

# Christmas 2020 newsletter



## Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing interest, love and prayers for Church1v23 and the Shorters. We know this has been an 'interesting year' for everybody and it humbles us that in the midst of the challenges that 2020 has produced you are taking the time to read our news and to pray for us. Jesus has been working in 2020, it's not always been easy to see how and where. We trust that He has and we pray that in your church as well as in Church1v23 we continue to rely on Him for the wisdom and fruits that are required to see God's kingdom come here on earth. We pray whoever you get to see and spend time with over Christmas you will be able to share love and be loved.



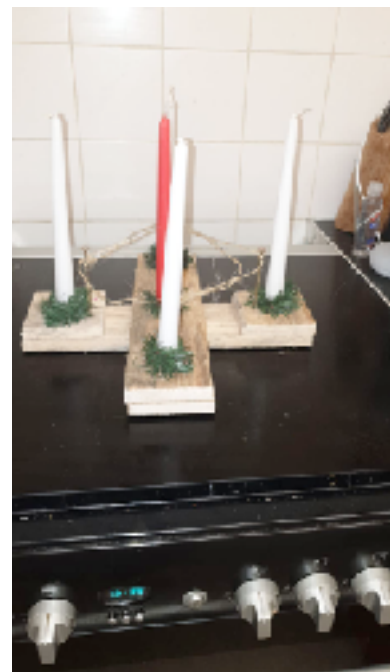
## Advent

Church1v23 advent wreath for the last 11 years has been a moped tyre! This year the tyre has stayed in storage and we sent everybody a home pack of materials to build their own advent wreath which we then share via weekly zooms with one another. People seem to have really enjoyed this IKEA style advent Christmas and it has given us a useful focus each Monday as we have gathered on zoom. It has been particularly enjoyable to bring the youth group, men's fire night and our regular Monday families together in this way. (Some examples from homes in the photos)



## Youth group

Our youth group continue to be a real joy to us we meet every three weeks on zoom for 45 minutes on Friday evening. The young people are being incredibly faithful at continuing to attend in this unique way. Recently we had the regional minister Nick Lear come and perform magic and share about Jesus' love for us as he did. Nick is excellent at magic in the flesh and I think we all deeply appreciated how he did equally inspiring tricks over zoom from the comfort of his own office. Please do pray that we continue to be able to build life giving relationships with these young people especially as a large number of them are in year 11 and facing their GCSE's this year.



## Hopes for 2021

If we've learned anything in 2020 it is that having long-term vision plans are not always useful! We are tentatively starting to plan how we intend to continue to serve Jesus for 2021 on the Hill. Our boys group in the local school appears to be starting back up again and we are hoping at some point to start a girls group which will have the main focus of sport. Please pray that we are able to find a good team to be able to deliver this provision and our relationships with the local

schools will continue to enable us to use their facilities as we do. We will continue to work out what the best way is to have our Monday evening gatherings. Pre-lockdown (can you remember when that was) we had already started to believe that it was time to reshape our weekly gatherings. Lock down has given us a chance to reflect on how to do this and we suspect from Easter onwards we will need real wisdom as to how we shape our weekly rhythms to best serve those that we know on the Hill.

Well-being walk, men's fire nights, Monday football and youth groups will continue to be major parts of our connection and service with Harold hill.



### What do our kids think?

We asked our three children to give us a short reflection on their view of those part of Church 1v23 and having your parents lead the church.

"I like that each week there is a time when I can relax and learn about God.

Church 123 is like a family full of love but there are times when you don't get along but you always know they will have your back." Jessica-13

"I enjoyed the many different opportunities to meet people, different people with different beliefs, I also like to try and help challenge others about their beliefs and to challenge them respectfully." Caleb-15

"I love living in Harold Hill because it has lots of beautiful bits of nature and lots of different opportunities to be part of. I love being part of Church 1v23 because it gives us a lot of opportunities to meet new friends through mum and dad and their jobs as they work with lots of lovely people" . Anya-11



### Thank you for your prayer for Jessica

Thank you for your prayers for Jessica following her nasty ankle break. She has been making excellent progress doing lots and lots of physio exercises and while she will probably always have to be mindful of the ankle at the moment it looks like she will be able to manage the long-term impact of this injury in a way which minimally impacts her life.

### Finally

We asked that 2020 be a year to pray for more team members, we continue to pray this for 2021.

**Once again have a blessed Christmas  
and we look forward to catching up in 2021.**