

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th May 7.30pm

Mass of Ascension Day

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Website: www.ststephensnth.co.uk

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

Vicar: Fr Geoffrey Riba-Thompson SCP

Assistant Priest: Canon Joyce Forbes SCP

Churchwardens:

Andrea Anderson msequinox@msn.com

Lana Ruddock lanaruddock@gmail.com

SPA: Aileen Ross aileenross37@btinternet.com

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 just give Fr Geoffrey your email address.

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

Tel. 020 8684 3820. Email: ststephens@fastmail.uk

St Stephen Norbury &

Thornton Heath

Newsletter

2nd MAY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings Acts 8.26-40, Psalm 22.25-31,

1 John.4.7-21, John 15.1-8

THIS WEEK

Today	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday	10am	Eucharist
Saturday	10am	Eucharist
Next Sunday	10am	Eucharist

Names of individuals to be prayed for should be sent to Fr Geoffrey.

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.

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH This month we are praying for all who live in Goston Gardens and London Road.

THE CHURCH HALL The main work on the creation of the disabled lavatory and shower facilities has been completed. The entire space has been redecorated. The kitchen is now complete and other decorative work carried out. It's looking good!

THE BREAD AND WINE Please contact Fr Geoffrey if you want to sponsor the elements.

WALSINGHAM We have rebooked for the weekend of 10th – 12th September. The Shrine hopes to be taking full pilgrim groups by September. This means that we might be reopening bookings in the coming weeks. Many of you kindly donated your deposits to St Stephen's last year so I will be taking bookings afresh once we get the go ahead from Walsingham.

FROM THE TREASURER This week I thought I would share a few highlights from my financial report to the APCM: The financial year of 2020 produced a deficit of £41,986 due primarily to the ongoing Church Hall refurbishment. For 2021 we budgeted for a deficit of £21,487 the aim was for a balanced budget where Income = Expenditure with the caveat that the deficit represents the outstanding budgeted refurbishment money. However, based on the Q1 data and other information to hand I am currently forecasting a deficit of £27,572 this is due almost entirely to the Hall overspend. To date we have spent £118,025 on the project & in 2021 we have already spent £29,686 compared to the budgeted £21,487 an overspend of £8,199 – we still need your financial support to complete the work. Since the launch in March 2020, we have received £9,962 via our Just Giving pages, however Simba informs me he is still awaiting his first donation as Face of the Plate. My forecast for Planned Giving this year is £46,195 and in Q1 we

received £10,587. We have 94 scheme members of whom 55 give by Standing Order – please do continue to return your forms to me.

THIS PRESENT TIME The new pattern of public worship is now in place. On Sundays the 10am Mass is open for public attendance although booking remains necessary. The low masses at 10am on Wednesdays and Saturdays do not require booking. Once numbers justify it we will look into restoring the 8am Mass on Sundays.

BERNARD MITZEKI The icon of St Bernard Mitzeke has at last arrived. It's a beautiful piece of original art. St Bernard was born in Portuguese East Africa but converted to the Faith by the Anglican "Cowley Fathers" in Cape Town. He was martyred in 1896 during a tribal uprising and is venerated throughout central Africa – especially so by the Mothers Union.

PERMANENT LIVESTREAMING St Stephen's has invested in a fixed wi-fi /camera link that enables us to livestream services permanently. Our thanks to Oscar Riba-Thompson and Simon Lewis for researching and helping to execute this important development.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS The COVID restrictions have made the problems of those who struggle with food insecurity ever more difficult. Please continue to give tinned and dried goods and toiletries as often as you can. Items can be left at the back of church or in the vicarage porch. Since Nirojan's death the volume of good donated has fallen significantly. Let's plug the gap!

CONFIRMATION The service planned for 6th February was, as expected, cancelled. The bishop will fix a new date once the situation with the pandemic becomes clearer and more settled.

LINK FOR LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP Click here to join the Sunday 10am Mass. You don't need to be on Facebook to establish the link.
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephensNTH/live/>.

