

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON
SUNDAY 11th December 2022

Church NEWS

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

3rd Sunday of Advent



Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.

The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition that holds four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. Each Sunday symbolises one of the four Advent themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The wreath's circular shape and evergreen colour represent God's infinite and everlasting love for us.



**St Augustine's Church,
Whitton**

Vicar

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Hiring of Church Hall – contact
Sue Thornton

Charity number:
1134957

First Reading – Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading – James 5.7-10

Gospel Reading – Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Cornerstone – Next meeting on Tuesday 13th December @ 2:30pm

Cornerstone is an informal opportunity to meet together in our beautiful church over a cup of tea or coffee, to share experiences and to support each other. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm, and everyone is welcome to join.

The Strollers – Next Walk on Saturday 17th December; meet @ 9:45am at Whitton Station

Although there will be Train and Bus strikes this Saturday, the final walk of 2022 is still planned to take place with hopes of also including a sit-down lunch together. Please come to Whitton station for 9:45am where a plan for the walk will be devised based on the buses in operation, and don't bring a picnic lunch.

St Augustine Church Strollers Group welcomes anyone who may enjoy walking and meeting new people. We walk between 4 and 6 miles, aiming to include stops for coffee and lunch. We have members of differing ages and abilities, all of whom are welcome. *Please contact pdewinton@aol.com for further information.*

Youth Get Together (YGT) – Next meeting on Sunday 12th February @2.00pm

There will be no meeting during January as YGT has taken a break.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month the Youth (students from Year 6 to 13) meet at 2.00pm in the Church Hall for a time of fun, games, food (pizza!) and Prayer & Reflection. *For more information, please contact the vicar by email or phone.*

Junior and Youth Church Nativity – Saturday 17th December @4:00pm

The young people in our church will once again showcase the story of the birth of Jesus. Parents encourage your children to come on Sundays at 10.00am and there will be special rehearsals at 2.00pm on Sunday 11th December in the Church Hall. Pizza and drinks will be available on that day.

For enquiries please contact Martha (msakala07@yahoo.co.uk).



Churches Together in Whitton

The preparations for the Christmas Day lunch are underway and, once again, we need to ask for your help. Volunteers are needed on Christmas Eve at Ss Philip & James to prepare the hall. We will meet at 11.30am for about 1 hour (the more people that help the shorter the time required). On Christmas Day, we require people to help greet our guests and serve lunch. We also require drivers to transport the guests to and from the hall.

If you think you can help, please sign up on the lists at the back of the church or contact Roubina de Winton (roubinadewinton@gmail.com).

December Retiring Collection



Next month's retiring collection is for Crisis. Crisis is the nation's largest homeless charity dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness. They work directly with thousands of homeless people every year and provide vital help so that people can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness for good.

Every year Crisis at Christmas opens its doors to people who are homeless. Right now, thousands of people at the sharp end of poverty are at risk of being pushed into homelessness. As a national charity, Crisis offer much-needed warmth, healthcare, food and company to people experiencing homelessness across the UK.

Schools visit St Augustine's Church

Heathfield Junior School:

In the last two weeks St Augustine Church hosted the following events:

- Health School 30th November - 112 Year 4 pupils and 16 teachers visited to learn about how Christians worship and the different parts of the church and their use.
- Health School 8th December - 90 Year 3 pupils with 20 teachers and helpers visited to learn about Advent and the Christmas story.

The pupils displayed deep knowledge of the various aspects of the Church and how they are used as well as their understanding of the key features of Christmas and Advent and showed an inquisitive and critical thinking mind by the questions they asked. It was a privilege to have them.

Waldegrave Secondary School:

Waldegrave School had their first Christmas Carol service at St Augustine on 2nd December. 138 students performed in the three choirs and about 180 teachers and parents were in the congregation. The School's Head of Performing Arts and Music wrote afterwards, "Thank you so much for welcoming us into your church. It was such a lovely setting for our first carol service at Waldegrave."

We are expecting more Christmas Carol services from our local schools in the coming week.

Weekday Services

We regret to let you know that the Weekdays worship services held on Tuesday and Friday are temporary suspended until further notice.

Compline Service – Every Sunday @ 6pm

Join us for evening prayers in Church or via Zoom with the following details:

Meeting ID: 897 3613 1720 Passcode: 702310 ([Click here for the Zoom link](#))

For our Prayers



Peace and end of war in Ukraine and other places of conflict around the world.

Those who are sick and struggling: Jo Dale, Stella Cheng, Aiden Littrell, Jeremy Short, Rosemary Styles, Anne Hickmott, Sister Eileen Caple and Willem Cheng

Recently Departed: Sheila Marion Jones

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of: Ron Henson, Elsie Murphy, Joyce Horn, Paul Lucas, Annie Davies, Louise Gunter, Leslie Wookey, Cathrine Thring, Matthew Green, Donald Culling, Audrey Bassett, Blanche Maidwell, Winifred Adams, Kay Barnes, Robert Jenkinson, Gwen Harper, Howard James, William Brough, Eileen Berryman, Alan Sinclair and Kathleen Winter.

Diary Dates – December 2022 / January 2023

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Tue 13 th Dec | 2.30 pm | Cornerstone (in church) |
| Sat 17 th Dec | 9:45 am | Strollers Group Outing (meet @ Whitton Train Station) |
| Sun 18 th Dec | 10.00am | Parish Eucharist – 4 th Sunday of Advent (All Age/Family Service) |
| Sun 1 st Jan | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – Naming and Circumcision of Jesus |
| Sun 8 th Jan | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – Epiphany |
| Tue 10 th Jan | 2.30 pm | Cornerstone (in church) |
| Sun 15 th Jan | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany (All Age/Family Service) |
| Sun 22 nd Jan | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany |
| Sun 29 th Jan | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) |
| Sun 5 th Feb | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – 3 rd Sunday before Lent |
| Sun 12 th Feb | 10.00am 2.00 pm | Parish Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday before Lent YGT – Youth Get Together (@ Church Hall) |
| Tue 14 th Feb | 2.30 pm | Cornerstone (in church) |
| Sun 19 th Feb | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist – Sunday before Lent (All Age/Family Service) |

Diary Dates – Advent & Christmas 2022

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|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Sat 17 th Dec | 4.00 pm | Nativity Play |
| Sat 24 th Dec | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve) |
| Sun 25 th Dec | 10.00 am | Christmas Day Service |

10.00 am Service Duties for December 2022

| Date | Sidespersons | First Reading | Second Reading | Intercessions | Tea & Coffee |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 18/12/22 | Jayne F, Pauline C & Graham B | Family Service – Junior & Youth Church | | | Denzil D & Maria D |
| 24/12/22 | ————— | ————— | ————— | ————— | ————— |
| 25/12/22 | Rob D, Connie C & Frances T | Rob D | Alwyn W | Limbani K | ————— |

| Date | Screen & sound | MC | Crucifer | Acolyte 1 | Acolyte 2 |
|----------|----------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 18/12/22 | Alwyn W | Jane D | Charles D | Michael B | Christine H |
| 24/12/22 | Gill G | Jane D | Charles D | Michael B | Roubina d W |
| 25/12/22 | Limbani K | Jane D | Michael B | ————— | ————— |