

Sunday 29th April 2018 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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, Doug Randall 01883 742751. St Stephen: Jane Moss 01342 92502,

*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 29th April 2018

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
10.30 am St Nicholas – Joint Benefice Service

Readings: Acts 8.26-40, John 15.1-8

Communion on Wednesday 2nd May

10.00 am St Mary's Chapel HC, BCP

Services for Sunday 6th May 2018

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

Readings: Acts 10.44-48, John 15.9-17

Communion on Wednesday 9th May

10.00 am St Johns Church HC, BCP

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday 29th April – Baptism at St Nicholas Church – Amelie Wilkinson – 12.30 pm.
- Sunday 29th April – Baptism at St Nicholas Church – Leo Gibson – 1 pm.
- Friday 4th May – Thanksgiving Service for Daphne Reed at St John's Church – 12 noon. Afterwards a Funeral Reception at Yew Lodge Country House, Felcourt Road, East Grintead. (the family requests "NO BLACK")
- Saturday 5th May – Café Connect at St Nicholas Youth Centre raising money for Christian Aid – 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.
- Sunday 6th May – Parish Breakfast at St Nicholas Youth Centre raising funds for Christian Aid – 9 am.
- Wednesday 9th May – Funeral at St Nicholas Church followed by committal at Godstone Burial Ground – Michael Smyth – 2 pm.
- Saturday 12th May – Build@Church at St Stephen's Church – 3.00 pm.

ST NICHOLAS Parish Breakfast

Enjoy sharing a meal and RAISING FUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID at the 11th Parish Breakfast – Sunday 6th May 2018 9.00 am in the Youth Centre.

Cost £5.00. £3.00 for children. ADDITIONAL DONATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN AID MOST WELCOME.

PLEASE SIGN THE LIST AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 13-19 2018

After over 30 years of organizing the annual collection for Godstone, with first Dot Rao and later Carol Carey in S. Godstone, we have found it increasingly difficult to find enough volunteer collectors. We will not be collecting from all roads anymore, however, if any of the faithful regulars would like to continue, we have envelopes and authorisation badges.

Another option is to simply deliver, leaving a close by return address. It would be helpful to identify someone in each road who could be the "return address". Please let us know if you could help in that way. There are other fund raising events planned for May and we hope you will be able to support them. People across the world will have their lives changed by your giving.

Rita Hale – 01883 743032 Carol Carey – 01342 893189

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

COLLECT

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ACTS 2.26-40

In Jerusalem, Stephen has been stoned to death for his faith. Persecution of Christians is so widespread that many have left the city. Philip the evangelist has visited Samaria, where he has found many eager to accept the good news and be baptised.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is the water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

JOHN 15.1-8

After the Last Supper, Jesus has given his followers a new commandment, that they love one another, just as he has loved, and loves, them. Now he probably has in mind the judgement on Judah is Isaiah 5: God has lovingly prepared a vineyard for the people, but the vines yielded "wild grapes", so God destroyed the vineyard.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

PRAYER LIST

St Nicholas – Caroline Pope, Archie Butler, Christian Schumacher, Daphne Hughes, David Collins. **St Stephens** - Mona Watkins, Claire McFetridge, Elaine Childs, Ron Harradine, David Snell, Jennifer & Gerry Marks, Barry Slade, Daphne Hodge, John Turnball. **St Johns** – Hugh Hunter, Julie & Jo Charlton, Peter Reed, Janice Reed, Tim Mundy. **The Benefice link with Rutendo in Zimbabwe.**

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Daphne Reed

Michael Smyth

