



St. Nicholas' Church

THAMES DITTON

1120-2012

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2012



Christingle

4pm Sunday
11 December
in aid of the
Children's Society.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENTS

As well as Christingle, at 4pm on Christmas Eve join us for the

Blessing of the Crib.

Please leave buggies, prams etc in the Church Hall before coming into the services, and follow the directions of the stewards.

On Saturday 17 December, 3 to 8 year olds are welcome to join our CRB checked volunteers for **an afternoon of craft and drama activities for Christmas**, from 1.30pm to 4pm in the Church Hall. Children aged 5 or above can be dropped off and collected at 4pm but children under 5 must be accompanied by their parent or carer. Cost: £4 per child. Numbers are limited so please book by calling Sara Ashford on 0208 398 0922 or by email sashfol@tgs.rbksch.org

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

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

December

- 4 Warwick Road
- 11 Linden Close/Mercer Close
- 18 Harvest Lane
- 25 Aragon Avenue/
Wolsey Close

January

- 1 Southfields
- 8 Ennismore Gardens/
Leaf Close
- 15 Thorkhill Road
- 22 The Island/
Boyle Farm Island
- 29 Ashley Road/Church Lane



Dear Friends

As we come to the end of this year, storm clouds seem all around. Money is short; many people, especially the young, are out of work and there is enormous uncertainty about the future. So what are we doing celebrating Christmas?

There are two ways of looking at it. One view is of Christmas as an escapist binge. For a few days we wallow in a blend of nostalgia, glitter and unrestrained consumption. Nothing fundamentally changes. For a little while we can forget about our problems, but they will all still be there.

The other view is quite the opposite. At Christmas we turn from the superficiality of much of our lives to contemplate the presence of God in the poorest and most unexpected places. And when we do that, everything is changed.

The God whom we worship at the crib can come into our lives too, whatever the outward circumstances. Where we find him, everything is transformed. Before too long the decorations will be put away again. But not God's great gift to us. That is for keeps.

I wish you all the joy of this revolutionary season,

John Silk
Vicar



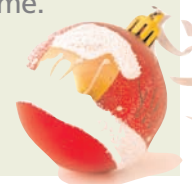
St. Nicholas' Church RESTORATION FUND



Thank you so much for all your generous gifts. We're delighted to have now reached nearly £150,000, almost 75 per cent of the way to our target of £200,000. The new heating system is now up and running so the interior of the church will be nice and cosy this Christmas!

Unfortunately, some lead has been stolen from the church building. Please be observant when you are near the church. If you notice vans or workmen near the church, please check with the Parish Office during office hours that these are genuine workmen. Otherwise, please inform the police immediately.

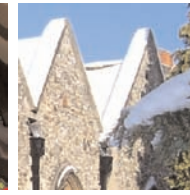
We are compiling ideas as to how the church could celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and/or the Olympics next year. Contributions would be welcome. Please phone Alex Dunne on 07958 487177 or email alexanderdunne@gmail.com.



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THAMES DITTON

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CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER-JANUARY

EVERY SUNDAY 8am Holy Communion

EVERY WEDNESDAY 11am Holy Communion

4 December, ADVENT 2

10am Family Toy Service
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Parish Communion

11 December, ADVENT 3

10am Parish Communion
with the Bishop of Guildford
4pm Christingle Service
No Evening Service

18 December, ADVENT 4

10am Parish Communion and Sunday School
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday, 24 December, CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Blessing of the Crib and
Children's Carols
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Sunday, 25 December, CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Service
11.15am Holy Communion

1 January, THE NAMING OF JESUS

10am Service for New Year's Day
(NB No Matins)
6.30pm Parish Communion

8 January, THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

Tuesday, 10 January

8 pm PCC Meeting (Church Hall)

15 January, EPIPHANY 2

10am Parish Communion and Sunday School
6.30pm Choral Evensong

18-25 January

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

22 January, EPIPHANY 3

10.45am Christian Unity Week Service
(at the United Reformed Church)
4.30pm Churches Together Service (venue tba)
No 6.30pm Service

29 January, EPIPHANY 4

10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

5 February, THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10am Family Service
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Parish Communion

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

18 Sept	Amelia Alice Traub
25 Sept	Honor May Ross
25 Sept	Isabelle Charlotte Lennon
16 Oct	Henry James Bacon
16 Oct	Cate Amelia Bacon
16 Oct	Dominic James Crook

WEDDINGS

17 Sept	John Roger Gerald Peters & Jennifer Luckraft
24 Sept	Michael Victor Lough & Caroline Theresa Alderman
1 Oct	Neil Edward Sills & Nicola Catherine Rendall
5 Nov	Matthew Vidler & Kate Louise Brown

VICAR'S NOTES

The Bishop of Guildford. Unfortunately Bishop Christopher was unable to be with us in October, so we now look forward to welcoming him on 11 December at 10am.

Christmas Communion. Please let me know of any housebound person who would like to receive communion at home this Christmas.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18 to 25 January. On 22 January we will join the United Reformed Church in Speer Road for a special service at 10.45am, and at 4.30pm there will be a service for all the churches in the Dittons. There will also be a service each day in the churches in turn. Full details will be published in church and on the website.

Alpha Course There is a variety of courses introducing enquirers to the Christian Faith but by far the most popular has been the 'Alpha Course'. It has been a little while since we have run one here but now we are planning to do so jointly with the URC. The course will run on Tuesday evenings from late January. Do please contact me or the Parish Office if you are interested in taking part in this free course.



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, Parish Office, Summer Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QQ, 020 8398 9641. Please contact for all enquiries Tuesday - Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm, email: stnicparishoffice@btinternet.com

Lunch on Tuesdays from 12.30pm Frankie Bell 020 8398 5084

Parents & Toddlers Elaine Heptonstall 020 8398 7211

The Parish Newsletter is published by the Parochial Church Council of St. Nicholas, Thames Ditton.

Editor: Amanda Eccleston,
email: amandaeccleston@gmail.com

St. Nicholas PCC, Thames Ditton is the working name of the registered charity: "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of 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