



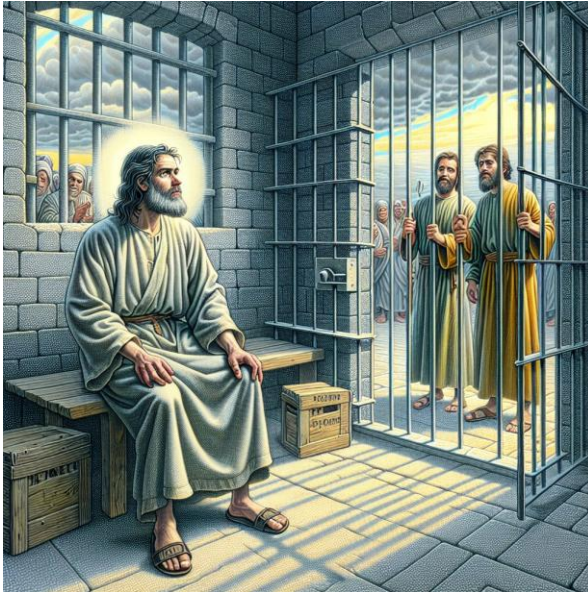
ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 14th December 2025

CHURCH NEWS

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

3rd Sunday of Advent



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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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1134957

Thought For the Week

The third week of Advent is a time of joy, a time of being thankful for all that has been given. The third Sunday of Advent is a day for celebration. But the Gospel text doesn't seem to be dripping with joy. Or is it? Perhaps we're not seeing it because we begin in jail. John was in prison because he spoke out against the behaviour of the people in power and now he was suffering for it and was starting to doubt. "Was I right that day at the river? Was that one really the hope of which I spoke?" John has one question about Jesus: "Are you the One who is or are we to wait for another?"

Prison can squeeze out the joy, the hope, the certainty, of a person. Prison can create doubt, insecurity and dim the glimpses of light.

We don't know whether the disciples of John went back with the news or not. We assume they did. We hope they did. And what they brought was joy.

Take time this week to reflect on your own prisons, what might cast shadows of doubt in your life. Invite God to shine God's light of hope and joy into your heart. Look out for the signs of God's presence around you.

Listen for the sound of laughter and hope, songs of peace and dances of joy. Use your imagination: Can you hear it? Can you see it? Can you feel it? Come and join them!

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 Dates: 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd 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: 7.30-8.15pm Dates: 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December

Churches Together in Whitton Christmas Day Lunch 2025

This year CTiW will be holding its annual Christmas Day Lunch at Ss. Philip & James Parish Hall.

As well as a traditional Christmas meal, the lunch aims to provide those otherwise on their own the opportunity to meet others and enjoy one another's company; the event is open to both individuals and couples.

If you or anyone you know would like to join us on Christmas Day or you require further information, please either contact CTiWChristmas@gmail.com, or speak to Rev. Helen or Roubina de Winton.

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.

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 to the right of the Christmas tree.

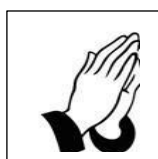
November Retiring Collection

We have remitted the sum of £186.05 to NSPCC following our November retiring collection. Thank you for your generosity.

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 14th & Sat 31st, February Weds 11th & Sat 28th
March Thurs 12th & Sat 28th, April Weds 15th & Sat 25th, May Weds 13th & Sat 30th, June Thurs 11th & Sat 27th



Our Prayers

God of all Creation, may we know the greatest joy in the love you hold for us and that we, in turn, hold for one another. May all of those who suffer from pain, loneliness, fear, and despair find joy in the promise of your light and life. May we become beacons of joy to all those around us in a world that aches for peace. Amen

Years Mind

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

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

(14) Audrey Bassett (79), Blanche Maidwell, Winifred Adams (01), Kay Barnes (06)

(15) Robert Jenkinson (05)

(16) Gwen Harper (84), Howard James, William Brough (01), Eileen Berryman (07), Alan Sinclair (08)

(17) Kathleen Winter

(18) Jack Munday

(19) Alice Wheatley, Annie Robbins, George and Vera Stevens, Kevin King (13)

(20) Annie Hankey, Percy Tisdall (81), William Woodcock (10), Jacqueline McGirr (14)

Diary Dates – At a Glance		
Sun 14 th Dec	10:00am	All Age Eucharist – 3 rd Sunday of Advent
Sun 14 th Dec	5:00pm	Evening Prayers online – Please note the changed time Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Sun 14 th Dec	6:30pm	Christmas Carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine
Tues 16 th Dec	7:00 pm	Evening Eucharist in Advent
Tues 16 th Dec	7.30 to 8.15pm	Advent Course - Women in the Nativity
Fri 19 th Dec	10:00am	Said Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sun 21 st Dec	10:00am	Parish Eucharist – 4 th Sunday of Advent
Sun 21 st Dec	10:00am	Sunday School – Activity Sheet at the back of the church
Sun 21 st Dec	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 23 rd Dec	7:00 pm	Evening Eucharist in Advent
Tues 23 rd Dec	7.30 to 8.15pm	Advent Course - Women in the Nativity
Wed 24 th Dec	3:00 pm	Christingle Service
Wed 24 th Dec	11:00 pm	Midnight Mass
Thurs 25 th	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Eucharist
Fri 26 th Dec		No service will be held
Sun 28 th Dec	10:00am	Parish Eucharist
Sun 28 th Dec	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Fri 2 nd Jan		No service will be held