

Hello Everyone,

It is wonderful to be here and a great privilege to be able to serve you as Team vicar at Cloverfield Church. What a strange time it is though, being licensed just as another lockdown is beginning once more, I do hope you are keeping well in this difficult time.

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have been faithfully serving in Cloverfield, especially over the last year during the interregnum.

This week is Remembrance Sunday when we stand together to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. We may not be able to meet physically but we acknowledge their sacrifice through our support and prayers.

Listening to Thought for the day with Rev Dr Sam Wells last Monday I was reminded of the words of St Paul in Romans 8:18-25 who despite imprisonment, torture and shipwreck spent his energy focussing on building up others. With the call for prayer being made as the country is locked down once more – let us pray for Christ's strength and presence, that he will help us live in that same attitude of patient hope.

Due to the new lockdown our November services are once more being streamed across the Team and there will be no physical church during this month.

The Archbishops have called for November to be a month of prayer. Resources for daily prayer are available on the Church of England website. I am keen for the church to be open during the week for individual socially distanced prayer, so we are planning to be open on Wednesdays during November, 2-4pm. Please observe social distancing and wear masks.

We will be hosting a 'Meet the Houghtons' session via Zoom on 16<sup>th</sup> November 7.30-8.30pm. This is an opportunity to say hello, meet us and for us to get to know each other. The Zoom link for this is;

Topic: Meet the Houghton's

Time: Nov 16, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2208073841?pwd=eGNKSmh3ZGllcUtRNi8zMldrQWhYdz09>

Meeting ID: 220 807 3841

Passcode: 589156

Finally, I met with the leadership team last Tuesday and we discussed amongst other things plans for Christmas. Obviously at this stage we don't know what the situation will be with COVID but we are looking at organising a Crib, Christingle and Carols journey to be held at the church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

And I am hoping to run an Advent course probably by Zoom starting end of November – further details to follow.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you face to face and in the meantime let's keep praying for one another and holding each other up before God. If you feel you would value a pastoral conversation on the phone, our number is 630350.

God bless,

Rev Matt

Cloverfield church