

## UPDATE #31

### WHEN WILL ST PETER'S BE RE-OPENING?

The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are awaiting details of the restrictions that will be put in place by the government for December. Please bear with us, and we will let you know what will be possible as soon as we can.

### LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

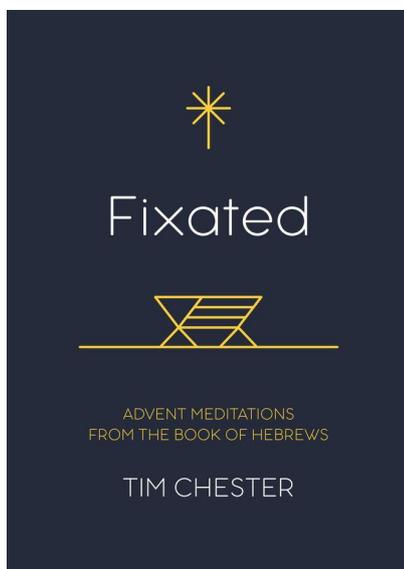
*The Vicar writes:* You may have seen in the press that the Church of England has recently published the *Living in Love and Faith* material, which is designed to help the CofE in a process of listening and learning on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. In my opinion, there is much that is good and helpful in the *LLF* material, but there is also much that is not so good and is deeply concerning. The process of engaging with the issues will take many months, and it is expected that it will be 2022 before decisions are made at General Synod.

There will be much that will need to be said and done in response in the coming months, but at this stage may I just commend to you two resources from CEEC (ie, the Church of England Evangelical Council):

- a new video entitled **'The Beautiful Story'** — an overview of the background issues, wonderfully presented, available on YouTube via [this link](#)
- the **CEEC press release** — an encouraging statement from evangelical leaders, which is available on the CEEC website via [this link](#)



### 'FIXATED' — Advent Meditations



During Advent this year, we are encouraging everyone at St Peter's to join in reading some meditations from the book of Hebrews. In the next few days, we are planning to get a copy of 'Fixated' to everyone in the church (it's a free gift, by the way!), and we are hoping that people will find it helpful to read a chapter each day, starting on Tuesday 1st December.

In these 24 Advent devotions, Tim Chester encourages us to look away from the distractions of our culture and instead, be engrossed by Jesus. This might not sound very practical, but it is life-changing. Using the opening chapters of Hebrews as a tour guide, these devotions show us the key sights of the Lord's glory and invite us to fix our eyes on Jesus this Christmas.

In addition, there will be opportunities to discuss what we've found helpful, either in the Sunday Zoom Catch-up at 11:15am, or with Stephen and Sheila Lloyd on Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30pm (see details under Announcements & Reminders). Do join with either or both of these if you would find it helpful.

If you haven't received your copy by Monday 30th November, please let Bernice know (572529) and we will do our best to sort it out!

## WHAT ELSE IS BEING PLANNED FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS?

Christmas at St Peter's will be different this year, but we are still planning ways to celebrate, rejoice, and share the good news with those around us. Current plans include...

- **A Pre-recorded Carol Service.** We hope to be able to make something available (online, for those who can access it that way; by DVD, for those who cannot) so that everyone at St Peter's can join in with a Carol Service.
- **An Online Christingle Service.** We hope to invite people in the parish, and further afield, to join us for this Christingle Service on Zoom. We will seek to distribute 'Christingle Kits' in advance, so people can make their own Christingle as we gather together online.
- **Christmas Communion Services in Church.** We very much hope and expect we will be permitted to open for Christmas Communion (perhaps on Christmas Eve? perhaps on Christmas Day?). These services will probably still be restricted by the regulations, but we hope to welcome everyone who is able and willing to join us into the church building at some point over Christmas.

We also hope to distribute a mailing to the entire parish, including a Christmas Letter from the Vicar and invitations to join us as appropriate. Stephen and Sheila Lloyd will be co-ordinating these deliveries, and would be grateful for offers of help. As always, if you have any questions, do please get in contact.

## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Can you help? With the current lockdown restrictions, we are hoping to deliver Christmas cards, letters, Advent booklets and pre-packed Christingle kits around the parish. Would you be able to help deliver some of these things? Or if you can't go out, but feeling creative, would you like to help making some of the more "at-home" ideas that we have? For more information, please contact Bernice in the Parish Office.
- We are now advertising two part-time posts: a Pastoral Co-ordinator and a Children's & Youth Worker. Do you know of someone who might be interested in either, or both, of these posts? Might you be interested yourself? Further details are now available, but if anyone in the congregation would be interested in either (or both) roles, informal conversations with either of the new Churchwardens would be welcomed.
- A small Working Group, led by Dan Watts, is exploring the possibilities in partnering with Beacon House and reaching out to the homeless in the town centre. If you would like to join the Working Group, or if you would like to be kept in touch with developments, please do contact Dan directly (01206 866630 or [dpwatts@essex.ac.uk](mailto:dpwatts@essex.ac.uk)).
- Stephen and Sheila Lloyd are offering to lead an informal zoom home group to chat about the readings in the church Advent book "Fixated" on three Thursday evenings in December (Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th at 7.30pm for 40 minutes.) The Zoom log in details for December 3rd are: ID: 357 633 0313, Password: HAd3Hy

## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday 22nd November** [the Sunday Next before Advent]

- 10:00am — **Church Family Worship Online** (available on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#))
- 11:15am — **Sunday Morning Catch-up** (via Zoom — meeting ID: 896 7671 8717; passcode: 790525)

**Wednesday 25th November**

- 8:00pm — **Church Prayer Meeting** (via the *St Peter's Church* WhatsApp group)

**Sunday 29th November** [the 1st Sunday of Advent]

- 10:00am — **Church Family Worship Online** (available on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#))
- 11:15am — **Sunday Morning Catch-up** (via Zoom — meeting ID: 813 1982 8930; passcode: 690101)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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