



# Gordano Valley Church

“releasing us to release  
Jesus’ love into our  
community...”

**Sunday 14th November 2021**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children  
of God. Matt 5:9**

‘We will remember’ with a two minute silence  
as part of our 2nd Sunday service which starts at  
10.30am with breakfast.



You are invited to start this year’s advent by joining with Christians from other churches

within the town to share in advent hymns, readings and reflections.

We have more advent calendars for Foodbank if you would like to sponsor one or would like one for your self. £4.50 each.

If you still owe us for one or more please bring cash on Sunday...

## **GVC services 10.30am** at Gordano School

**Nov 14** - 2nd Sunday - PEACE

**Nov 21** - The Kingdom of God - Sarah Bennett

**New Series for Advent - Fit For A King?**

**Nov 28** - First Sunday in Advent - **Gold**

**Dec 5** - Second Sunday in Advent - **Frankincense**

**Dec 12** - Third Sunday in Advent - **A Lamb** (2nd Sunday and nativity)

**Dec 19** - 4th Sunday in Advent - **Myrrh** (Evening Carol Service)

**Dec 25** - Christmas Day - **A King Fit for the World**

**Jan 2**

**We will NOT be Live Streaming our service this Sunday...**

## **SAVE THE DATE**



‘Pints of View’ at The Poacher 7pm 28th November. Subject up for discussion: “There are too many Celebrities-Get me out of Here!”

**Men’s Breakfast** “Christmas Special” at Heaven on the Hill 8.45am December 4th.

**inHope.**

*For those who need us most*

**Carols in the Car park** is in Sainsbury’s carpark on Sunday 5th December at 6pm. It’s organised by

Churches Together in Portishead. It will be a ticketed event (tickets not available yet) £5 per car with all money going to **InHope**, Bristol who work with the homeless.

**Victorian Evening** - Portishead High Street Sunday 12th December - 3-7pm.

**GC Evening Carol Service** is on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies, cake and mulled wine and punch.



## **Shoebox Appeal 2021**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the appeal this year either by filling a shoebox or making a donation. Your generosity will bring hope and happiness to people in need this Christmas. This year 169 boxes were collected from several local organisations including GVC - a slight increase on last year! If anyone missed the deadline and still wishes to make a financial donation this can be done at [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)  
Gill Daniels

**NEWS from Sarah for prayer:** It's been really exciting to be able to restart face to face youth work from mid-September this year, as Covid restrictions have lifted. I have been able to get back into Gordano School to meet with students there, and to re-launch Challengers youth group on a Friday night. It has been a long time since we've met, although we were able to have a few pop-up gatherings in the summer, and lots of the young people we had contact with before have now 'aged-out' of activities. So it's been a real joy to connect with new year 6, 7 and 8 students, and to build on the connections made at Gordano Summer School.

**Gordano School: Secret Garden Club** (years 7-9), Weds lunchtime. This has proved very popular, with more and more students wanting to come along every week. They love the freedom of being in the garden, making dens and running around. Some are interested in learning about nature too and we enjoy looking at insects and fungi, and making nature jewellery. The team for this is currently me and Pauline Wager. **We really need more adults who are willing to come and chat to students, bring their expertise, or simply be willing to be friendly.** It is likely that we will have to limit the club soon and start a waiting list for next term. Please pray in some help! Pray for opportunities to share and get excited by God's amazing creation. Pray for safety and friendship building. Pray for God's spirit to move in surprising ways! Give thanks for the enthusiasm of the students!

**Gordano School: Secret Garden Elective** (6<sup>th</sup> form), Weds afternoon. We have 16 students signed up to this elective, all in year 12, and all boys. The aim is for them to learn some gardening skills, maintaining the garden, clearing areas, creating new habitats and making the space really usable for the younger students and classes who come during lessons. The group is very lively! 7 are volunteering as part of D of E Awards. Some of the others don't really want to be there, but have been dragged along, or found it the least intolerable option, which makes leading them and encouraging them a challenge (herding cats comes to mind!). That said, we've had early success clearing the overgrown orchard (which GVC planted 5 years ago and is growing nicely!), and building two large bug habitats. **The team is currently me, and 2 members of staff from the school. We desperately need more willing hands – but they need to be pretty thick skinned and patient!** Please pray for these young lads, who have so much potential, but are also suffering the after-effects of a very disruptive 18 months. Please pray they will be inspired by the task and gain self-confidence by building and creating together. Please pray for God to bless and surprise them! Please give thanks and pray for the teachers who are popping in.

**Challengers** (years 6-10), Friday nights. We have taken the opportunity to refocus Challengers to a younger age group, and to move to a new venue at St Joseph's School. This has been a really positive change and has given us access to a safe, contained outside space to run around in, play sports, let off steam and have fun! We have a great Challengers team, who give so much energy, time and enthusiasm, they include: Jason, Robyn, Hannah, Katie, Niamh, Lois, Michelle, Olly, Sarah, Lydia, Charlie, Morgan, plus parents who are coming ad hoc. Please give massive thanks to God for the school and the team. Juggling everyone's availability, especially with the added challenges of Covid, is not easy so although it seems like a massive team, please pray for enough cover every night – not just to provide what we need legally, but to be able to connect with the young people meaningfully. Our desire is that they would be known, loved, and welcomed. We have had amazing growth, from 10 the first night to over 25 just before half term, as people bring friends. For those who have been praying for Challengers for years, this is a massive answer to prayer. Please pray, not for more young people (yes, I actually said that – no more right now!!), but for great connections with those coming along. For safety in our activities. For people to find in the love and welcome that they receive, that they experience something of the love and generosity of Jesus and his kingdom, and that they will be inspired to ask why. Pray for **The Mix**, which is a quarterly youth celebration at Woodies. It was really exciting to take along some of the young people a few weeks ago, many of whom were unchurched or had very different church encounters. Pray for an openness of spirit, and for opportunities to follow up.

**Gordano School: Christian Union** (years 7-13), Thurs lunchtime. It is fantastic to be able to be back in the school to meet with Christian young people again. We are fortunate to have the support of Becky Cox (Chaplain) and a teacher. Please pray for them. We have a small bunch, mostly year 7's, who are slowly getting to know each other. Lots of different churches represented, which is great, but they seem a little reticent to mingle! Please pray for friendships to be made – for people to be interested in each other and WANT to get to know each other. For those young people who have expressed a desire to come, but not yet made it, including a couple who expressed interested in student leadership. For student leaders to rise up who want to take a steer in directing the group. For a positive impact to be made in the school by CU. And a desire amongst young people to live out their faith now, amongst their peers and in their school – it's not easy.

I am taking a small group of young people from church to **TAG conference** – a Christian conference for 14-21 year olds, which is a trip jointly with Enjoy Church (and possibly other churches in Portishead, although no bookings from there as yet) 26-28 Nov. Please pray for an amazing opportunity to connect with God, to be challenged and to see God's optimism and hope grow for their futures. Pray for the practicalities of the trip, as well as those still unsure whether to come. Pray for good connections to be made across the churches. Pray for the conference to be protected from Covid outbreak, as well as me particularly not to get pinged before I go (minibus won't drive itself!). Please pray for those already booked. And for those still unsure if they can come.

There are other things to pray for, I am sure. Please pray for energy and enthusiasm for me and for everyone else on the various teams that make youth work happen – it's great to be back, but it also feels rather overwhelming to suddenly to doing and seeing so many people, and having so much in recently empty diaries!



As we build towards moving to a smaller house I am going through cupboards. I have found a lot of offcuts and chunks of mainly curtain material and samples. Quite a lot! Before I ditched it all in the bin I wondered if anyone can use it... Please let me know. I will deliver it. Philippa [philippaboyland@gmail.com](mailto:philippaboyland@gmail.com)

For electronic banking the account details are:

Account name: **Gordano Valley Church**  
Sort code: **08-92-99** Account No: **65654718**  
Reference: **your initials or name**

Free Large Suit-case, also a Man's Suit Zip up bag both in good condition.  
Georgina Howard, 01275 849405.