

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 24th December 2023

CHURCH NEWS

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

4th Sunday of Advent



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

“And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

– Luke 1.31-33

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

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Junior & Youth ministry

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

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Hiring of Church Hall – contact
Sue Thornton

Charity number:
1134957

First Reading – 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Second Reading – Romans 16.25-27

Gospel Reading – Luke 1.26-38



A Word from the Vicar

Advent has been a busy period, and we give thanks to God for the opportunity to welcome so many people to the various worship services we have hosted during Advent.

Along with Advent Carols, the beautiful Carols by Candlelight, and the magnificent Nativity Play by our young people on Saturday 23rd December, we have hosted three school Christmas carols: Waldegrave (8 December), Heathfield (12 December) and Bishop Perrin (21 December) - all telling powerfully the story of the coming of the Emmanuel, the Prince of peace in the world and our lives. Over one thousand people (children and adults combined) attended these services in our church.

Christmas is God's way of expressing his love for the world, through the birth of Jesus, the redeemer of the world. May we all be filled with a sense of gratitude and a spirit of generosity in our celebrations.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and blessed New Year.

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

This past Saturday, 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.

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, Chris Frazer, John Burbidge and Mavis Walter.

Recently Departed: Geoffrey Samuel and Tony McGeorge.

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of: Beryl Dowler, Maureen Ledger, George Swann, Claire Griffin, Leon Walkden, Johanna King, Roger Derry, Leslie Cockerill, Ivy Bezant, Kathleen Barnes, Reginald Hawkins, Robert Vernon, Walter Percy, Terence Parsons, John Edser, Yvonne Forey, Pamela Porter and Michael Warburg.

Diary Dates – December 2023 & January 2024		
Sun 31 st Dec	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 1 st Sunday after Christmas
Sun 7 th Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – Epiphany of the Lord
Tue 9 th Jan	10am – 12pm 2.30 pm 7.00 pm	Prayer and Reflection Cornerstone (in church) Standing Committee Meeting
Sat 20 th Jan	10am - 12pm	Messy Church
Sun 14 th Jan	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Parish Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany YGT – Youth Get Together (Church Hall)
Tue 16 th Jan	TBC 7.00 pm	Strollers Group Outing PCC Meeting
Thu 18 th Jan – Wed 24 th Jan	————	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun 21 st Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany Week of Prayer of Christian Unity <i>(All Age/Family Service)</i>
Sat 27 th Jan	TBC	Strollers Group Outing
Sun 28 th Jan	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 4 th Sunday of Epiphany
Sun 4 th Feb	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist – 5 th Sunday of Epiphany (Presentation of our Lord)
Diary Dates – Advent & Christmas 2023		
Sun 24 th Dec	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
Mon 25 th Dec	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service

Service Duties for December 2023				
	<u>24/12/23</u> (10.00am)	<u>24/12/23</u> (11.00pm)	<u>25/12/23</u> (Christmas)	<u>31/12/23</u>
Sidespersons	Rob, Connie, Frances	————	————	Gill & Beryl
First Reading	Sue	Ben	Martha	Gerald
Second Reading	Jane	John	Limbani	Patricia
Intercessions	Roubina	Fiona	TBC	Alwyn
Screen & sound	Mwila	Alwyn	Mwila	Pauline
Tea & Coffee	Sue, Margaret & Pat	————	————	Jack, Clare, Barbara & Hilda