

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27<sup>th</sup> January

8pm Deanery Synod

5<sup>th</sup> March

Quiz Night

## 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 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](mailto:ststephens@fastmail.uk)

# St Stephen Norbury & Thornton Heath

## Newsletter

16<sup>th</sup> January

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

#### Readings:

Isaiah 62.1-5, Psalm 36.5-10,

1 Corinthians 12.1-11, John 2.1-11

#### THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>

**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 Bletchingley Close, Elliot Road and Warwick Gardens. Card deliveries have resumed. Our thanks to Helen Doe.

**THE BREAD AND WINE** We are accepting sponsorship for the bread and wine we use at the Eucharist. For £5 the elements can be dedicated to a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Please contact Fr Geoffrey if you want to sponsor the elements.

**WALSINGHAM 2022** The dates for the 2022 pilgrimage are 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September. We have booked 29 places. Demand is expected to be high so make a note of these dates. Booking will open shortly with a deposit of £40 to secure your place.

**TIME & SKILLS SURVEY** The single sheet survey has been sent to our entire mailing list. Hard copies are available in church. Please fill in your survey as soon as you can and place the sheet in the suggestions box at the back of church. Those in charge of the area of activity you are interested will be given your details and will contact you.

**FROM THE TREASURER** As our financial year comes to an end, I would like to record my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported St Stephen's over the past year. As ever my request to regular givers is to continue to return envelopes (or contact me if they require collection) and continue your standing orders. We are of course delighted to accept donations by other means – please look out for our Contactless Donation Machine in church and for payments we are happy to receive bank transfers or card payments. We are still £700 away from reaching our 2021 JustGiving target so if you can please visit our JustGiving page – the address

is [www.justgiving.com/campaign/St-Stephen2020](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/St-Stephen2020) and donate a few pounds, many thanks to Rebecca our Face of the Plate – please look out for the separate email or use the link above.

Ian Pudney E: [pudney@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pudney@blueyonder.co.uk) M: 07856 747299

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS** 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 at any time. We also accept cash donations if you would like us to buy goods on your behalf.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our Sunday School offers something of real value to children and parents alike. It meets from 10am in the hall every Sunday in term time. If you would like to help supporting and encouraging our children please contact Fr Geoffrey.

**COVID** At the time of writing we have received no supplementary advice from the national Church suggesting that our practices change in any way. Governmental dithering means we are well-advised to continue as we are for the present: Masks to be worn in church, hand sanitizer to be used and sensible distancing to be observed when mixing with people outside your household. It is clear that the next few days and weeks will be decisive in tackling the new variant. St Stephen's will respond promptly.

**MOTHER JOYCE/AREA DEAN** Everyone is warmly invited to the deanery synod to be held here on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm. At this event Mother Joyce will be commissioned as Area Dean by the Bishop of Croydon – an important local leadership role.

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND BLESSINGS** St Stephen's remains fully open for Baptisms, weddings and the blessing of civilly married/partnered unions. 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](http://www.ststephensnth.co.uk)) for all the relevant information. Remember that there is no charge for Baptisms of infants or adults.

