

# Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 22



Keeping  
our church  
together

## Wishing you all a happy 2021

A happy New Year and Welcome to Tier 4 . Some might say that those two phrases do not go together. The only difference between this lockdown and the last is that I have no plans left to cancel! So here's hoping for some reasonable weather so, those of us who can, will enjoy walking along the sea front.

Although the Government have announced that churches may remain open in Tier 4, the Leadership have taken a decision that we cannot put people at greater risk of catching Covid-19, or it's new variants, by expecting anyone to come to church. **So, for the time being, services at Littlehampton have been suspended.** We would anticipate it is unlikely that services will resume during January.

Details of Naison's services on Zoom are attached to this email for those who wish to join.

With long winter nights at this time of the year, it is hardly surprising that stars and their light feature in many of our Christmas Carols, and, of course, in Matthew's Gospel we read about the visit of the Wise Men who followed a star. John opens his gospel with Light coming into the world. He mentions nothing of the Birth of Jesus but reminds us that Jesus, "The Word" in verses 1 –3 has been with God for ever. Now he has been sent into the world to enlighten us all. This light is something more than the light from a lamp or even a star, but is a spiritual enlightenment derived exclusively from the divine "Word".

This light, far superior to the darkness "Which has not overcome it", (verse 5) is our hope for all time but as we struggle through the short daylight hours of winter combined with the frustrations of "Lockdown", I pray that all of us can be even more aware that, in our hearts, we have the Light of the World.

If, like myself and Val, you are spending a lot of time your watching favourite films on the television, you may, like me, notice things you missed first time round. Recently I was reminded by the character created by JK Rowling—Professor Dumbledore,\* "But you know, happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." Let us all turn on the light of Christ in our hearts and look forward to a Happy New Year.

*\*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by JK Rowling*



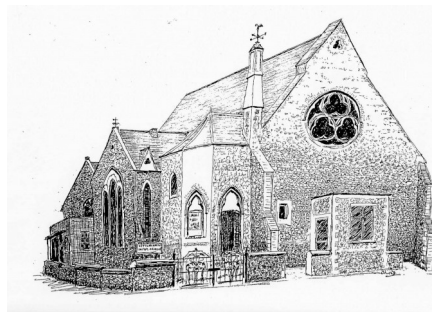
### **Christmas Lunch at Unity School, Mombasa**

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to make this possible.

Seated amongst the younger children are some of our older students who returned from their boarding schools for the holidays and are accommodated in the orphanage until the new term. The brightly coloured “soda” bottles are in evidence. The main dish would be pilau, which will include meat on this special occasion. It is traditional for families to have new clothes as Christmas gifts and your generosity has enabled clothes to be given this Christmas.

### **News of the Family**

I have nothing new to pass on. Please continue to pray for Doreen and Alison. Ina Cross also needs your prayers during this time of lockdown as she (and I’m sure there are others too) struggles to cope without company.



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Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome

There is also information about our church on the website: [www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk)