

Dear friends,

Firstly may I wish you all a very Happy New year. Whilst 2020 was the year many of us might wish to forget and although 2021 has not begun well with rapidly increasing Covid-19 infections in the community, there is hope that things will improve as the vaccines are rolled out through the population. Please do pray for our National Health Service and care providers as they support us and look after the most vulnerable in our communities.

It is because the infection rate has increased and because the new variant of the virus appears to be so much more easily transmissible, that the PCC and I have reluctantly come to the decision to suspend all services in church until the end of February, when we will review the situation. It should be becoming clearer by then just how effective the lockdown has been and whether the vaccines are helping to keep people safe.

Rev Becky, Janys Cliff and I will continue to produce on-line services each week, which will be available on the: www.stmaryshambleton.org.uk website and YouTube and we are also happy to produce DVDs for those without internet access.

This coming Sunday, January 10th, we are thinking about 'Plough Sunday' a tradition to bless the plough and the farming community on the first Sunday after Epiphany. There are two ways to join in!

1. If you would like to 'meet' on zoom this Sunday for a coffee and a chat Becky will be online at 11am Please bring any photos or memories of farming past and present to share! This will be a social time and not necessarily church folk only! To join just follow this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86277897337>

2. The service itself will be on YouTube as normal to view this on Sunday click [here](#) - do share with anyone you think might be interested. The link will also be shared on Facebook, through the Hambleton website (see above), and in the Carlton and Drax church WhatsApp group.

If you have any ideas or themes you think it would be helpful for us to explore in our online worship services please do get in touch. We can't promise to take up every idea, but we'll do our best!

Thank you for continuing to support your local church. We have no other source of funding to pay for the day to day running of our churches and their general maintenance, the production of services and the kit and licences we need to do this and so your support is really important to us and so we are very grateful for your generosity.

If you would like to be in touch, please give Rev Becky or me a ring. Here are our numbers and email addresses:

Rev Anna Burr: 01757 270325 burrannav@gmail.com

Rev Becky Allright 01757 335644 rev.becky.allright@gmail.com

Best wishes

Rev Anna and Rev Becky