

Sunday 10th December 2017 – The Second Sunday of 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

Assistant Priest: Revd Evelyn Randall 07590 099326 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 17th December 2017

Services for Sunday 10th December 2017

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
10.30 am Joint Benefice Service at St Stephen's School.
South Godstone with Bishop Jonathan

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11, Mark 1.1-8

Communion on Wednesday 13th December

10.00 am St Johns Church HC, BCP

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
9.00 am St Stephens HC, CW
10.30 am St John's – Family Communion CW
10.30 am St Nicholas HC, CW
4.30 pm St Nicholas – Nine Lessons & Carol Service

Readings: Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8, 19-28

Communion on Wednesday 20th December

10.00 am St Nicholas Church HC, BCP

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 15th December – Film Evening at St Stephens. 5.30pm 'Love Actually' and 8 pm 'Die Hard'. Cheese and Wine to be served at each film.
- Friday 15th December – CAROLS in St John's Parish Church Hall in aid of the Save the Children Fund – 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.
- Saturday 16th December – Funeral of Tony Westall at St Nicholas – 9am.
- Sunday 17th December – Nine Lessons and Carol Service at St Nicholas – 4.30 pm
- Tuesday 19th December – Funeral of Joy Bray at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium – 1pm.
- Thursday 21st December – Carols in the Warm will take place at St Stephens Church – 7 pm. All are welcome. Come and have a sing and more! Mulled wine and mince pies in the interval. Money raised to Save the Children.
- Friday 22nd 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.
- Sunday 24th December – Nativity Services:-

St Johns – 4pm

St Nicholas – 5 pm

St Stephens – 6 pm.

NOTICES

ON 1ST 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 16TH DECEMBER – Laying Karen and Philip Demonte to rest at St Nicholas Church – **1.30 pm.** Short service – then reception at Godstone Baptist Church Hall – all invited. Roger (son) 07811 769969 to be contacted please. Please feel free to bring a cake or light savoury dish to share. Those needing transport to St Nicholas, please meet at the Godstone Baptist Church Hall at **1pm.**

December 9th – 16th 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. The church will be open during the Festival for you to see what other people have created

Sunday 17th December – Nine Lessons & Carol Service – 4.30pm – help is needed please with the refreshments after the service and for mince pies to accompany the mulled wine. Please speak to Louise Case. (01883 740182) if you can help in either way.

CAFÉ CONNECT - the tremendous amount of **£566.10** was raised at last weekend's Café Connect for Godstone Village School. The event was well attended and the Headmistress gave an interesting and detailed account of the schools next project.

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 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 or Carolyn Jones at St Stephens.** At **St Nicholas please contact Mary Stuart-Menteth** about flowers being bought to decorate the church during the New Year.

THANK YOU to Cllr Rose Thorn and Surrey County Council for the grant that has enabled St Stephen's to buy 6 new Gopak tables and a storage rack for them.

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



St Nicholas Church, Godstone

Readings for Sunday 10th December 2017

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

ISAIAH 40.1-11

Jerusalem and Judah have been conquered and the leader of the people have been deported to Babylon. But even in these seemingly hopeless times that prophet has a vision of the future, of God and the heavenly court.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken'.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken'.

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

'MARK 1.1-8

Both Isaiah and Malachi prophesied that, before the Messiah comes at the end of the era, a prophet will come to prepare the way for him. Now the awaited prophet arrives on the scene and ushers in the new era.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER LIST

St Nicholas – Caroline Pope, Tom Battell, Minnie, Archie Butler, Christian Schumacher. **St Stephens** - Mona Watkins, Claire McFetridge, Elaine Childs, 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.**

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Philip Demonte

Joy Bray

Ruth Bonnell

Valerie Millar

Tony Westall

Caroline Webster

