

Sunday 3rd December 2017 – The First 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 3rd 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 6th December

10.00 am St Mary's Chapel HC, BCP

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday 10th December – Joint Benefice service with Bishop Jonathan at St Stephen's School – 10.30 am
- Sunday 10th December – NO 10.30 am services at St Johns, St Nicholas and St Stephen's Church. (see above)
- Friday 15th December – Film Evening at St Stephens. 6pm 'Love Actually' and 8.30 pm 'Die Hard'. Cheese and Wine to be served at each film.
- Sunday 17th December – Nine Lessons and Carol Service at St Nicholas – 4.30 pm
- 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.

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

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**.

Music concert, **Tunes for a Tenner** held last Saturday was a great success. In excess of 100 people attended and an amazing figure of £1,600 was raised including a generous donation from Age Concern of £500. Wonderful comments of appreciation and everyone enjoyed the delicious food (given by several people from the congregation, many thanks to them) and wine or fruit juice.

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. 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 and these pictures may give some inspiration.

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.

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 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.

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 3rd December 2017

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1 CORINTHIANS 1.3-9

Paul has just begun his letter to the Christians at Corinth. He writes to those “called to be saints”, reminding them of the grace that has been given to them as they await the return of Christ.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened amongst you- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

MARK 13.24-37

After predicting the destruction of the Temple, Jesus is asked by Peter, James, John and Andrew when the end of the era will come and what will show that the end of the era is near. Our reading is the concluding part of his answer.

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and put the slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all; Keep awake.’

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; 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.**

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

John Lawton

Philip Demonte

Ruth Bonnell

