

- 25th November Christmas Fair 11am – 3pm
 30th November Premises Committee meeting
 2nd December Working Morning
 17th December Carol Service

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Website: www.ststephensnth.co.uk

St Stephen's Church, Warwick Road, Thornton Heath CR7 7NH

Vicar: Vacant vicar@ststephensnth.co.uk

Priest with PTO: Canon Joyce Forbes SCP vicar@ststephensnth.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Andrea Anderson wardens@ststephensnth.co.uk

Lana Ruddock wardens@ststephensnth.co.uk

SPA/Hospital chaplaincy:

Aileen Ross aileenross37@btinternet.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Coral Martin treasurer@ststephensnth.co.uk

Church Hall bookings: Kester O'Connor & Iona Ashley-Nelson

07712473241

Safeguarding: Lana Ruddock and Sara Keene

Please take this notice sheet away with you. There are copies available to give to a friend or neighbour who is not able to be in church. There is an electronic copy available just give Andrea Anderson your email address.

Items for the newsletter should be notified to

wardens@ststephensnth.co.uk by Thursday morning.

Tel. 020 8684 3820. Email: vicar@ststephensnth.co.uk

St Stephen Norbury & Thornton Heath Newsletter

19th November 2023

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Readings: Zephaniah 1:7,12-end

Psalm 90:1-8

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

THIS WEEK

Today	10am Eucharist	Rev'd Dr Alun Ford
Wednesday	10am Eucharist	Father Grant
Saturday	10am Eucharist	Mother Roxanne
Sunday	10am Eucharist	Mother Angela

OUR TWIN PARISHES IN ZIMBABWE AND THE USA We are twinned with St Mark's, Patchway and St Luke's, Chakari in the diocese of Central Zimbabwe. We will pray regularly for Fr Taurayi Kaerezi and his people. Please pray, too, for the Episcopal parish of Grace in Chicago, and the Archdiocese of Jerusalem.

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH This month we are praying for all who live in Ederline Avenue and St Christophers Gardens. Our thanks to Helen Doe who carries out this important ministry. As we pray those who live in our parish, it's good to use our own gifts and personal contacts to invite our neighbours to come to St Stephens for a visit or a service. A personal invitation is the most effective form of evangelism. Is there a friend or neighbour, or family member just waiting to be asked?

THE BREAD AND WINE Is sponsored this week in celebration of Sheldon's birthday. For £5.00 the elements can be dedicated to a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Please speak to Andrea Anderson if you would like to book a dedication.

VACANCY INFORMATION During the vacancy we will move from 5 services a week to 3, however there will be an additional 8am service on the first Sunday of the month. Mtr Joyce has taken the majority of services and will be supported by other clergy.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND BLESSINGS As always, bookings can be made in person between 10.30 and 11.30 on Saturday mornings in church. Other times can be arranged. To check on preliminaries (especially charges for weddings) go to our website www.ststephensnth.co.uk for all the relevant information. The news from the House of Bishops changes nothing, alas,

beyond providing some additional prayers for same sex couples. **From now on all enquiries and bookings should be made through Mother Joyce.**

CHRISTMAS FAIR. Please support the Christmas fair which is the last fundraising event for 2023. There is a list at the back of church for cake makers to donate a cake to the cake stall. Please donate a bottle of something nice to our drinks trolley that was a great success last year and any good quality items that can go towards our brick-a-brac, raffle or tombola would be greatly appreciated. Please tell neighbors and friends there should be lots for the whole family.

CHOIR PRACTICE will take place after the service on Sundays. Kester and Andrew will be leading the practice. The choir will sing at the Christmas Carol Service on 17th December 2023.

STEWARDSHIP As we continue to be challenged by rising costs, please take some time to prayerfully consider your current contributions to St Stephens and decide whether you are able to increase your giving. Please complete your form to enable the treasurer to update our records and in particular claim gift aid from your contribution.

FOOD BANK. Thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank. All food and toiletries are greatly received. Donations can be placed in the food box at the back of church or left in the vicarage porch. All donations go to Winterbourne Infant School. If you would like to give a financial gift please see Aileen Ross.

A BIG THANK YOU from Oscar for the £50.50 St Stephen's raised towards his fundraising walk. In total he raised £2,167.00 for the Terrence Higgins Trust.

PRIEST COVER Saturday 18th November – Mother Roxanne

TEA & COFFEE is served in the hall after service. Please do come and join us.