

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th January

PCC (online) 7.30pm

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

10th January

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Readings: Genesis 1.1-5, Psalm 29

Acts 19.1-7, Mark 1.4-11

THIS WEEK

Today	10am	Eucharist
Next Sunday	10am	Eucharist

The church is open from Tuesdays to Saturdays between 9am and 11am. A priest is always present.

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. You can see more about Grace if you follow the link at the foot of the first page on the parish website www.ststephensnth.co.uk

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH This month we are praying for all who live in Beverstone Road and Heathview Road. In view of current uncertainties we won't be resuming card deliveries yet.

THE CHURCH HALL A tender has now been accepted for the structural work in the hall. We hope that work can start this week. Rewiring is complete.

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 2021. Please keep these dates in your diary.

FROM THE TREASURER As we start the new year, I commend to you our **PLANNED GIVING** scheme and especially setting up a regular Standing Order to St Stephen's. This is the easiest and safest way to ensure your giving reaches us as quickly as possible and you can of course stop or amend your giving at any time. It also helps us to budget as we know what income to expect each month – with the continued restrictions reducing our other income streams this way of giving is even more vital than ever. Please do prayerfully consider if you can join those currently giving in this way or if you are one of the many already using this method please review your giving and perhaps make a small increase. There is a form attached to this week's email which you can complete and return to me via the vicarage or you may wish to set something up on-line directly with your bank. As ever you are welcome to contact me if you have any questions on our finances - my contact details are E: pudney@blueyonder.co.uk
M: 07856 747299

THIS PRESENT TIME With immediate effect all public worship at St Stephen's has been halted. The situation will be kept under review but we anticipate no significant relaxation before the end of February. The 10am Mass on Sundays will be livestreamed as always and I urge all of you with smart 'phones/computers to access this worship. The church is open from 9am to 11am Tuesday to Saturday. A priest will always be available either in person or by 'phone.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH We have inaugurated an archive of "talking heads"; five minute (max) talks to camera by anyone who wants to reflect on BLM, Black History, theology. Please read the attached document explaining how to share your video on our Facebook page and get it archived on the St Stephen's website. If you're shy or lack the technology please write your story down and someone else can read it to camera. We have also commissioned an icon of St Bernard Mitzeki which we hope will be with us in the next few weeks.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS The COVID restrictions are making 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. If you have unwanted toiletries for men, women or both now is the time to bring them in. Our thanks to Aileen and Thomas Ross who tirelessly sort and deliver goods to the bank.

CONFIRMATION We don't yet know for certain what will happen in the light of current health alarms but the plan is for there to be a Confirmation service at St Jude's, Thornton Road (on the way to the crematorium) on 6th February. If you signed up on the list last year this affects you. Fr Geoffrey will be in touch with everyone soon to firm up arrangements. If you or a child over 10 would like to be Confirmed please let Fr Geoffrey know as soon as possible.

LINK FOR LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP Click here to join the Sunday 10am Mass. <https://www.facebook.com/ststephensNTH/live/>

