

**Bulletin for Sunday 3rd January 2021**

Good Morning - and very best wishes for 2021, which we all hope and pray will be a better year for everybody.

We are now in 'Tier 4', and the Elders Meetings of both Billingshurst and Pulborough have decided that worship in our churches must be suspended for a while. Petworth will be open for a short service this Sunday, but shut from next week. The hope in all cases is to re-open for worship as soon as possible, so the closures for now are until the end of January, when they will be reviewed in the light of the situation at that time.

In the meantime the Bulletin will continue, as will worship and social activities online. We are hoping to add a temporary Sunday morning service on Zoom, as well as the evening one, so that we can worship at our usual time while the church buildings are shut. If anybody (with basic computer skills - not necessarily huge technical wizardry) would like to join a rota of people assisting with our various Zooms, please have a word with me.

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Let's pause..... and take time to focus on worship.

Hymn: In the bleak midwinter (R&S 162)

Prayer: God of new beginnings,  
as we tiptoe nervously into a new year,  
we pray that you will walk beside us,  
helping us to find our way safely,  
and to find fresh hope, firmer faith,  
and greater awareness of your infinite love.  
We ask your blessing on everything we do,  
and everything we give in your service,  
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12

Reflection: They travelled an immensely long way, following a single bright star, with no more information than what their reading of the night skies had told them... They had great courage and great determination; but what was it that drew them so far from home? What did they expect to find? And why was it so important to them, when the promised child was of a different nationality and a different religion? Perhaps they didn't know that when they started out... perhaps they thought they were only going a short way... but then the star kept leading them on -

