

# The Catholic Parishes of Our Lady & St Werburgh, Clayton and Our Lady and St John the Baptist, Ashley

Charity Number: 234216

To contribute email:  
sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk or in writing via the Parish Office



## News from the Pews

Helping us to keep our faith, keep in touch and be charitable  
through the pandemic

### Shielding

Some Shielders have been stuck at home for many weeks now. Some are lucky enough to get out for a walk or into their garden but many may have been quite lonely and cut off. If you have been shielding, let us know how it has been for you?

### Library changes:

You may notice some changes the next time that you visit the library. Some of the books have been moved around as follows:

*Travel books are now in the Fantasy Section.*

*Books on Politics can be found in the Sci-Fi Section and  
Epidemiology in the Self-Help Section. Good Luck!*



The pandemic has given us a taste of what it is like to be stuck at home with little to stimulate us. It is good to know that our charity supporting the elderly and lonely has continued to work throughout this period with Sue and her volunteers soldiering on from home in some cases. It is good to have 'a friend on the phone'.

### Coronavirus Christmas Concerts

Our little people are very well versed with the rules in place to help to keep the Coronavirus away. One local primary school is going ahead with the Nativity Play which will be filmed so that parents and grandparents can see their darlings perform.

Some changes as a result of the virus could be:

The Inn Keeper: 'Sorry, we are closed due to the virus.'

The Angel to the Shepherds: 'Remember Hands, Face, Space and leave the gifts outside the stable.'

Joseph will have to remain outside the stable until the moment just before Baby Jesus arrives.

The Kings will not be allowed to travel out of Tier 3 just yet.

### Christmas songs with a twist!

The PM said this week "Tis the season to be **Jolly Careful**" which changes the words of that popular song to:

*Deck the Halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la la la la*

*Tis to season to be jolly careful la la la la la la*

*Don we now our PPE apparel fa la la la la la la la*

*Troll the ancient Yuletide carol fa la la la  
la la la la la*



What do you buy the person who has everything?

Many charities have seen a drop in income this year, along with many businesses and individuals.

If you are thinking of making a charitable donation in lieu of Christmas Cards, there are plenty of options available.

CAFOD, and Aid to the Church in Need as well as many other charities offer ethical gifts and many of the charities we support as a parish would welcome a small donation.



CAFOD: Teach someone to read for £10



### Christmas traditions

It would be interesting to hear of traditions for the festive season in other countries. In Germany, Advent wreaths are very important. Most homes will have one with a new candle lit each Sunday of Advent. The first Advent Wreath is credited to Johann Hinrich Wichern, a German pastor, who founded an orphanage in Hamburg in 1833. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the children would ask him daily if Christmas had arrived. To make the wait easier, Wichern came up with his magical Christmas countdown. He created his first Advent wreath out of an old cartwheel and small candles.

If you follow Christmas Traditions from another country, please share them with us—contact details at the top of the page

It was great to hear some feedback about our screened masses this week and also the church at Clayton.

Those who are unable to attend mass are grateful for the opportunity to join Father Anton virtually and some who have been able to attend (prior to Lockdown 2) have commented on how safe they feel in the church. This can only be achieved with the great effort of our team of volunteers.

Our Flower Ladies are already planning the arrangements for the altar for our Christmas masses with the Advent Wreath already in place for Sunday. It is disappointing to be in Tier 3 when the lockdown ends but the big positive for us is that we are allowed to attend mass, albeit with the same restrictions as pre-lockdown.

