

Sunday 31st December 2017 – The First Sunday of Christmas

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 31st December 2017

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
10.30 am St Johns – United Benefice Service

Readings: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Luke 2:15-21

Communion of Wednesday 3rd January

10.00 am St Marys Chapel HC, BCP

Services for Sunday 7th January 2018 – Baptism of Christ

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

Readings: Genesis 1.1-5, Mark 1.4-11

Communion on Wednesday 10th January

10.00 am St John's Church HC, BCP

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Saturday 6th January – Café Connect at St Nicholas Youth Centre raising money for Dementia First** – 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. All most welcome! Variety of table top stalls. Raffle.
- **Monday 8th January – Epiphany Service at St Stephens** – 8 pm.
- **Saturday 13th January – Build@Church at St Stephen's Church** – 3 pm.
- **Saturday 27th January – Village Coffee Morning at St Stephens** – 10 am – 12.30 pm

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.

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

www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk



St Nicholas Church, Godstone

Readings for Sunday 31st December 2017

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so that we may share the life of his divinity; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ISAIAH 61:10 – 62:3

The prophet has been sent to bring good news to the exiled and the oppressed. Now he speaks on behalf of Jerusalem, the holy city. Finally after years of silence, God replies.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

LUKE 2.15-21

After Mary has given birth to Jesus, angels have appeared to shepherds living with their flocks. They have told the great good news of Jesus' birth and have told the shepherds where to find him.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing

that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father; whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; 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, **The Benefice link with Rutendo in Zimbabwe.**

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

