The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton The Parish of Tettenhall Wood

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Dear Friends,

It's the first Sunday of Advent – so Happy New Church Year! All the talk has been about 'saving Christmas', but Christmas is truly about Christ coming to save humanity. Let's use these four weeks to prepare well.

I enclose a new order of service for the Advent season, together with my sermon and Liz Biddulph's intercessions, reflecting on Advent themes.

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9 Mark 13: 24-37

Collect: Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

After this week, barring new and unexpected problems, services in church can resume, following all the anti-Covid protocols we had before – separated seating, hand-sanitizing, frequent cleaning, face-masking and singing prohibited. We intend to resume on 6th December with Holy Communion at 9.30 at Good Shepherd, and Morning Prayer at 11.00 at Christ Church. The CC Christingle service, which would have been that afternoon, is postponed until Christmas Eve. Full details of Christmas Services will be given next week, but they will start with the on-line (join-in-at-home) Carol Service at 4.00pm on 13 December.

Mothers Union is once more promoting Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Please hold this in your prayers. At Perton there's a short live-streamed prayer service on **Saturday 5th December at 12 noon.** Please access this via The Church At Perton FaceBook page or the church website <u>www.churchatperton.net</u> (click on facebook link).

If you want to pray for the country but struggle to keep finding words, The Nationwide Christian Trust is offering a weekly prayer guide *A Time to Pray*. Sign up at <u>www.nationwidechristiantrust.com</u>. Paper copies can be sent by post. Call 01277 367124.

Don't forget our joint **virtual Christmas Fair**. If you haven't yet done so, it's time to make up your mind and get your orders in! And knitters, keep knitting those angels!

I hope you have a good week, and that many of us will be able to see each other again on 6th December.

God bless,

Phil