

Letter from the stewards...***22nd December 2021***

Hello friends,

Apologies for there not being a letter for a few weeks but the events of the year and old age are catching up!

Today's news is not looking good and it would appear that Christmas and New Year may not be too different from last year. At the moment, we are still planning to hold a short service on Christmas morning, Saturday 25th at 9.45am led by Kathy. We would encourage you all to wear masks and use the hand sanitiser in the church building. The Christmas morning service is always a service of great joy, getting together to welcome our Lord Jesus.

The planned service on Sunday 26th has been cancelled. The decision was taken because we would be using the building twice in a short time and there would be no time in between to clean and sanitise and we have always strived to keep our congregation Covid safe.

Decisions about the scheduled service for 2nd January will depend on what restrictions may be in place by then. We are still planning to have this service but will keep you updated if circumstances change.

Despite all the doubts and fears, remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and that will never change, so hope that all will be well if we continue to pray and believe that the situation is in God's hands.

Regarding the running of SMC, please seriously consider your role in the church. Because of adverse circumstances, the roles of Treasurer and Property Steward urgently require new management. None of the three stewards actually live in Swanmore and the pressures of the last two years and personal circumstances mean that additional stewards are necessary to relieve the pressure. We are aware that we have an ageing congregation and most people have previously held posts in the church. Unfortunately, without some changes the future of SMC looks uncertain. Of course, we will continue to serve for the foreseeable future and do our best to keep the church open as we have been doing, but the New Year will have to see some changes. Please prayerfully consider this situation.

On a brighter note, and despite all the negative vibes, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and wish you all well for the New Year. All can be overcome with God's help and guidance.

Keep safe and warm.

Carol, Jill and Kathy