

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16<sup>th</sup> December

4pm Christmas Carols

## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Website:** [www.ststephensnth.co.uk](http://www.ststephensnth.co.uk)

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

**Vicar:** Fr Geoffrey Thompson SCP (Not available Mondays)

**Assistant Priest:** Canon Joyce Forbes SCP

### Churchwardens:

Andrea Anderson      [msequinox@msn.com](mailto:msequinox@msn.com)

Hazel Pudney          [hazelpudney69@gmail.com](mailto:hazelpudney69@gmail.com)

### SPAs:

Aileen Ross [aileenross37@btinternet.com](mailto:aileenross37@btinternet.com)

Teresa Addison [taddison01@hotmail.com](mailto:taddison01@hotmail.com)

Yvonne Trotman

**Church Hall bookings:** Iona Nelson-Ashley - 020 8679 3401

**Safeguarding:** Hazel Pudney and Maxine Cooper

**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 should you wish to save some trees!

**Items for the newsletter should be notified to Fr Geoffrey by Thursday morning.**

Tel. 020 8684 3820. Email: [gtchurch@waitrose.com](mailto:gtchurch@waitrose.com)

# St Stephen Norbury & Thornton Heath

## Newsletter

9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

|             |        |                  |
|-------------|--------|------------------|
| TODAY       | 8am    | EUCCHARIST       |
|             | 10am   | SUNG EUCCHARIST  |
| TUESDAY     | 7.30am | EUCCHARIST       |
| WEDNESDAY   | 10am   | EUCCHARIST       |
| SATURDAY    | 10am   | EUCCHARIST       |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 8am    | SAID EUCCHARIST  |
|             | 10am   | SUNG EUCCHARIST  |
|             | 4pm    | CHRISTMAS CAROLS |

**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 – part of our sister Church in the US led by Bishop Michael Curry.

**PRAYING FOR THE PARISH** This month we are praying for all who live in Craignish Avenue and Nutfield Road. Our thanks to Helen Doe who faithfully delivers prayer cards to our streets month by month. This is an important act of evangelism.

**THE BREAD AND WINE** The elements this week are sponsored by Tracy Chiyangwa in remembrance of her mother, Rebecca. It costs £5 per week to sponsor the elements to mark a special occasion or to remember a loved one. Please speak to Fr Geoffrey to book.

**WELCOMERS NEEDED** We all share the ministry of welcome to friends, visitors and newcomers but we have a dedicated group of welcomers who stand at the door on Sunday mornings before the 10am Mass. If this is something you'd like to try please speak to Fr Geoffrey or to Juliana Smith.

**THE PILGRIM COURSE** The dates are: 9<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February. Subject: The Beatitudes – what do they mean and how they transform our lives.

**VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** Here at St Stephen's we have, in addition to the clergy, a pastoral team ready to give a listening ear, provide company and to bring the Blessed Sacrament. BUT the clergy need to know if you or a friend, neighbour or family member is in need.

**THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL** This list has to be updated every few years which means that EVERYONE has to fill in a new form or otherwise not be counted any more. Forms are at the back of church. Being on the electoral roll means you have the right to vote in parish elections.

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER** The parish newsletter is ready for distribution. As always we need to make distribution a priority task; an important act of outreach as every house in the parish receives news and information about St Stephen's. If you think we have something to shout about in our worship and our life together this is a great way of helping to spread that good news. Our thanks to all who have taken and delivered newsletters but there are still some important streets left out in the cold.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Preparations for the carol service and Midnight Mass continue at 11.30am this Sunday. All are welcome to join our merry band of Angel Voices. Being able to read music is helpful but not essential. What you really need is enthusiasm and a smile! Practice will last for just under an hour. If you have any questions please speak to Hazel Pudney.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH SURVEY** St Stephen's has been marking this important time for some years now. The organisers would like our opinion on this year's commemoration of the Windrush and NHS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and so have prepared a short questionnaire for us to fill in. This will help them reflect on what has been done and how plans for future celebrations might be formed.

**CAROLS AT CUH** The Christ Chamber Choir representing St Stephen's and the Nurses Association of Jamaica will accompany the Mayor of Croydon in singing carols at Croydon University Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Join them between 2.30 and 5pm.

**AND CAROLS AT ST STEPHEN'S** Remember to invite a friend to join you at 4pm on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The service is followed by Christmassy refreshments. We are looking for mini mince pies and other sweet finger foods. You can bring them on the day.

**CONGREGATION XMAS CARDS** The box for our cards is now at the back of church. Final collection is next Sunday (16<sup>th</sup>).

