

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 31st December 2023

CHURCH NEWS

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

1st Sunday of Christmas



The Shepherds and the Angels

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

– Luke 2.20

During the Christmas season, we celebrate the mystery of God coming to live among humanity as Jesus, the saviour promised by the prophets of the Old Testament. The readings invite us to look beyond the joy of Jesus’ birth to the significance of his life and the saving power of his future death and resurrection.

There are many joyful customs and traditions we use to mark Christmas; carols, cribs, decorations, and special foods, that are shared with and enjoyed by millions of people across the world. The season of Christmas lasts for 12 days, ending with the feast of Epiphany on the 6th of January.



**St Augustine’s Church,
Whitton**

Vicar

The Revd Canon John Kafwanka

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Junior & Youth ministry

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Hiring of Church Hall – contact
Sue Thornton

Charity number:
1134957

First Reading – Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Reading – Galatians 4.4-7

Gospel Reading – Luke 2.15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Prayer and Reflection – Tuesday 9th 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 9th 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 14th 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 16th 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.*

Messy Church – Saturday 20th January @ 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.

Vicar on Leave

The vicar will be on leave from 1st – 12th January 2024. *For any pastoral needs please contact the Church Wardens (contact details on Page 1).*

Junior and Youth Church Nativity Play

On Saturday 24th December, we were fortunate enough to witness an outstanding Nativity play put on by our talented youth. We are incredibly thankful to our Junior and Youth Church as well as their leaders for their hard work in organizing this event and making it a success. We extend a big thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and support our young performers.



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 Wolsoncroft (@7pm) will meet on the following dates:
 - January – 10th & 24th
 - February – 14th & 28th
 - March – 13th & 27th
- Friday Home Group with Alwyn Williams (@ 11am) will meet on the following dates:
 - January – 5th & 19th
 - February – 2nd & 16th

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: 837 7674 9724 Passcode: 186213 ([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, John Burbidge and Mavis Walter.

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of: Doreen Wright, Dennis Weber, Fred Hurl, Elsie Hurl, Barbara Wilson, Stanley Richardson, Alan Hudson, Kaye Claxton, Francis Challis, John Merritt, Dell Hannan, Winifred Wenham, Ada Elder, Georgina Hickling, Ernest Hoare, Alice Denham, Marjorie Holmes, Pam Roe, Jacqueline Rogers, Rosina Thompson, Peter Wright, Enid Long, Eva Stanley, Ada Davies, Gladys Saytch, Zena Mayne and Malcolm McKay.

Diary Dates – January 2024		
Sun 7 th Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – Epiphany of the Lord
Tue 9 th Jan	10am – 12pm	Prayer and Reflection
	2.30 pm	Cornerstone (in Church)
	7.00 pm	Standing Committee Meeting
Sat 20 th Jan	10am - 12pm	Messy Church
Sun 14 th Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany
	12.00 pm	YGT – Youth Get Together (in Church Hall)
Tue 16 th Jan	TBC	Strollers Group Outing
	7.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Thu 18 th Jan – Wed 24 th Jan	————	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Diary Dates – Lent & Easter 2024		
Wed 14 th Feb	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun 24 th Mar	10.00 am	Palm Sunday Service
Mon 25 th Mar – Wed 27 th Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Week – Way of the Cross
Thu 28 th Mar	7.00 pm	Holy Week – Maundy Thursday Liturgy (includes washing of feet)
Fri 29 th Mar	11.00 am	CTiW Walk of Witness
	2.00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy (includes Veneration of the cross)
Sun 31 st Mar	6.00 am	Easter Vigil – Service of Light @ Dawn w/ breakfast
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – Easter Sunday

10.00 am Service Duties for December 2023 & January 2024				
	<u>31/12/23</u>	<u>07/01/24</u>	<u>14/01/24</u>	<u>21/01/23</u>
Sidespersons	Gill & Beryl	————	————	————
First Reading	Gerald	Kathy	Alwyn	Family Service – Junior & Youth Church
Second Reading	Patricia	Jane	Gill	
Intercessions	Alwyn	Roubina	Patricia	
Screen & sound	Pauline	Alwyn	Limbani	Gill
Tea & Coffee	Jack, Clare, Barbara & Hilda	————	————	————