



Notices for Sunday 29th November 2020

First Sunday of Advent

www.sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Sunday Services

Worship with All Saints Church

Time: 10:30am

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/987084188>

Dial-in number: 0208 080 6591

Meeting ID: 987 084 188

Sunday Tea-break Service

Time: 3:00pm

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/172859764>

Dial-in number: 0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 172 859 764

All are invited to join by phone or internet. Please get in touch if you need any help getting connected. Please note that calls to these numbers are treated as standard national rate calls – check with your service provider for rates.

Sunday Tea Break. *3pm this Sunday.* This is a very informal service of worship and fellowship, with opportunities for everyone to participate. To join in, you just need to make yourself a tea or coffee (cake/biscuits optional) and use the link or phone number shown above. This week we have no planned preacher but will be discussing some **plans for worship through Advent** and the **January Light** mission initiative from the EA District.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

- All those in our communities who are suffering as a result of the current crisis
- Local and national leaders and those on the front line of our health and social services
- Our friends in the **Great Barford** congregation
- **Sawtry Foodbank**
- **Sawtry Junior Academy**
- **Alicia Nicholls**
- **Brenda Griffiths**
- **Eleanor and Gary Kernaghan.** Gary is in hospital for a bypass operation following a heart attack this week.
- **Audrey Paterson** and those caring for her, especially **Kate**
- The **Johnson Family**
- **James and Clare** (Tess's niece and son-in-law)
- **Julia** (Jo's friend)
- **Hannah** (Jo's niece)
- **Anne** (Helen's Sister in law)

If you have any items for prayer, please call 01487 830345 or send them to notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

This Week's Bible Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Please use these readings in your personal devotions this week. If you have any thoughts or insights you would like to share with others via this news sheet, please send them to notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Advent and Christmas Services. Now that the current lockdown is coming to an end, we are happy to announce that two 'in-presence' services are being planned in December – an **Advent service** at 10:30am on Sunday 6th and a **candle-lit carol service** at 6pm on Sunday 13th. Numbers will be limited due to distancing requirements and congregational singing will sadly not be allowed. Since not everyone will be able to attend, it is hoped that the services will also be streamed live via Zoom – and of course those joining from home will be able to sing as loud as they like. If you wish to attend either service in person, please read the attached letter and guidelines and let us know in advance by contacting Liz on 01487 830345 or by email at admin@sawtrymethodist.org.uk. To find out more, please come along to this week's Tea Break service or get in touch with a member of the leadership team.

Doorstep Carols. Two national 'doorstep carols' events are being promoted this year to fill the gap left by our normal community carolling opportunities. One is via Premier Christian Radio, taking place at 5:30pm on Sunday 20th December, while the other is via local radio stations (including BBC Radio Cambridgeshire) at 6pm on Wednesday 16th December. If you would like to invite your immediate neighbours to join you in some festive carol singing, downloadable posters, invitations and carol sheets are available from www.carolsonthedoortstep.co.uk and www.doortstepcarols.co.uk, respectively.

Advent Meditations. Rev. Sue is continuing her series of Lectio Divina-style Advent meditations, with 7:30pm sessions on the 2nd, 16th and 23rd December. For more details see www.sawtrymethodist.org.uk.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal. Huntingdon Methodist Church will be open as a drop off point for shoeboxes on Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th from 9:30-6pm and Saturday 19th December from 9:30-2pm. Please get in touch with a member of the leadership team if you would like someone to collect your shoebox. Alternatively, shoeboxes can be 'shopped' online at samaritans-purse.org.uk. For further information please contact Sue Shorter on 01480 412830 or 0771 7407917.

Circuit Worship Services on Zoom. Morning worship at 10:30am and 'Refuel' at 7pm every Sunday. The Zoom meeting details may change from week to week, so please check the most recent Circuit news sheet. There are also a number of **Advent activities** planned over the next few weeks, including a service led in part from Sawtry on the morning of Sunday 13th – see the Circuit news sheet for details.

Dial-a-sermon. Call 01480 200195 to hear reflections from Rev. Nick or 01480 597118 to listen to Rev. James' Sunday message – both available through the week.

In-presence Worship Services at Sawtry Methodist Church December 2020

As you may already be aware, we are planning to open the church building for morning worship, starting on the 6th of December at 10:30am. We hope to continue to do so twice per month to allow the Circuit to deliver a range of in-presence and Zoom services across the Circuit, while also maintaining worship opportunities via Zoom for people who will continue to need to self-isolate during this pandemic. We also plan to stream the services live on Zoom for those unable to attend, so please do not feel you need to be there in person if you are in a vulnerable group and need, for any reason, to continue to self-isolate.

Our Property Action Team and the Leadership Team have worked hard on the arrangements required to reopen the building. Thorough risk assessments have been undertaken and approved at Circuit level and procedures have been put in place to ensure Covid safety for all concerned. Those planning to attend must be aware that worship will be different to take account of these requirements, and everybody will be required to adhere to the guidelines outlined overleaf.

Help Needed

All of our plans for worshipping in the building, including the service on the 6th December, are contingent on finding enough people who are willing and able to act as "hosts" to oversee the implementation of the necessary procedures. We will need three hosts for every service, in addition to the existing worship and service leaders, and the services will not be able to go ahead if we do not have three hosts available.

Not everyone is eligible to offer to be a host. Those who are vulnerable and/or frail should not put themselves forward for this task as it requires proactive management of the flow of people moving about the building.

If you do feel you are able to help in this way, please contact Liz Coates, either by phone on 01487 830345 or by email using admin@sawtrymethodist.org.uk. There will be an initial briefing session for volunteer hosts in the church on the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd December, at which we will run through the requirements of the role and the procedures that need to be adhered to.



Guidelines for Attending Services

If you are planning to attend any of the services planned at Sawtry Methodist Church, please read and follow these guidelines:

- You will need to tell us that you are coming in advance by contacting Liz Coates on 01487 830345 or admin@sawtrymethodist.org.uk. This is to ensure that we can accommodate everyone within the social distancing requirements.
- Please bring your face covering and note that you will be required to wear it throughout the whole service (unless you are specifically exempt). Disposable face masks will be available in case you forget. Please also bring your own Bible as the church Bibles, song books and printed notices will not be made available. Bible readings and any words needed for the service will be displayed on the screen as normal.
- Please arrive in good time and plan to be in your seat at least 5 minutes before the start of the service.
- You will be greeted by a Host at the entrance to the church and you may be asked to wait to allow people before you to be shown in. This is to ensure social distancing – keeping 2 metres away from people who are not in your household at all times.
- In the foyer, a second host will ask you to either scan the QR code (if you are using the government track and trace app) or to give your name so that it can be written on a 'Track and Trace Form'. This is to ensure that we can contact you should someone also attending discover they have contracted COVID-19. These details will be put in an envelope and locked away for three weeks and then confidentially destroyed.
- You will then be asked to use the hand sanitiser before entering church.
- A third host will show you to your seats. You may only sit with people who are already in your household. Please do not move around unnecessarily and maintain a distance of two metres with others at all times. Toilets will be available for use if needed.
- During the service you will not be able to sing but you can speak to others and join in with responses. Anyone on the platform to read, lead, preach or give notices can take their mask off once there but must put it on again before stepping off the platform. The only exceptions are members of the worship band who will be playing during the service.
- No offering will be taken during the service and the collection plate will be by the door as you leave. If you are donating with cash it would be helpful to bring this in an envelope.
- At the end of the service you should leave via the Wesley room, following the one-way system marked out on the floor.
- We will not be able to serve tea or coffee and you will be asked to leave the building promptly at the end of the service, so there will sadly not be the opportunity to socialise in the building or on the way out. Please do not congregate in groups outside of the building either before or after the service.