

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – The Sunday next before Advent

### WELCOME TO THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST NICHOLAS GODSTONE, ST STEPHEN SOUTH GODSTONE AND ST JOHN BLINDLEY HEATH



Rector: Revd Peter O'Connell 01883 741945 [rector@godstone.net](mailto:rector@godstone.net)

Assistant Priest: Revd Evelyn Randall 07590 099326 [evelynrandall@uwclub.net](mailto:evelynrandall@uwclub.net)

Church Wardens: St Nicholas: Louise Case 01883 740182, St Stephen: Jane Moss 01342 892502,

*A warm welcome to all who are with us today, especially to those joining us for the first time.  
Children's Church is available. Please stay for refreshment after the service to meet with us.*

#### Services for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP  
10.30 am St Stephens – Family Service  
10.30 am St Johns HC, CW  
10.30 am St Nicholas HC, CW

Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25.31-46

#### Communion on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

10.00 am St John's Church HC, BCP

#### Services for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP  
9.00 am St Stephens – Toy Service CW  
10.30 am St Johns – Toy Service CW  
10.30 am St Nicholas – Toy Service CW

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37

#### Communion on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

10.00 am St Mary's Chapel HC, BCP

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Peal of Bells at St Nicholas Church – 11 am (3 hours non-stop)
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Café Connect at St Nicholas Youth Centre for Godstone Village School -10.30 am – 12.30 pm. All welcome!! Variety of Christmas stalls!!
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Huggetts Christmas Fair, Blindley Heath – 11 am – 1.30 pm.
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Messy Church at St Johns – 4pm.
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Joint service with Bishop Jonathan at St Stephen's School – 10.30 am
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Film Evening at St Stephens. **6pm** 'Love Actually' and **8.30 pm** 'Die Hard'. Cheese and Wine to be served at each film.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Film Evening at St Stephens for children. 'Arthur Christmas' with hot dog refreshments – 5.30 p.m. FOLLOWED by 'It's a Wonderful Life' with mulled wine and mince pies.

#### NOTICES

**ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY** Rev Peter will go into the sea at Saundersfoot in Wales. This moment of madness is not without purpose – he hopes to raise sponsorship for Kanna, which is a charity that supports education in Uganda. One of their projects involves a group of children who were begging on the streets of Kampala, but are now in education with their fees paid for by the charity. Peter hopes to raise £200, which would pay the school fees for 6 children for a month.

**Sponsorship forms for this will be available at the back of all 3 churches.**

#### MORE NOTICES

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** – Laying Karen and Philip Demonte to rest at St Nicholas – **1.30 pm.** Short service – then reception at Godstone Baptist Church – all invited. Roger (son) 07811 769969 to be contacted please.

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER – TOY SERVICES – 10.30 am** – Once again we will be collecting new toys to go to **Welcare in Redhill.**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>** This year St Nicholas Church will be hosting a **NATIVITY FESTIVAL** for the first time. We are inviting anyone who wants to display a Nativity scene that they have made, or bought, in the church for the week of the festival. Scenes can be traditional, modern or completely off the wall, and whatever size it is, we can probably find a space for it. You can find pictures of similar festivals held elsewhere at [www.godstonenativity.weebly.com](http://www.godstonenativity.weebly.com) and these pictures may give some inspiration.

**THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR, available now £3.99** Did you know that 36% of 5-7 year olds don't know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas? The calendar comes with 25 festive chocolate shapes, a 24 page Christmas story-activity book & a charitable donation. **To order contact Alison on [alison.mccormick@mac.com](mailto:alison.mccormick@mac.com) or 01737 245501.**

**CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS** – It is time to order your home made, boozy and fruity **CHRISTMAS PUDDING**. Same price as last year: **1lb £7.50, 2lb £12.00 3lb £16.50.** With or without nuts, also gluten free made to order. **All profits to the St Nicholas Church – Accessible Toilet Fund.** Ring **JENNY BULL** on **01883 743359** or sign the list in Church.

**ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CARD – New Design - £3.00 for pack of 5.** Available at Café Connect or from Louise Case (01883 740182)

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** – If anybody would like to give donations towards flowers in memory of loved ones to help decorate the churches, please could they give to **Pauline at St Johns, Carolyn Jones at St Stephens and Mary Stuart-Menteth at St Nicholas.**

All enquiries concerning Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Visits and Home Communion to:

Revd Peter O'Connell (contact details above)

Items for this news sheet to Philippa March [email benefice@godstone.net](mailto:benefice@godstone.net)

[www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk](http://www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk)



St Nicholas Church, Godstone

# Readings for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

**Centuries since the completion of the conquest of the Promised Land, affairs are in a sorry state. Due to bad kings-called shepherds here- Judah is now subject to Babylonian rule, and while some Israelites have been deported, others have scattered far and wide.**

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds feed out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

## Matthew 25.31-46

**Jesus has just told three parables about the kingdom of heaven, the last one emphasizing the importance of faith in attaining entry to this blessed state. Now he speaks of the conduct expected of faithful people.**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king shall say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the

world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you as a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it for me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

## Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER LIST

**St Nicholas** – Caroline Pope, Tom Battell, Minnie, Archie Butler, Christian Schumacher. **St Stephens** - Mona Watkins, Claire McFetridge, Samuel Moss, Ron Harradine, David Snell, Jennifer & Gerry Marks, Barry Slade **St Johns** – Hugh Hunter, Julie & Jo Charlton, Daphne & Peter Reed, Janice Reed, Claire Taylor. **The Benefice link with Rutendo in Zimbabwe.**

**Message from Father Andrea in Zimbabwe** – 'We really had a joyous moment here in Zimbabwe. Thank you for your prayers. We are now praying for transitional government that we believe is required at this moment until all things normalise then we go into an election. Indeed whoever takes over need to have the desires of the people at heart.'

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

John Lawton

Philip Demonte

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If you like to read that week's readings, or keep up to date with the notices, you can find this news sheet on the benefice website [www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk](http://www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk)

