

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON
Monthly Edition – Sunday 3rd December 2023

CHURCH NEWS

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

December 2023: Monthly Edition



The Coming of the Son of Man

“Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.” – Mark 13.26-27

The 1st 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

The Revd Canon John Kafwanka

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

Church Wardens

Roubina de Winton
07932 526 946
roubinadewinton@gmail.com

Sue Thornton
07939 129293
suethornton101@gmail.com

General details

staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com

www.st-augustine-of-canterbury-whitton.org

Hiring of Church Hall – contact
Sue Thornton

Charity number:
1134957

December 2023 Readings

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
03/12/23	Isaiah 64.1-9	1 Corinthians 1.3-9	Mark 13.24-37
10/12/23	Isaiah 40.1-11	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1-8
17/12/23	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end	1 Thessalonian 5.16-24	John 1.6-8, 19-28
24/12/23	Samuel 7.1-11, 16	Romans 16.25-27	Luke 1.26-38
31/12/23	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.15-21

A Word from the Vicar

Advent often seems to suddenly almost without warning! It feels the same this year.

As we approach the holiday season, many of us will be busy buying gifts, wrapping them, and writing cards to send out, whether physically or electronically, and of course, preparing meals to be shared on Christmas Day. But we must not lose sight of the real thing, the true meaning of Advent. This is a period of waiting and a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the anniversary celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, and also to prepare for his Second Coming. We should strive to live daily with the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts and actions.

Therefore, let us look out with a generous heart for those in our community who are more vulnerable. Let us also nourish our spiritual hearts by participating in the various Advent activities that will culminate in the Christmas celebrations on the eve and Christmas Day itself.

With my prayers for a blessed Advent season.

Prayer and Reflection – Tuesday 5th December @ 11.00am – 12.00pm

This is a monthly meeting which takes place in the church on the first Tuesday of every month at 11.00am, for an hour. 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.

Youth Get Together (YGT) – Next meeting on Sunday 10th December @ 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.*

Cornerstone – Next meeting on Tuesday 12th 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.

Strollers – Next Walk on Saturday 16th December

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.*

Messy Church – Saturday 16th December 2023 @ 10.00am – 12.00pm

Messy Church brings together children (age 0-8) and their parents every 3rd 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.

Junior and Youth Church Nativity – Saturday 23rd December @ 4.00pm

The young people in our church are once again to showcase the story of the birth of Jesus. Parents are asked to encourage their children to come on Sunday 10th December at 10.00am and stay for rehearsals in church immediately after the service. Pizza and drinks will be provided.



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

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 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 December on the 6th and 20th.
- Friday Home Group with Alwyn Williams (@ 11.00am) will meet next in December on the 15th.

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

WhatsApp Number +44 7407 246686 or email: 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.



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](https://www.crisis.org.uk).

Worship Services

- Sunday @ 10am – Holy Communion Service, includes Junior and Youth Church
- Sunday @ 6pm – Evening Prayers (Compline via Zoom)
Meeting ID: 897 3613 1720 Passcode: 702310 ([Click here for the Zoom link](#))
- 3rd 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.

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of: Frederick Stark, Rhys Thomas, Kathleen Wye, Jean Hawkins, Arthur Randall, Maurice Ockendon, Terry Turner, Les Heppenstall, Mimi Every, Arthur Pullen, Donald Ratcliffe, Maurice Hutchins, Alex Ferguson, Gladys May, John Holden, Gilbert Hole, Laurence Turner, Dorothy Tompkins, Beryl Weber, John Symonds and Mollie Stiles.

Diary Dates – December 2023		
Tue 5 th Dec	10am - 12pm	Prayer and Reflection
Sun 10 th Dec	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Parish Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday of Advent YGT – Youth Get Together (Church Hall)
Tue 12 th Dec	2.30 pm	Cornerstone (in church)
Sat 16 th Dec	TBC 10am - 12pm	Strollers Group Outing Messy Church
Sun 17 th Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 3 rd Sunday of Advent (All Age/Family Service)
Sun 24 th Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 4 th Sunday of Advent
Sun 31 st Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 1 st Sunday after Christmas
Diary Dates – Advent & Christmas 2023		
Sun 3 rd Dec	6.30 pm	Advent Carols
Sun 17 th Dec	6.30 pm	Christmas Carols by Candlelight
Sat 23 rd Dec	4.00 pm	Nativity Play
Sun 24 th Dec	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
Mon 25 th Dec	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service

10.00 am Service Duties for December 2023				
	<u>03/12/23</u>	<u>10/12/23</u>	<u>17/12/23</u>	<u>24/12/23</u>
Sidespersons	Gill & Beryl	Vicki, Hilda, Gerald	Jayne, Pauline & Graham	Rob, Connie, Frances
First Reading	Michael	Dhanani	Family Service – Junior & Youth Church	TBC
Second Reading	Fiona	Bob		TBC
Intercessions	Fiona	Dina		TBC
Screen & sound	Alwyn	Pauline	Gill	TBC
MC	_____	_____	_____	_____
Crucifer	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acolyte 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acolyte 2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tea & Coffee	Kathy, Frances & Sue	Denzil & Maria	Rene, Marie & Pauline	Sue, Margaret & Pat