

Make Lunch Boxes of Hope—Update

Richard and I wanted to update you on the amazing story of Make Lunch 'Boxes of Hope' - we have been so blessed we wanted to share.

We had so many new and good quality used toys, books and other items donated, it gave us the idea of a pop-up shop whereby our families and any other needy families could come and choose for themselves anything they would like, absolutely no charge and no limit.

We invited St Michael's Make Lunch to be involved and with the help of Chase Meadow Community Centre and the Residents Association, we opened the centre for a day and lots of families came and loads of items were taken. However, we still have things leftover and donations keep coming in. So, the next idea is to locate a lock-up, maybe a garage or small unit whereby we can store these items and whenever we hear of a need we can show them easily what we have.

This will be financed by a grant and we have someone who will source this lock-up and someone who will source the funding,

The Christmas Hampers were well received and the people were so grateful.

Someone at the start of this project gave very sensible advice saying 'be careful you are not taken for a ride' - we don't believe any of the families are.

Here are just a few of the comments they've sent to us:

"Would just like to say thank you for the kind gifts that we were given. I really loved the knitted Christmas decorations and appreciate the love

that goes into making those. They have pride of place on the tree, and my daughter loves the ballerina."

"It was so nice to receive the gift of a pamper set which smells so nice, as well as the other gifts in the package."

"Just a quick message to thank you for the gift. I was not expecting you to go to so much trouble and I am very grateful. Many, many thanks for your kindness and generosity, it is greatly appreciated."

"Would just like to say a big thank you for all your help, we are so grateful, you are doing such a wonderful thing to help so many."

"I just wanted to say I will be eternally grateful for the help you've given to my family. You've eased my fear of giving my children a proper Christmas."

As we have said before as long as the need is there then we shall be there.

A week ago we were saying we would continue with a food parcel each three to four weeks.

The situation is constantly changing and so following the government's statement and the schools now being closed we are going to provide food parcels each 10 days.

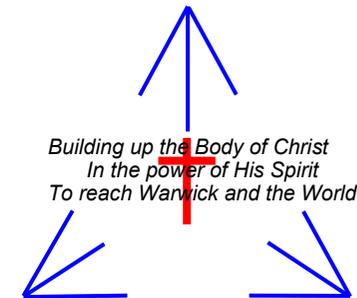
The manager at Tesco Express on Chase Meadow has agreed to keep our food donation bin in the store and we shall keep our plastic donation box in church for any who would like to give.

Thank you once again for all your prayers and your support.

Audrey, Richard and the team.



St Paul's Church, Warwick



**January 10, 2021
Baptism of Christ**

Rev Jonathan Hearn

Today's 10am Service - Holy Communion

If you are a newcomer to our Church, or a visitor to the area, please introduce yourself to one of the welcomers, or to the clergy.

This week - January 10

Next Week - January 17

10am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Readings

January 10

January 17

Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11

1 Samuel 3: 1-10
John 1: 43-51

Our Bible verse for the year

Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil!

Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Proverbs 3:5-8 (from The Message)

Praying for the Persecuted Church

At least 28 people have been killed, more than 20 abducted, a church burnt and a pastor kidnapped in multiple attacks by jihadi militants on Christian communities in the north-eastern region of Nigeria over the Christmas period.

On Christmas Eve, The Islamic State of West Africa (ISWAP), an affiliate of so-called Islamic State with links to Boko Haram, attacked the Christian-majority village of Garkida in the state of Adamawa. They looted and burnt properties, cars and bulldozers, and abducted five Christian men. Many villagers fled before returning the next day.

A video posted on December 30 on Amaq - the media channel of so-called Islamic State - purportedly shows five men declaring their names and Christian faith before being shot dead from behind. In the online video released by the militants showing the killings, the murders are reportedly referred to as a "Christmas present". All five men were part of a church that just a few days prior to the attack celebrated Christmas.

Illia Djadi, Open Doors' Senior Analyst for Freedom of Religion or Belief in Sub-Saharan Africa said: "This video is a reminder of other videos that we have seen. Think of the beheading of the Coptic Christians by Islamic State on a Libyan beach in February 2015. It's the same scenario.

"It is part of the communication strategy of Islamist groups, and Boko Haram is using the same strategy where also the timing is not coincidental.

"The Christmas period is important because of the media attention an attack will attract, and so Christians can expect to be targeted during this time."

Islamist militants also targeted other predominantly Christian villages in the north-eastern states of Adamawa and Borno.

On Christmas Eve, they attacked Pemi near Chibok in Borno State, on trucks and motorcycles. Sources claim the group fired on villagers and killed at least 11 people, abducted a further seven, including a pastor, and burned houses and the church. At least a further 10 are believed to have been killed in attacks on Azare and Shaffe.

The militants, thought to belong to Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), an off-shoot of Boko Haram, are reported to have travelled from their base in the nearby Sambisa forest. At least eight soldiers were also reported killed at outposts in the region at the time of the attacks.

Djadi said: "They directly attacked those communities. Don't forget, these groups want to establish caliphate, Islamic law. Christians are their primary target."

Open Doors calls on the Church worldwide to stand with the families of the victims.

A spokesman said: "Join us in praying for them, to be courageous in their mourning and have the grace to trust the Lord to fulfill His purposes with their sacrifice.

"Pray also for those who continue life under the renewed onslaught of Boko Haram. The resulting deaths, displacement and trauma are sufferings the church in this area is so familiar with.

"Pray that Christians will remain firm in the faith and constant in hope despite the challenges."

Source: Barnabas Fund and Open Doors UK

Thought for the Week - Pray for our leaders

The scenes from Washington DC on Wednesday were truly disturbing, not least when the actions of the mob that descended on the Capitol are being linked directly to the words spoken by one of the most powerful leaders in the world. By contrast, others rose to the challenge of leadership in trying to pick up the pieces and affirm the democratic process.

But as we look around the world, leaders at all levels face difficult challenges presented by the pandemic and the impact it has on society. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy writes: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is

good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." Paul conveys a degree of urgency in his request, and we might do well to follow suit.

We may wonder what difference we can make – but we are urged to pray and trust God for the outcome.

Our prayers are not dependent on our agreement with the politics and policies of those in leadership, but with for a concern God might direct them and guide them.

So may I urge you this week to pray for all in leadership – for leaders of nations, and for the governments under them; and for leaders of organisations – that God would give them wise council and that they may have the humility to follow it.

Church closure

In view of the latest lockdown I am asking the PCC to ratify the decision taken by the Standing Committee to return to zooming our services for the foreseeable future.

Given the current situation this seemed the most sensible decision to make.

Hopefully the lockdown will begin to reduce the R rate and take the pressure off the NHS, and with the roll out of the vaccine, it won't be too long before we are able to get back into Church.

In the meantime for those who can use zoom it does mean we will be able to sing and share together.

The link details are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328195643>

Meeting ID: 873 2819 5643.

I will also be sending these details out as a separate email so you are able to click on the link.

Please pray for those who are unable to join us on Zoom. Also pray for the vaccination programme, that it will work well and all teething problems will be resolved quickly. It's ambitious and quite a logistical challenge; pray too the NHS won't be overwhelmed by the number of hospital admissions, and staff will be given all they need to cope and God would sustain and strengthen them at this time.

Blessings.
Jonathan.

