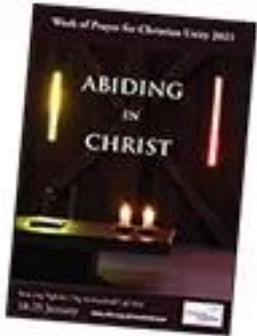


# EXTRA

January 2021

EXTRA is primarily for information that we do not have room for in the weekly newsletter. But we can only publish what you send in; please send notices (100-200 words) to [catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com](mailto:catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com) by the end of January. And we could do with more help, too! Let us know if you can assist us: Sue Sugars, Brian Austin, Caroline Graham (same address).

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January "Abiding in Christ"

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January and this year it has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland.

The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

There is a booklet for us to use: 'Abiding in Christ' with **reflections and prayers for each of the eight days**, as well as 'Go and Do' action points by Christian Aid. It can be obtained from

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/> Perhaps you would like to use it.

*Orlivesimplyparish*

## How can we learn from 2020? Let's be ambitious

What a year 2020 has been! No doubt it has brought a lot of sadness to many, whether that is the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or business or the loss of social contact. However, it has also shown our resilience and our ability to adjust to new ways of doing things in a short period of time.

Take working from home. My office job previously required me to print lengthy documents in the belief that I could not read and compare them on a screen. I have been working from home since 23 March and have not printed a single document since then. I have learnt to use digital technology more effectively, prepared digital court bundles and arranged for contracts to be signed electronically. Court hearings which would have required travel to Birmingham or London have been held by telephone and meetings I used to attend across the county now take place on my computer screen – often with repeated yells of "you're on mute"!

These are changes that I know will continue to some extent when "things go back to normal" and I am certain they would not have happened as quickly as they did had it not been for the pandemic.

## So how can we learn from 2020?

The impact of climate change needs us to act urgently if we want to ensure that the generations to come can benefit from the wonderful world we have the privilege to occupy. Let's be ambitious in our New Year's resolutions safe in the knowledge that we are more adaptable than we thought. Whether that is reducing the amount of meat we eat, using the car less or switching to green energy providers. I know I am going to try and be ambitious – I've done it before....

*Sioned Hammond-Jones*

## Saturday Friendship Group

Working for the homeless and vulnerable with the Salvation Army  
Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day

*sfg*  
Catholic Leamington  
Saturday Friendship Group



At the Salvation Army's Way Ahead Project, on Christmas Day: Yvonne says: "Lovely day today,  **72 meals in 2 sittings & takeaways.** 'thank you' to our amazing cooks. I found out today that it's been 20 years Denyse has been cooking for us, thank you to all our amazing volunteers who turn up week after week & give selflessly & a huge thanks to all our visitors who have adhered to all the changes & rules without challenging .. I hope you all have an amazing SAFE Christmas & New Year.  Yvonne McKinnon, Project Manager

*Janice Austin, sfg Planning Team Convenor*



The St Vincent de Paul Society at St Joseph's would like to thank all the parishioners and those beyond our parish, who gave so many generous food donations for the Christmas hampers project.

We were able to make up and send out hampers for two local primary schools, the housebound elderly and some other families. Without the support of the parish this would not have been possible.

Just before distributing Father Noel kindly blessed the hampers for us.

At this time of the year we also donate a batch of our Vinnie packs to organisations helping the homeless in Leamington – Helping Hands and Leamington Night Shelter. These are small packs of basic items such as hat, gloves, socks and tooth paste, to help rough sleepers with a bit more comfort.

Find out more about the SVP at [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk) and at St Joseph's by contacting our President Brian Malone [brijen1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brijen1@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you  
David Burton – Acting Secretary at St Joseph's Conference.

The biggest **THANK YOU** to all in St Joseph's, Our Lady's and St Peter's across Catholic Leamington; your donations to the SPAN Christmas food voucher appeal have reached over £ 6,500 this year! It is likely to be over twice the amount raised last year. This year has been one that many families have found very difficult and will be so welcomed.

Heartfelt messages of thanks have come back to us via **our schools, SVP, the clergy, and the local Children's Centres and Hubs**, all of whom have helped identify those in need in our community and assisted in the distribution of vouchers. Thanks to Jean Feely in overseeing this project.

At the December SPAN Meeting, it was decided that, since there was more funding not yet banked, donations to the families identified by the schools **should be continued into the new year**. Because of the generosity of Catholic Leamington people and friends we will be able to give more grocery vouchers to help local families in January, when times will be quite hard. Extra funding would also go to the Children's Centres and Brunswick Hub. Also £ 150 of this money would be used to help the Salvation Army Christmas Dinner and £ 150 for the Chapter One hostel Christmas Dinner that SPAN gives to annually.

SPAN hope you all had a meaningful Christmas, are enjoying a peaceful New Year, and have a hopeful start to 2021.

*Paul Hayden, Secretary*

**Monthly ZOOM Meetings**  
**SPAN and J&P both have monthly zoom meetings**  
**Anyone from the parishes is welcome to join in.**  
**All you have to do is to ask for an invite.**  
 For SPAN on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month: 7.15 for 7.30pm  
 email [paulhayden@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulhayden@ntlworld.com)  
 For J&P on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month: 7 for 7.15pm  
 email [cl.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:cl.jandp@gmail.com)

## Climate Change!

**January, 2021! THE TIME IS NOW** to combat Climate Change.

Will you sign the Climate Coalition's Declaration to show our politicians there is support for a green revolution by

- unleashing investment
- protecting our environment
- supporting the vulnerable

at <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration>

... and then SHARE this with ALL your Facebook Friends and Contacts?

*Brian Austin is a Climate Coalition Community Champion*