

Sunday 24th December 2017 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – CHRISTMAS EVE

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 24th December 2017

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
10.30 am St Nicholas HC, CW
4 pm St John's – Nativity
5 pm St Nicholas – Nativity
6 pm St Stephens – Nativity
11.30 pm St Stephens – Midnight Service
11.30 pm St Johns – Midnight Service
11.30 pm St Nicholas – Midnight Service

Readings: Romans 16..25-27, Luke 1.26-38

Communion on Wednesday 27th December

CANCELLED

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

Communion on Wednesday 3rd January

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY
9 am – Holy Communion CW at St Stephen's Church.
9.30 am – Family Service at St Nicholas Church
- Sunday 31st December – New Year's Eve
8 am – Holy Communion BCP at St Nicholas Church
10.30 am – United Benefice Service at St Johns Church
- Sunday 31st December – New Year' Eve – NO
10.30am services at St Nicholas and St Stephens.
- Saturday 6th January – Café Connect at St Nicholas Youth Centre raising money for Dementia First – 10.30 am – 12,30 pm. All welcome!
- Saturday 13th January – Build@Church at St Stephen's Church – 3 pm.

NOTICES

A WALKING BUS will leave from the Horse Pond opposite the White Hart at 4.45 **TODAY** for the Nativity at St Nicholas Church. It will leave the church approx. ½ hour after finish. Di Grose will be leading the bus! 742983.

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.**

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 24th December 2017

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ROMANS 16.25-27

Our reading is the closing words of Paul's letter. God has had a plan for salvation of all people since the beginning. It was only partially revealed in the Old Testament, and is now disclosed fully in Christ. It can strengthen us in our faith.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

LUKE 1.26-38

Zechariah has been told by an angel that his wife, Elizabeth, will bear a child in her old age. He will be named John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and will “turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Now the angel has another announcement to make.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The

angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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

Philip Demonte

Joy Bray

Valerie Millar

Claire Taylor

Tony Westall

Caroline Webster

