



St. Nicholas' Church

THAMES DITTON

1120 – 2012

NEWSLETTER MARCH – APRIL 2012

VICAR'S NOTES

Alpha Course

Come and learn about Christianity on Tuesday evenings from 24 January to 27 March. The course is completely free.

Lent Groups

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Before that we shall publish in church details of Churches Together Lent groups, which are held on a variety of different times of day and days of the week. It can be very rewarding to join a group from a different church and explore our faith from a range of different perspectives.



Dear Friends

At one time we assumed, rightly or wrongly, that anyone with a good schooling in this country would have a working knowledge of the Christian faith. That is clearly no longer the case. Visitors to art galleries stare uncomprehending at depictions of stories that are familiar to me. Others are baffled by the round of the church's year that I take for granted.

But even if we do know the facts about Christianity, or any other faith, it doesn't mean we really understand what that faith is about. To do that we need some sense of what it like to stand in believers' shoes, of what animates them, inspires them and sustains them in the practice of their faith. The church is becoming better at meeting these needs. There is a variety of enquirers' courses suitable for those who know little or nothing of Christian faith. The best known is the 'Alpha Course', which we are launching at the end of January.

For those with some basic knowledge, who are looking to make a greater commitment, there is the possibility of preparing for confirmation. Again I am hoping to begin preparation groups in February or March.

Finally, for established church members there are opportunities for growing in understanding, such as those provided by Lent groups and other study groups.

To find out more about any of these opportunities do speak to me or contact the Parish Office. We should be glad to share the journey with you.

John Silk, Vicar

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF GUILDFORD

My annual Lent Call raises funds every year that are divided between projects funded by the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation and an overseas charity.

This year's Lent Call will have as its international focus the Archbishop of Canterbury's Appeal Fund for the Christians in the Holy Land, organised through the UK-based charity The Friends of the Holy Land, www.friendsoftheholylanland.org.uk. The Christian population in Israel and Palestine is suffering greatly. The rate of emigration from the Christian communities with roots going back over the centuries has been growing at a frightening rate. Christian leaders there have asked for support to provide for a better and lasting future.

The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation has funded projects across the diocese, especially in our most deprived areas. The Foundation, which is managed by independent trustees, has recently entered into a new partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey, an independent charitable trust.

No administrative costs will be taken from the funds donated. Every penny will be split 50:50 between the projects. Last year's Lent Call raised £19,949 which was shared between Bishop of Guildford Foundation projects and Church Missionary Society work with Christians in Pakistan. Of course my annual Lent Call is not primarily a financial appeal but an invitation to prayer, fasting and giving. Prayers for all of the people of the Holy Land are needed more than ever.

The Bishop of Guildford
The Right Revd Christopher Hill



PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

27 November
Harry George Rollason
15 January
Jessica Lovisa Groves

Funerals

10 January
Hanne Jeannette Johnson
17 January
Michael Maurice Badcock
24 January
Gloria Verrell

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CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY – MARCH

EVERY SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion

EVERY WEDNESDAY

11am Holy Communion

5 FEBRUARY, THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10am Family Service
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Parish Communion

12 FEBRUARY, SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

19 FEBRUARY, SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 22 FEBRUARY, ASH WEDNESDAY

11am Holy Communion

26 FEBRUARY, LENT 1

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

4 MARCH, LENT 2

10am Family Service
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Parish Communion

11 MARCH, LENT 3

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

Tuesday, 13 MARCH

8pm PCC meeting (Church Hall)

18 MARCH, LENT 4,

Mothering Sunday

10am Family Service for
Mothering Sunday
6.30pm Choral Evensong

25 MARCH, LENT 5

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

1 APRIL, PALM SUNDAY

10am Palm Procession and
Parish Communion
(assemble in the Church Hall)
6pm Churches Together Holy
Week Service at St Christopher's,
Hinchley Wood

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

Come and join us as we
pray especially for you
and your neighbours:

FEBRUARY

5 Broadfields
12 Sterry Drive/
Denleigh Gardens
19 Thorkhill Gardens
26 Basing Close/Way

MARCH

4 Embercourt Road
11 Esher Road
18 Imber Cross
25 Weston Green
Road



WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Vicar Revd. John Silk,
The Vicarage, Summer Road,
Thames Ditton KT7 0QQ,
020 8398 3446 (Friday is his day off).

Administrator Lorna Mackintosh,
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Ditton KT7 0QQ, 020 8398 9641.
Please contact for all enquiries
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm,
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Lunch on Tuesdays from 12.30pm
Frankie Bell 020 8398 5084

Parents & Toddlers

Elaine Heptonstall 020 8398 7211

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Thames Ditton", registered number
1128454 (England and Wales)
ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
Contact Lorna Mackintosh at the
Parish Office, 020 8398 9641
www.stnicholaschurch.org.uk

