



**ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

## CHURCH NEWS

**St. Augustine's Church, Whitton, Hospital Bridge Road, Twickenham, TW2 6DE**

### Christmas Edition



#### Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

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### **Thought for Christmas and New Year**

I don't know how your journey towards Bethlehem this season has been. We are getting closer day by day and soon we will be greeting the Christ-child once again. We have journeyed with God and the prophets, following the star of Bethlehem, directing our feet towards our Saviour, accompanied by the shepherds and listening to the choir of heavenly angels singing God's praise.

Once again we stand in awe in front of the manger, reminding us of the greatest gift we can be given: Godself taking human form, being born as a vulnerable baby, into our broken bleeding world, to give us hope and light. To point to the hope and peace in Christ. Godself, who in the divine family, was forced to become a refugee in order for the world to live and us to be safe. Godself, naked, exposed and dependent on us and our love and care. Godself coming to us because of love. A love that is unconditional. A love that is greater than what we will ever be able to grasp. A love that lasts forever and ever.

A love free and available for everyone.

Rejoice! As the days of Christmas passes by, with whatever they will be filled with, open your heart and your home to Godself, coming to you, as the Christ-child, giving you God's love and life. And let God dwell with you and give you God's blessing and peace.

### **Prayer tree for Advent and Christmas**

This Advent and Christmas we have a Christmas tree at the front of the church, decorated with simple lights and nothing more. This tree is dedicated to our prayers, dreams and hopes for this season and beyond. Next to the tree there is a basket with cards and pens. Take time to sit down, write your prayer and hang it in the tree. Let this season be a season of prayer and reflection. Let God hold all your thoughts, dreams and worries in love and give you God's peace.

### **Evening Eucharists in Advent**

Every Tuesday evening during Advent there will be a simple, contemplative evening Eucharist in our Lady chapel. An opportunity to pause in the middle of the season's business.

Time: 7pm      Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December

### **Advent Course**

During Advent you are invited to join our Advent course, to prepare for the season of Christmas and the birth of our Lord. This year we will journey together with the women in the Nativity. It is an opportunity to focus on our relationship with God and each other, drawing from Biblical women's wisdom and experiences. Welcome to join us!

Time: 7pm      Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December

### **Church News on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Church News will not be published on 28<sup>th</sup> December and will be taking a break returning on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Sunday School and Messy Church**

Sunday school and Messy church take a Christmas break and will start again with everyone welcome to the all age Eucharist the 11th of January.

### **December Retiring Collection is for Crisis** - Sponsored by the Late Kay Alldridge

In 1966, 12 million people watched the drama Cathy Come Home on the BBC – the story of a young woman having her children ripped away from her after unemployment leads to homelessness. The public's reaction was staggering - the film makes headlines, MPs attend private viewings and a groundswell of public support leads to the creation of the homelessness charity Crisis by Bill Shearman a few months later in 1967 and at a candle-lit vigil the Sunday before Christmas of that year, attended by 3,000 people in Hyde Park, the event raised £7,000 for homelessness organisations working in the East End.

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. They help people out of homelessness and campaign for the changes needed to solve it altogether. Through their various services they support people out of homelessness for good. This is achieved through education, training and support with housing,

employment and health. They also carry out pioneering research into the causes and consequences of homelessness and campaign for the changes needed to end it for everyone, for good.

### **Retiring Collection for the Royal British Legion**

Thanks to your generosity, £77.40 was collected for the Poppy Appeal.

### **Retiring Collection for January**

This month's retiring collection is for the Motor Neurone Disease Association sponsored by Graham Dale

### **Christmas Card**

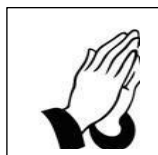
Christmas cards left in the post box in the church are sorted in surname alphabetical order and can be collected from the table in the right isle. .

### **Years Mind**

Please let Helen, Sue or Roubina know if you would like the name of your loved one read out at their anniversary.

### **St Augustine's Strollers Diary Dates for 2026**

St Augustine Church Strollers Group welcomes anyone who may enjoy walking and meeting new people. Strolling dates for the first half of 2026 are: January Weds 14<sup>th</sup> & Sat 31<sup>st</sup>, February Weds 11<sup>th</sup> & Sat 28<sup>th</sup>, March Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> & Sat 28<sup>th</sup>, April Weds 15<sup>th</sup> & Sat 25<sup>th</sup>, May Weds 13<sup>th</sup> & Sat 30<sup>th</sup>, June Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> & Sat 27<sup>th</sup>



### **Our Prayer and a blessing**

Lord, as we celebrate the birth of Christ, help us share His love and light with everyone. Unite our hearts in love, joy and peace. Bring your hope and light to our world. Amen

May the blessing of joy abide within you. May the blessing of peace rest upon you. May the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the blessing of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year. Amen.

### **Those who are sick and struggling:**

Jo Dale, Willem Cheng, Anne Newman, Lucy Brooks, Emily Adams, Ann Cadogan, Lyn Watts, Boyce & Millicent, Emma Piper, Joan Greening, Wyn Morris, Cheryl, Heather Woodworth, Connie Chingwaru Mike & Mavis Walter

### **Recently Departed:**

#### **This week we remember the anniversary of the death of**

- (21) Frank Bailey, Rosa Forby
- (22) John Gilbert, Gladys Finch (01)
- (23) Fred Benge, Edmund Gibbs (01), George Lynham (14)
- (24) Beryl Dowler, Maureen Ledger (08)
- (25) George Swann, Claire Griffin.
- (26) Leon Walkden (06)
- (27) Johanna King (92)
- (28) Roger Derry (90), Leslie Cockerill (69), Ivy Bezant (76), Kathleen Barnes (06), Reginald Hawkins (07), Robert Vernon (08)
- (29) Walter Joseph Percy (01), Terence Parsons (01), John Edser (22)
- (30) Yvonne Forey (09), Pamela Porter (10), Michael Warburg (20)
- (31) Doreen Wright (07)

### **January 2026**

- (1) Bernard Hart, Joan Hatton, Gerald Holford, Dennis Weber (07), Fred Hurlll (91), Elsie Hurlll (08), Barbara Wison (08), Stanley Richardson (12), Alan Hudson (18), Kay Claxton (23)
- (2) Francis Challis, John Merritt (05), Dell Hannam (17)

Diary Dates – At a Glance		
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10:00am	Parish Eucharist – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10:00am	Sunday School – Activity Sheet at the back of the church
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link <a href="#">Compline Zoom Link</a> or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	7:00 pm	Evening Eucharist in Advent
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	7.30 to 8.15pm	Advent Course - Women in the Nativity
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3:00 pm	Christingle Service
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:00 pm	Midnight Mass
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Eucharist
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec		No service will be held
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00am	Holy Innocents Day – Service of the Word
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link <a href="#">Compline Zoom Link</a> or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan		No service will be held
<b>2026</b>		
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	Parish Eucharist – Epiphany
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11:00am to 12:00pm	Quiet Space – Gold, myrrh and frankincense – Epiphany with Godly Play
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	Said Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00am	All Age Eucharist
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link <a href="#">Compline Zoom Link</a> or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer