

# ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## CHURCH NEWS

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent



#### The Testimony of John the Baptist

“John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’

– John 1.26-28

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**

The Revd Canon John Kafwanka

[vicarofstaugustinewhitton@aol.com](mailto:vicarofstaugustinewhitton@aol.com)

07407 246686

020 8894 0848

#### **Junior & Youth ministry**

Martha, Pat S, Sian, Taro,  
Analyn & Hildah

#### **Safeguarding Officer**

Gill Gooding

07743 708379

[gill.gooding@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gill.gooding@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Church Wardens**

Roubina de Winton

07932 526 946

[roubinadewinton@gmail.com](mailto:roubinadewinton@gmail.com)

Sue Thornton

07939 129293

[suethornton101@gmail.com](mailto:suethornton101@gmail.com)

#### **General details**

[staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com](mailto:staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com)

[www.st-augustine-of-canterbury-whitton.org](http://www.st-augustine-of-canterbury-whitton.org)

Hiring of Church Hall – contact  
Sue Thornton

Charity number:  
1134957

## First Reading – Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end

## Second Reading – 1 Thessalonian 5.16-24



## Gospel Reading – John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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## Junior and Youth Church Nativity – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December @ 4.00pm

The young people in our church have been working hard to once again showcase the story of the birth of Jesus. The show promises to be a joyful and heartwarming celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Nativity is an annual event performed by our young people and held at our church. We would be delighted to have you with us and show support for these talented young individuals. Let's all come together and rejoice in the joyous occasion of Jesus' birth!



*For enquiries, please contact Martha ([msakala07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msakala07@yahoo.co.uk)).*

## Prayer and Reflection – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January @ 11.00am – 12.00pm

This date is only for this January, all other monthly meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month at 11.00am, in church. People take turns to lead in quiet reflections to deepen our spiritual life and Christian journey. Everyone is welcome.

*For more information, please contact the vicar by email or phone.*

**Cornerstone – Next meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January @ 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.

**Youth Get Together (YGT) – Next meeting on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January @ 12.00pm**

Youth and young people (students from Year 5 to 13) are invited to meet 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.*

**Strollers – Next Walk on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

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, as we aim for fellowship combined with mild exercise in pleasant surroundings. *For further information, please contact [pdewinton@aol.com](mailto:pdewinton@aol.com).*

**Messy Church – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January @ 10.00am – 12.00pm**

Messy Church brings together children (age 0-8) and their parents every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month for a time of fun, art, games, bible stories, sing-along, and food. It affords opportunity for both children and adults to interact with other families.

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**Churches Together in Whitton**

Preparations for the annual Christmas Day lunch for people who live alone are underway.

Volunteers are needed on Christmas Eve at Ss Philip & James to prepare the hall at midday for 1 hour (the more people that help the shorter the time required). Volunteers are also needed on Christmas Day to help greet the guests and serve lunch, and drivers to transport the guests to and from the hall.

*Please sign up on the lists at the back of the church to volunteer or contact Roubina de Winton – email: [roubinadewinton@gmail.com](mailto:roubinadewinton@gmail.com) or phone: 07932526946.*

**Home Groups**

Home Groups provide an opportunity and a safe space to; explore the Bible and other issues together, explore those questions of faith we wanted to ask, grow in our faith journey and understanding of God's purpose for the world, get to know other people, and invite friends and anyone who may be seeking to know more about Christian faith.

- Wednesday Home Group with Fiona & John (@7.00pm) will meet next in January 2024 (TBC).
- Friday Home Group with Alwyn Williams (@ 11.00am) will meet next on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

*For further details and to sign up, contact Fr John on:*

*WhatsApp Number +44 7407 246686 or email: [vicarofstaugustinewhitton@aol.com](mailto:vicarofstaugustinewhitton@aol.com)*

## 12 Day Reflections for Christmas and New Year

From Christmas Eve to 5th January this booklet provides an opportunity to reflect on Christmas and the experience of Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, and the Magi.

Pick up a book from the back of the church at £1.50.



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## December Retiring Collection – 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.

*For more information visit [crisis.org.uk](http://crisis.org.uk).*

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## Worship Services

- Sunday @ 10am – Holy Communion Service, includes Junior and Youth Church
- Sunday @ 6pm – Evening Prayers (Compline via Zoom)  
*Meeting ID: 837 7674 9724 Passcode: 186213 ([Click here for the Zoom link](#))*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month @ 10am – Family and All Age Holy Communion Service
- Friday @10am – Holy Communion Service

## For our Prayers



Peace and end of war in Israel-Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and other places of conflict around the world.

Those who are sick and struggling: Jo Dale, Jeremy Short, Anne Hickmott, Willem Cheng, Richard and Theresa Scriven, Anne Newman, Joan Greening, Emily Adams, Lucy Brooks, Chris Frazer, John Burbidge and Mavis Walter.

Recently Departed: Freya Holloway

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of: Kathleen Winter, Jack Munday, Alice Wheatley, Annie Robbins, George and Vera Stevens, Kevin King, Annie Hankey, Percy Tidall, William Woodcock, Jacqueline McGirr, Frank Bailey, Rosa Forby, John Gilbert, Gladys Finch, Fred Benge, Edmund Gibbs and George Lynham.

### Diary Dates – December 2023 & January 2024

Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – Epiphany of the Lord
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am – 12pm 2.30 pm	Prayer and Reflection Cornerstone (in church)
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am - 12pm	Messy Church
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Parish Eucharist – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany YGT – Youth Get Together (Church Hall)
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	TBC	Strollers Group Outing
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany (All Age/Family Service)
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	TBC	Strollers Group Outing

### Diary Dates – Advent & Christmas 2023

Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Christmas Carols by Candlelight
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	4.00 pm	Nativity Play
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service

### Service Duties for December 2023

	<u>17/12/23</u>	<u>24/12/23</u> (10.00am)	<u>24/12/23</u> (11.00pm)	<u>25/12/23</u> (Christmas)
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Jayne, Pauline & Graham	Rob, Connie, Frances	_____	_____
<b>First Reading</b>	Family Service – Junior & Youth Church	Sue	Ben	Martha
<b>Second Reading</b>		Jane	John	Limbani
<b>Intercessions</b>		Roubina	Fiona	TBC
<b>Screen &amp; sound</b>	Gill	Mwila	Alwyn	Mwila
<b>MC</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Crucifer</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Acolyte 1</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Acolyte 2</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	Rene, Marie & Pauline	Sue, Margaret & Pat	_____	_____