

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury day trip
Summer Ball

Cancelled
18th July

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Website: www.ststephensnth.co.uk

St Stephen's Church, Warwick Road, Thornton Heath CR7 7NH

Vicar: Fr Geoffrey Riba-Thompson SCP (Not available Mondays)

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

29th MARCH 2020

Gospel: John 11.1-45

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEK

Fr Geoffrey is saying Morning and Evening Prayer daily and offering the Mass for the whole parish at least once a week. 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.

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH This month we are praying for all who live in Richmond Road, St Helen's Road and parishioners living outside the parish.

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.

THE BREAD AND WINE As the Mass is not being offered publicly at this time we will not take sponsorship for the elements but if you would like to make a simple donation for someone or something please contact Fr Geoffrey.

WALSINGHAM We have booked the weekend of 11th to 13th September for our 2020 pilgrimage. Places are already going fast – ONLY ONE now remaining. A completed form and £40 deposit are required to secure your booking. Please return forms with the deposit as soon as possible.

THE PILGRIM COURSE Cancelled until further notice

CANTERBURY PILGRIMAGE 9TH MAY Cancelled. We hope to rebook in due course.

CONFIRMATION is scheduled to take place on 6th June 2020 at St Paul's, Thornton Heath. Classes start on 30th April. A sign-up list is at the back of church but please speak to Fr Geoffrey if you or anyone you know from the age of 10 upwards would like to be Confirmed. If anything changes as to classes and dates we will let you know.

WORD ALIVE Cancelled until further notice.

ST STEPHEN'S SUMMER BALL The date is 18th July. Please keep this date in your diary but, of course, anything might happen.

OFFICE HOUR Cancelled for the time being. All Baptisms (other than in emergency) are suspended and all weddings must be postponed until further notice. Other contact can be maintained provided the accepted norms of distancing are observed.

PLEDGE SUNDAY Customarily this Sunday is the Sunday when we think about our giving to St Stephen's. Ian Pudney's report and relevant documents were sent out on Wednesday. Please look, think and pray about how you support the work of the Church in the coming year.

THIS PRESENT TIME *You will know that all public worship in England has been suspended until further notice. However, the last thing the Church wants to do is turn its back on the country. If you receive this newsletter electronically you will have received a form for Spiritual Communion that you can use at home. We are also sending the format for our usual Sunday intercessions so you can join in the church's prayer for the community and the wider world. The Church is also encouraging us to recite the Lord's Prayer at 1 and 7pm and consider placing a lighted candle in our front windows as a sign of hope in dark times.*

The Mass will be celebrated once a week but in private and there I will offer the hopes, fears and concerns of the whole community to Almighty God, asking His blessing upon us all.

In the meantime we are urged to act as though it is WE who have the virus and act accordingly to protect others. We are a wonderful family at St Stephen's so please be in touch with one another and do not hesitate to ask friends, the clergy, anyone, for help. My love and prayers.

FR GEOFFREY

