



News from Abridge Evangelical Church

This will be our first Christmas here in Abridge, and we are looking forward to it, particularly the famous Christmas lights and other festive activities that are normally planned.... but of course, this year things will be different... for all of us.

As I write this, there is uncertainty about how long the present lockdown will continue, but let's hope there can be some relief after this challenging year, because a Christmas without at least some sort of family get together will be very strange.



And for Christians, a Christmas without carols will be strange as well. Of course, we can sing along at home or in the car, but that's not quite the same as joining in with others in a church service. We are nevertheless really hoping that we will be allowed some 'distanced' outdoor carol singing at least, and the outside space

near our church up The Chase is ideal for that, so watch out for an invitation on Sunday 20th December from 5.30. Here's hoping!

And 'hope' is very much something we desperately need right now, and hope lies at the heart of the Christmas story. The people of God hoped for a rescue for their nation, just as we hope for better for our world. But rather than sending us a new political agenda, a shiny new piece of technology, or a magic wand to put everything right, God came as Jesus into our world to be alongside anyone who wants to welcome him into their lives. Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfilment of all our hopes, not just for a better future, but even more importantly, a better me!

This will be 'discovered' on our proposed Christmas Journey trail around the village, shared in our Christmas assemblies for Lambourne School and celebrated at our church services this December. We pray that you will find hope this Christmas despite everything, particularly the Christian hope that is certain and lasting.

With prayers for the best Christmas it can be, and certainly a much better New Year

From Martyn

Pastor of Abridge Evangelical Church, on The Chase

Do visit our **Church Facebook page** - search **Abridge Village Church**

Find out what's going on from **our website**: www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

And this Christmas we have a few **emergency Foodbank boxes** available from Epping Forest. If you know any families in need, ring Martyn on 01992 814121