

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th December 9.30 – 3 Working Day
11th December 11 – 3pm Christmas Fair

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

28th November

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings:

Jeremiah 33.14-16, 13-14, Psalm 25.1-9,
1 Thessalonians 3.9-13, Luke 21.25-36

THIS WEEK

Today	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist
Tuesday	12.30pm	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday	12 Noon	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist
Saturday	10am	Eucharist
Next Sunday	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist

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 Dovercourt Avenue and Stratford Road. Card deliveries have resumed. Our thanks to Helen Doe.

ST STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR 2021 After all the challenges of the past two years our Christmas Fair returns in a different form on **11th December**. We will be in the hall with several stalls as usual but with the emphasis on refreshments, hospitality and fellowship. The fair opens at 11am and closes at 3pm. Bring your friends and neighbours.

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 9th – 11th September. We have booked 29 places. Demand is expected to be high so make a note of these dates.

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.

FROM THE TREASURER I promised a few weeks back to give you a financial update following our recent PCC meeting – a mouth-watering prospect that I am now fulfilling. For the year ending 31/12/2021 we are forecasting a surplus of around £7,000 we were anticipating a large deficit, and this has only been possible due to the receipt of a very generous legacy. For 2022 we are budgeting for a small deficit in the region of £4,000.

As ever your support remains vital so, please do continue to return envelopes and continue your standing orders. If you can give a little extra to help reach our 2021 target, please visit our JustGiving page. The address is www.justgiving.com/campaign/St-Stephen2020 I have updated the site to include an excellent photo of Fr Geoffrey. Thank for taking the time to read my article and as ever please contact me if you have any questions on our finances E: pudney@blueyonder.co.uk M: 07856 747299

COVID UPDATE We are singing at the 10am Sunday Mass once more. The 8am Mass on Sundays is restored. There is a new Mass at 12.30 on Tuesdays. We continue to ask worshippers to wear a face covering and use the hand sanitizers provided. The chalice has yet to be restored to general use (this remains under active discussion in the light of advice received) but please remember that the fulness of God's grace is received in the sacred Host on its own.

WORKING DAY Our next working day is 4th December. Please note the date and make it a pre-Christmas priority.

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 are happy for goods to be bought on your behalf.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Our Sunday School offers something of real value to children and parents alike. If you would like to help supporting and encouraging our children please contact Fr Geoffrey. Our thanks to its regular leaders, Paula and Tanya.

REPLACING OUR TREASURER! At our recent PCC meeting Ian Pudney announced he would be stepping down from the role after in 2022 after over 30 years fulfilling this vital task. Oscar Riba-Thompson will be formally proposed as his interim successor at the first PCC meeting after next year's APCM. To that end we are in the process of changing the Bank Mandates and Oscar has taken over much of the Banking / Cash handling.

