



amber news

For the amber churches of
Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington
working and playing together, with God, for people
January 2021

Church Services in January

There will be no services in the churches in Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley or Wessington during the month of January due to increased precautions we feel we have to take against Covid-19.

This will be reviewed by the Ministry Team at the end of January.

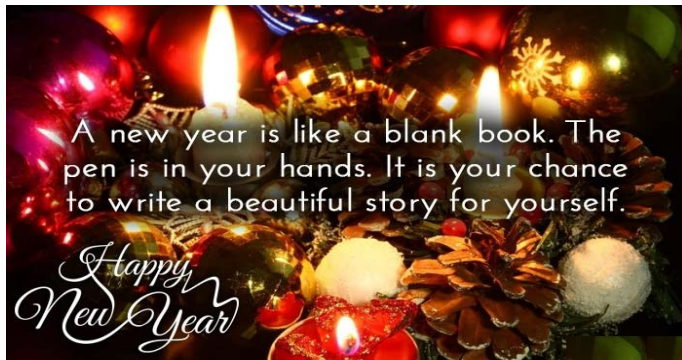
A recorded service will be available on the YouTube channel *All Saints Ashover For Amber Churches* which can be reached via our website

www.amberchurches.org



The days are lengthening and although we may have a bit of cold weather, snowdrops are just around the corner.

Keep safe, keep eating the Christmas cake and phone an old friend for a good chat



A new year is like a blank book. The pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.

Happy New Year

Shoebboxes of Gifts for Children

A stash of shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child was delivered in time to be sent round the world for Christmas.

Anna said "It's been a big team effort between kids and parents and knit and natters to create some home made gifts and to provide, fill and wrap shoebboxes as a great team even though we can't be together physically. A ray of light and hope I think."



Contact Information

Church Wardens

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Message from the Ministry

Dear friends,

Some of you will know that I love walking; relishing any opportunity to don my walking boots and set off into the countryside. As much as I still appreciate familiar scenery on paths I have trod many times before, I also delight in venturing on paths new to me. Poring over an Explorer map, working out the options for my next walk, creates a sense of anticipation of what the views and terrain will be like, plus the highlighting of the paths on my map when I get back home!



Variety adds interest to walking country paths – uphill, downhill, flat, grassy, rugged, by rivers, through woods, over fields, amid cows and sheep, muddy and dry, stepping stones, footbridges, country lanes, walking alone or with others and so much more!

At the beginning of a new year we contemplate what the coming months will hold for us, especially 2021 with an unprecedented pandemic still very much affecting our lives, our communities and church life in so many ways. Some of the paths of life in front of us we shall have no control over such as illness, disappointment, loss or sorrow. However there are paths we can choose.

Jesus calls to us as He did to his first disciples "Follow me." His invitation is to all at whatever age in life we've reached. He offers forgiveness and fullness of life as we respond with commitment to our risen and reigning Lord. Who knows what fruitful path in life He may lead us on this year? We may find ourselves on a variety of paths through the year – ones which are familiar, new, unexpected, unwanted, exciting, challenging, risky, daunting, easy or hard work to name a few.

Our calling to a life of discipleship is not a path we walk alone, but with Jesus and others in this community of faith, also called the body of Christ, the Church and the family of God. We have our individual journeys but we also journey together. Our priority for the journey ahead this New Year needs to be MISSION, being the Church God wants us to be in our communities. Setting out on this path let us seek to: PRAY together as without this foundation our efforts will be fruitless.

DARE together and be prepared to take risks and do things differently if necessary for the sake of the kingdom of God.

CARE for others, showing the love of Jesus.

SHARE with others the Good News of Jesus.

Wishing you a fruitful and fulfilling New Year!

David

(David Russell has been a member of the Ashover Ministry Team for many years; he has a special interest in leading home groups where people get together casually to learn, discuss, pray and chat together. At the moment the home group is meeting on zoom.)

Let Your Light Shine

It was wonderful to see so many children back in Ashover church for the Christingle Service in mid December. We were able to have candles, Christmas tree lights and our own handmade Christingles to light up a very wet Sunday morning.

A big thank you to all the Ministry Team and others who have been working over recent months to keep our church life caring and vibrant.



You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to info@amberchurches.org.