

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Festival

27th September

10am

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

20th SEPTEMBER

Readings: Jonah 3.10-4.11. 1-6. Psalm 145.1-8.

Philippians 1.21-30. Matthew 18.21-35

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

THIS WEEK

Today	10am	Eucharist
Saturday	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday	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 the 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.

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 Spades, shears, and secateurs – yes, I am departing from my usual role this week to remind you that the church grounds are in constant need of our attention. If you own any of these items and fancy using them in the safe confines of our church grounds you are most welcome. I have been cutting the lawn throughout 2020 and it was good to see Brian Halfacre (a regular 8 o'clocker) hard at work, on my most recent visit. Everyone can do their bit so please contact the wardens if you need access to our shed or guidance as to what

to do. Please continue to support our church financially as we try to reduce our deficit – the simplest way is through our Just Giving page (I think I may have mentioned this a few times already!) but giving in any way appropriate to you is most gratefully received. Enjoy the Autumn sunshine (Hazel is hoping our tomato crop will ripen – note I have cleverly returned to the gardening theme) and hopefully I will see you soon.

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.

HARVEST FESTIVAL We will keep our annual celebration of God's creation on 27th September. As always we will be receiving gifts of tinned and preserved goods, and toiletries for Croydon Nightwatch. Bring your gifts on the day or into church any weekday morning apart from Mondays. At all other times bags can be left in the vicarage porch.

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 and Wednesdays. Good news also comes in the form of the restoration of the 10am Mass on Wednesday mornings from **23rd September**.

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.

