

# St John's News from the Pews - 8 December 2020

Dear friends,

## Thank you

Thank you so much to everyone who is helping post the St John's Christmas card around Elmswell. This has been a fabulous team effort - many hands really do make light work!

## Request for photos of Christmas trees and nativity scenes

The Elmswell Village Carol Service will be broadcast online on Sunday 20 December at 6:30pm and our Nativity service on Thursday 24 December at 3:30pm. We would appreciate it if you could send photos of your Christmas trees and cribs (feel free to appear in them yourselves as well) to show during one of the carols. If you would like yours to appear, please email them to [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com) Thank you 😊

## Doorstep carols



I think the image says it all – please tune into Radio Suffolk at 6:00pm on Wednesday 16 December and sing carols from your door step. Encourage as many neighbours and friends in Elmswell to join in – this could be a lovely community event. Words can be downloaded from [www.doorstepcarols.co.uk](http://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk)

## The Longest Night

Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs and the expectation that you will have a good time, but that's not how it feels for all of us, especially this year. Maybe you have found the past year hard and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties or maybe you just want space to reflect. Whatever the reason, whatever the need, you will find the service entitled "The Longest Night" helpful. This will be a more sober service with the opportunity to light a candle - held in St John's on 21 December at 3:00pm

## Coming up this week:

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|--------------------|--|
| Tue 8 Dec 8:00pm   | Compline Night Prayer online (Facebook only)   |
| Wed 9 Dec          | Various Home Groups  |
| Thu 10 Dec 8:00pm  | Celtic Prayer online (Facebook only)   |
| Sat 12 Dec 9:00am  | Church prayer meeting (using Zoom)   |
| Sat 12 Dec 10:30am | Coffee and Chat (using Zoom)   |
| Sun 13 Dec 9:30am  | Sunday School over Zoom (Please contact Lisa for details)                                |
| Sun 13 Dec 10:30am | Service <b>in church</b> (and online) with the Lord's Supper. Main reading: Luke 1:1-25. |

In case you missed Sunday's service you can access it by clicking [here](#):



#### How to connect with us online:

##### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/live>

##### YouTube

Accessed from home page of St John's web site

##### St John's

<http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/>

##### Zoom

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6852951296> or, load Zoom and use Meeting ID: 685 295 1296 and Password: 816262

## Christmas with St John's Church

<b>Sun</b>	<b>20 Dec 6:30pm</b>	<b>Village Carol Service</b>	(online - Facebook/YouTube)
<b>Mon</b>	<b>21 Dec 3:00pm</b>	<b>"The longest Night"</b>	(in church)
		<i>A more sober and reflective carol service with the opportunity to light a candle.</i>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>24 Dec 3:30pm</b>	<b>St John's Nativity</b>	(online - Facebook/YouTube)
<b>Thu</b>	<b>24 Dec 11:00pm</b>	<b>Late Night Communion</b>	(in church)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>25 Dec 10:00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>	(Zoom)

We close with the most popular verse on the YouVersion Bible app for 2020. It is hardly surprising this verse is so popular this year - it goes to show how much people have sought out hope during these months of uncertainty, fear, loss and loneliness. I hope that we too find hope in this marvellous verse, which reminds us of the sustaining power of our God:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

*Isaiah 41:10*