



Christmas Window Trail



This is a community project which will get your imagination going and brighten up your house and street.

We would like you to put a window display up, something like a stain glass window display, from

19th December 2020 through to 6th January 2021.

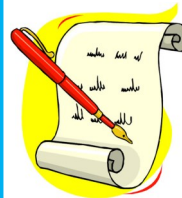
You can be as detailed as you can with silhouettes or as bold as you want with many colours and any design you can think of. The crib design above is a simple one.

Love Banwell and Love Congresbury are giving away 100 Free packs of tissue paper available from Banwell News and Congar's Cafe from

28th Nov – 10th December.

The trail list will be available on 18th December

A Poem For Christmas



This one is for everyone that likes a poem. We would like to invite anyone out there to submit a **Poem For Christmas**. It would be great to see the talent around our villages. We would like to print out some of the entries for a display over the Christmas period around the villages and post them on our website and Facebook page, or just take part for fun!

This is just for fun and is open to anyone who would like to take part. Email your poem to kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk

Thank you and have fun.

Please continue to pray for Bishop Peter Hancock and for his family:

The news of +Peter is that he is in hospital receiving chemo before having the stem cell transplant very shortly. This means he will be in hospital whilst recovering from the procedure and then enter isolation with his wife Jane for a further 2 months. Please do hold them and the family in your prayers. Some exciting news is that they welcome a new granddaughter into their family. Congratulations Grandpa Peter.

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY

Thought for the week: "Advent" – watching and waiting for the birth of Hope.

Many will have come across versions of the hymn "O Come, O come Emmanuel" that is traditionally sung on Advent Sunday each year. This year, of course, it has perhaps added significance – often the darker things can feel the more keenly do we look for any Light of Hope.

What's interesting, is that the hymn has roots that go right the way back into early English Christian poetry and song. It is thought it was widely known in the 8th century as a chant, sung by monks and nuns in monasteries and convents in the lead up to Christmas. The version we perhaps know best today wasn't composed till the 1700's and was made popular in that it became a favourite taught nationally and internationally through the Jesuit school system. In more recent times, it has been a hymn that has made the migration to modern Church music, like "Be Thou my Vision," "or Amazing Grace," with version by composed and arranged by many leading modern Christian singer/songwriters.

Behind it all seems to be this almost timeless universal hope within the human spirit that things **CAN** change, they can get better, the pain can end, and a new era can be born and emerge. In the Christian tradition and in relation to Advent and Christmas this has a very long history within our Jewish ancestry. With regard to the idea of the Hope of Change, it goes right the way back to the powerful image of the Exodus and the liberation of Jewish people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land with Moses. It seems to be that God is always seeking to rid the present and the past of all that holds human beings and humanity back and give rise to the possibility of something new that lets the potential of both breathe and flourish.

But such a Godly approach to Hope comes with a price and a cost. In the context of looking at the theme of "Freedom in John's Gospel," there is BOTH "freedom from" things, the 'slavery,' the hurt and the pain, at the time of the Exodus. BUT there is ALSO a "freedom to" things, to choose to be open to allow ourselves to become a NEW people fit for a 'Promised Land.'

Often as human beings, and even as Christians, we have tended to be much more willing to embrace the idea of wanting to be "free from" things, situations, rules, laws and people around us, rather than this additional understanding of freedom as "freedom for" or "freedom to" allow ourselves to become; resisting the hard and sometimes painful work of personal change that is necessary in order to become a NEW people fit for a NEW world. Jesus put it rather succinctly though in one of His sayings, "NEW wine needs NEW wineskins" (Mark 2:21-22).

As we come to this most difficult of Advents this year, can we find within us though the will and the spirit to join generation s past and present to still have this Christian Hope, with all its implications, and pray and still sing, "so be it" - "O come, O come, Emmanuel..."

PTO...



For a really good insight into the long tradition and power behind the Christian call for “Emmanuel to come” please see the Bible Projects video on Isaiah Ch 1-39 - Look up (“Bible Project Isaiah Overview 1-39” on YouTube or click the Link): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0A6Uchb1F8>

Next week we will look at Peace.

Matt Thomson

Advent Sunday Livestream

Please join us at 10.30am Sunday 29th Nov for a simple service, lasting approximately an hour to begin Advent, as well as introduce the next theme in our series from John’s Gospel, **Truth**.

You can access the Service by watching us **LIVE** via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or catch up later on Facebook, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1MIKbBw/>



Details of How to share in an Agape Feast at Home:

As it is **Advent** and the beginning of a new Church Year, we would like to celebrate an Agape as part of the Livestreamed service TODAY, Sunday 29th November.

You will need:

Some Bread – this can be an ordinary bread around the house, or you may want to make some, pitta bread, roll, loaf, gluten free – great activity to do with others.

Some grapes or fruit of some kind – whatever you have to hand.

A glass of your favourite drink or a cup of water.

If this all too difficult, or if you would like to celebrate an Agape Meal at a different time over the coming week, Kirsty has kindly put a link to the words we have used during the various times we have shared similar meals as part of the Service on a Sunday on the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>



Daily Blog – What’s happening this week?

These two weeks we are going to continue our “**Themes in John’s Gospel**” by looking at the sixth of the seven themes, the theme of **Truth**.

If you would like to follow the Daily Blog as part of your journey of faith, you can access via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1MIKbBw/>

What is likely to happen to Church Services following the Second Lockdown?

As everyone will no doubt be aware, the recent announcement that we will be in **Tier 3** following the end of the Second Lockdown on the 2nd December means that we are in some of the strictest measures that face communities up to, and beyond Christmas.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for actual news from the National Church about what this actually means, so what follows is, at this stage, purely conjecture.

What we **HOPE** is that (outside of the five days around Christmas):

We will be able to return to ‘**Hybrid**’ worship on a Sunday (beginning NEXT Sunday – Sun 6th Dec) alternating between the two Churches on roughly the same terms as we had before – with social distancing between bubbles, facemasks, and recording or track and trace etc.

That we will be able to start the Wednesday morning Communion Service on Wednesday 9th Dec in Congresbury at 9.00am.

PLEASE understand this is very much a ‘Hope’ at present. We hope to find out final news early part of this coming week. We will then meet as Wardens and need to do various risk assessments etc. So, please look at the New Creation Website and other social media and we will, of course, let the Church@Home Co-ordinators know so they can be in touch with you as soon as we are able to do so.

Regarding Christmas itself- that too is very much still under discussion at a National level and we await news, hopefully at the same time, so we can finalise and then publicise plans as to what we able to share locally.

Please pray for all those involved, at all levels, in trying to make these difficult decisions.

Thank you.

New Creation
Building Better Community

Christmas is always....
Love
Peace
Kindness
Hope
Joy



We are not 100% sure what Christmas 2020 will look like, but no matter what the media says – with Christ, **Christmas is NEVER cancelled!** Christmas is ALWAYS!

Please see the website for further details of Christmas services and other ways to get involved over the Festive period. Just snap the QR code to go straight to our dedicated Christmas page or look out for further updates. <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/christmas/>