sacrament to you. No-one should take unnecessary risks or feel pressured to do anything they don't feel entirely comfortable about.

We are now back in church for public worship, with much the same pattern of services as the one which we adopted in the summer after the first lockdown, and there's a reminder of service times overleaf.

However quiet your Christmas this year, we hope it will be filled with the tender love of Mary and Joseph in all their uncertainty, and wherever you spend this Christmas, we pray that it may be in a place filled with the quiet warmth and light of the Bethlehem stable.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN HALAS PARISH - 2020



SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

11:30am	Family Nativity on Zoom	with St John's	✉ E-mail sally.spencer@halasteam.org.uk for login.
6:00pm	Outdoor Carol Service	outside St Peter's, Cradley	<i>Just turn up</i>
6:30pm	Carols and Readings	St John's, Halesowen	☎ 0121 585 5958 ✉ revdom@halasteam.org.uk

WEDNESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER

10:00am	Prayer Book Communion	St Peter's, Lapal	<i>Just turn up</i>
10:30am	Quiet Christmas Communion	St Peter's, Cradley	<i>Just turn up</i>
12 noon	Quiet Christmas Eucharist	St John's, Halesowen	<i>Just turn up</i>
7:00pm	Christmas Eucharist	St Margaret's, Hasbury	<i>Just turn up</i>

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

2:00pm - 7:00pm	Make a visit to the crib	St John's Halesowen	<i>Just turn up</i>
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Make a visit to the crib	St Kenelm's Church Hall	<i>Just turn up</i>
4:30pm	Outdoor Nativity	outside St Peter's, Cradley	} Numbers will be limited, so tickets are recommended, and are free to collect from St Peter's 10:30 on any Sunday
5:00pm	Outdoor Nativity	outside St Peter's, Cradley	
5:30pm	Outdoor Nativity	outside St Peter's, Cradley	
6:00pm	Christmas Family Zoom Service	with St Margaret's	✉ E-mail fr.rob@halasteam.org.uk for login.
8:00pm	Christmas Eucharist	St Kenelm's Romsley	☎ 0121 550 7426 ✉ revdom@halasteam.org.uk
11:00pm	Christmas Midnight Communion	St Peter's, Cradley	☎ 01384 411383 ✉ revkat@halasteam.org.uk
11:00pm	The Midnight Mass	St Margaret's, Hasbury	☎ 0121 550 8744 ✉ fr.rob@halasteam.org.uk
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	St Peter's, Lapal	☎ 0121 392 2496 ✉ revhazel@halasteam.org.uk
11:30pm	The Midnight Mass	St John's Halesowen	☎ 0121 585 5958 ✉ revdom@halasteam.org.uk

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, 25TH DECEMBER

9:30am	Christmas Communion	St Peter's, Cradley	☎ 01384 411383 ✉ revkat@halasteam.org.uk
9:30am	Christmas Eucharist	St John's, Halesowen	☎ 0121 585 5958 ✉ revdom@halasteam.org.uk
10:30am	Christmas Communion	St Peter's, Lapal	☎ 0121 392 2496 ✉ revhazel@halasteam.org.uk
10:30am	Christmas Eucharist	St Margaret's, Hasbury	☎ 0121 550 8744 ✉ fr.rob@halasteam.org.uk

ST STEPHEN'S DAY, SATURDAY, 26TH DECEMBER

12 noon	Quiet Prayer Book Eucharist	St John's, Halesowen	<i>Just turn up</i>
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You are welcome to just turn up for any of our usual weekly services, which at present remain:
Sundays: 9:30am at Cradley, Lapal & Halesowen; 11am at Hasbury; 5:30pm at Romsley Church Hall
Wednesday Communions 10am at Lapal, 12noon at Halesowen and 7pm at Hasbury
Compline is said on Tuesdays at 7:30pm at Halesowen and on Fridays at 4pm at Romsley Church