

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Hazel Pudney hazelpudney69@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

13th SEPTEMBER

Readings: Genesis 50.15-21: 1-6. Psalm 103.1-13

Romans 14.1-12. Matthew 18.21-35

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

THIS WEEK

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

MASKS MUST NOW BE WORN IN CHURCH

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 – part of our sister Church in the US led by Bishop Michael Curry. 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 Langdale Road and Woodcote Avenue. We hope to start delivery of prayer cards in October.

THE CHURCH HALL With tender for the internal work now out we very much hope to have some good news on a start date for the final phase of the hall refurbishment.

VOTIVE CANDLES We are now asking for a minimum donation of 50p. This is a necessary measure in the light of the drastic fall in our income.

CHRISTIAN AID After a gap of several years St Stephen's is resuming its support of Christian Aid through one-off donations and the use of our coin jar for small change at the back of church. In just under five years the jar raised £861 for the hall project. Thank you, everyone. Don't forget to bring any small change for the jar when you visit St Stephen's.

THE BREAD AND WINE Contact Fr Geoffrey if you want to sponsor the elements to mark a birthday, an anniversary or maybe in memory of a loved one.

WALSINGHAM We have rebooked for the weekend of 10th – 12th September 2021. Please keep these dates in your diary.

FROM THE TREASURER Thank you for your ongoing support, please do continue to support our church through:

- regular giving – Standing Order, Envelopes etc
- shopping on-line – details at <https://ststephensnth.co.uk/>

- one-off donations – Just Giving, Bank Transfers, Cheques etc

On the subject of Just Giving:

Norbury Royalty – Sonia & Keith Guthrie continue to be the Faces of the Plate this week - do have a look at their splendid photo at <https://www.iustgiving.com/campaign/St-Stephen2020>

I am always on the lookout for new volunteers to front our campaign so please send me a photo if you would like to be the next star. Have a great week and hopefully I will see you in church on Sunday.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS At the recent PCC meeting it was agreed that our support of local food banks should be seen as a part of our outside giving just as much as our annual donation to local and international charities. This means that giving to food banks becomes a **priority**. Every time we go shopping we should buy extra (preserved goods and toiletries) and then bring them into church or leave in the vicarage porch. Like fundraising for the church this support for the poorest in our community should be hard-wired into our pattern of giving.

THIS PRESENT TIME After a flurry of anxiety caused by the government's reimposition of COVID restrictions it now turns out that nothing has changed for the churches so it's steady as she goes for the 10am Masses on Saturdays and Sundays. It remains necessary to book your place on Sundays and it will be obligatory to record your attendance on Saturdays. Good news also comes in the form of the restoration of the 10am Mass on Wednesday mornings from **23rd September**. Thank you for your patience.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH This will be the 5th year of marking Black History Month at St Stephen's. This year we are starting something new. We will try to raise our awareness of Black Theology and what it can mean for everyone. We'll launch this on 4th October. We are also inaugurating an archive of "talking heads"; five minute (max) talks to camera by anyone who wants to reflect on BLM, Black History, theology. You can send these clips to ststephens@fastmail.uk to be shared on our Facebook page and archived on the St Stephen's website. Don't hold back, we all have a story.

FR GEOFFREY is away on annual leave this weekend.

