St Nicolas News

50p

December 2023 January 2024





www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk Building Faith in the Community

Services at St Nicolas

Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Morning Praise - 1st Sunday, GLOW - Children's Provision
6.30pm	Evensong - 3rd Sunday - with choir

Weekday Services

8.30am	Bible Reading and Open Pr Monday and Wednesday	ayer	
10.00am	Holy Communion (Said)	Thursday	
9.00am	Prayers for our church - 2nd and 4th Saturdays		
10.00 am	Church Development Plan Prayers – 1 st Saturday		



Tots Alive! (term time) - Monday 10.00am in church with social time afterwards

For other services please see Notice Board by the Lychgate

Letter from the Ministry Team



Don't worry if you can't understand this – it's a publicity poster for the Alpha course in Estonian. It says 'How to Pray in today's church'. I saw it in St Olave's Church in Tallinn, which attracts tourists for its high spire. At 1549 metres, it may have been the tallest building in the world from 1549 to 1625.

However, I was interested in the fact the church runs an Alpha course. I told our guide that St Nicolas was running Alpha and asked whether he had any tips for success. His reply was "Cake! Lots of cake!"

We will definitely be taking this advice onboard for the new-look Alpha which starts on Sunday, 14 January 2024 from 4pm to 6pm and then every Sunday until 3 March.

We'll start at 4pm with the all-important cake then watch the Alpha film. We'll hear personal stories and there'll be a "difficult question" slot where we put a tough theological issue to the ministry team, e.g. Why do people suffer? Why do religious people fight?

For Alpha to work, we really need the congregation at St Nicolas church to get behind it. The livelier and friendlier it is, the more people will want to come. That means we need you! Can you do any of these things: Provide a warm welcome to newcomers?

- Serve coffee or bake a cake?
- Offer to be in a discussion group or
- Share something of your own faith journey
- Join the Alpha prayer group
- Bring a friend along

Friendly and interesting

Whether you have been a Christian a long time, or you are not even sure you are one, we can all learn something from Alpha. So please put Sunday 14 January in your new 2024 diary and come along!

To volunteer or to find out more: contact <u>gill.caldwell@stnicolasbookham.org.uk</u> Tel. 07809 245464

God Bless you this Christmas time and in the New Year.



Rev Gill Caldwell



PCC Meeting Monday 13th November 2023

At our meeting in November, Alan opened with Genesis 18 where God promises that Abraham's wife will bear a child. 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' (v14) and suggested we pray that God might bring new life into our church that we may continue to flourish.

We heard from Roland and Anne about safeguarding policy and the importance of maintaining our level of awareness of this subject. Some may think it 'woke' or bureaucratic, but the damage that can be done through lack of awareness can be catastrophic.

Neil presented a comprehensive financial update and look-ahead. Whilst we are thankful to be in a good financial position at present, we have now used the funds set aside for Building for the Future so would need to fund-raise for any new significant project. The PCC was asked to consider several expenditure priorities in preparation for the upcoming 2024 budget discussions.

The PCC agreed to two items of Fabric expenditure, notably the repair of the unsafe wall alongside the Pastoral Centre and the provision of new storage in the Choir Vestry.

Vicki Dixon and others have prepared an excellent set of Accessibility Guidelines for the church. These were endorsed by the PCC and are available on the website. Well worth a read.

Clare Curran spoke about the Deanery Synod where a highlight was a presentation about the church schools that the Diocese administers in Surrey – some 83 schools in all – and about our Church Development Plan where the recent Champions meeting gave encouraging feedback about the progress of the various initiatives.

If you would like more information, please talk to any PCC member.

Nick Garrett



I attended a Diocesan Members meeting where we heard about an initiative by a group about Modern Slavery and how Nail Bars are somewhere where it is happening. If you attend anywhere, were you feel this is happening, contact Chris Collins and she will tell you how to report it. After a snack lunch in the Pastoral Centre I led a small gathering with the title "Inspirations" Who or what had inspired you in your life?

One was the painting by Holman Hunt with Jesus knocking on the door waiting for us to open it and let Him in. She has had it since her confirmation and it is on her bedroom wall. Another one spoke about her headmistress who was the daughter of Chinese missionaries, another spoke about a Sea Ranger leader. One of our members was inspired by her elder sister who became a Lay Reader (Licensed Lay Reader) and another was inspired by someone to take up Archaeology. I was inspired by Miss Stella Cunliffe someone I meet through Guiding but she was a high-powered business woman in her professional life as a statistician (she was the first Women President of the Royal Statistical Society) and she gave her time to many people in need. She worked for many years as a Voluntary Prison Associate and was Chairman of the Cameron Group which helped prisoners both before and after their discharge. She had them after discharge living in her own home, with a key to the door, one took off with possessions, Stella knew exactly where to find her, brought her back and forgave her! Remarkable women who touched so many people's lives, encouraging and supporting people to take on jobs which they never thought possible and helped them to achieve their full potential. A very inspiring meeting.

Next Meetings:-

Dec 5th Prayers in Church or Pilgrimage of Prayer at Cathedral

Dec 14th Corporate Communion, coffee, Bring and Share lunch 12.30 pm Talk from 2 members about the alms houses and Bookham United Charities.

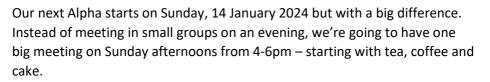
2024

- Jan 2nd Prayers in the Lady Chapel
- Jan 11th New year tea party Bring and Buy Stall



New look Sunday Afternoon Alpha

Join us on Sunday, 14 January 2024



It will be open to all – whether you've been a Christian 50 years, five minutes or not at all because we all have questions and we can all learn something from the Alpha videos.

Also new, is a faith story section where different people at St Nicolas share their experience of faith. It's ideal for friends who don't normally come to church. So if you tick any of these boxes:

- Nothing to do on a Sunday afternoon
- Enjoy cake and coffee
- Like watching videos
- Enjoy a friendly discussion

Then Alpha is for you!



Join us at St Nicolas Church: enjoy a friendly chat with coffee and cake, watch an Alpha film and discuss life's big issues. Starts Sunday, 14 January and each Sunday until 3 March 2024. 4pm – 6pm.





Everyone welcome! More info: <u>www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk</u> or call 07809 245464



Barnabas



Fellowship

21st October 2023

New Café Style 9am – 10am

Discussion Topic – Those that have influenced our lives

We had a very interesting discussion where we thought about those that had impacted and influenced our lives. There were many People Influencers which included church, Ministers, Sunday School teachers, School teachers, who all influenced our spiritual lives.

Other Influencers included Company founders that we never knew, bosses, the armed services, university, musicians and opera.

We all came away with something to think about.

Of course, the man who changed all our lives was and is Jesus himself.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer.

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## March 2024 Magazine

An opportunity for someone to be able to finish off the magazine for March 2024, as I will not be around to do so.

If you are keen to explore new avenues or have a new experience, (or even not so keen!) please contact me via the <u>editor@stnicolasebookham.org.uk</u> email or 07979 786890.



Friendship Lunch If you usually lunch on your own You are warmly invited to join us In the St Nicolas Pastoral Centre On 10th December at 11.30 for 12.00 Please contact the Parish Office For more details and to book 01372 450709 For this Christmas Lunch only the cost is £10.00 payable on the day (please bring your own plates/cup/cutlery) You will be made most welcome

# Lighted Windows by Margaret Silf

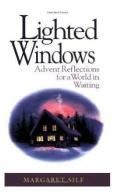
#### An Advent calendar for a world in waiting

The world waits- sometimes holding its breath in fear of what tomorrow may bring, sometimes in a haze of busyness or boredom, in which we hardly know what we are waiting for. Yet we still wait in hopefulness. The birth of

The Book Review

baby invariably stirs deep wells of hope in the human heart. Perhaps in this generation, things will get better. Perhaps this child will make a difference.

As we approach the Christmas season we prepare to celebrate the coming to earth of someone who really does make a difference. At this season the 'windows' of our human experience can change from rows of faceless panes, perhaps grimy with dirt, into lighted windows that open up new possibilities and coax us into a place where rejoicing may be possible.



The journey mapped out in this book is an invitation to look at some of these lighted windows, and discover a few reflections of what we wait for,- and long for reflections of God's guidance, his call to trust him and live by his wisdom. Each window seeks to bring familiar scripture into focus where God is coming to birth, and to make the experience of Bethlehem our own. And finally, the windows become doors, through which we are sent back to a waiting world to share our personal experience of God-with-us.

Deborah Gallacher

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AN ACCESSIBLE WELCOME AT ST NICOLAS

To foster a sense of welcome and belonging, it is important for our church to be as accessible as possible, whether for regular or occasional services, visitors or guests at baptisms, weddings, funerals and other special events. This concerns not only mobility, but the ways in which we communicate. Guidance and advice is available on our website to inform prospective attendees on a range of accessibility topics. It has also been shared with our Wardens, Sidesmen, Welcomers and others to help inform respective welcoming roles. It is well worth a read by all.

Accessible communication is fair, inclusive and makes good sense. It ensures that people are treated as equals, that people receive the dignity and respect they deserve and that differences are celebrated. It requires appreciation of equality and diversity, embracing different ways in which we communicate, so that all people feel welcome. This forms an important element of the Communications Strategy being developed.



Vicki Dixon, Chair – Communications Strategy Group

UNTO US A child is born

It is the time of the year when we celebrate the anniversary of our Saviour's birth. All names and titles used of the One we celebrate reflect the different relationships that are sustained by Him. Here are some of them.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord". (Luke 2:11).

SAVIOUR:

A Saviour is for the lost. Due to man's failure back in the garden, "none is righteous" ... "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" ... "all have gone astray" (Romans 3:10, 23; Isaiah 53:6). What is even more wonderful is the title attached to "Saviour" in the above verse – "Christ the Lord," "Christ", which in Hebrew means Mashiah Jehovah (Jehovah's Anointed) and the name "LORD" with it denotes "all power and might" – therefore able to save.

MESSIAH:

This is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew: Mashiah, meaning "Anointed," it means "the Christ" (John 1:41). "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated "God with us." (Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14, 8:8).

IMMANUEL:

In Hebrew "Immanuel" means God (EI) with us. Used of Christ reveals proof of His Deity.

KING:

In the book of Matthew, the Lord is presented as Jehovah's KING. The lineage in the 1st chapter of Matthew is unique in the order that it is given, linking Jesus Christ with the Son of David, heir to the throne (2 Samuel 7:12, 16). It will be more than apparent at His second coming that He will be seen as the "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16). "She (Mary) will bear a son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21; see also Luke 1:31). All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet in Isaiah 7:13-16).

JESUS:

"Jesus" is the same as Hebrew Jehoshua, or Joshua, and means Salvation of Jehovah, or Jehovah (the) Saviour. The name "Jesus" expresses the relation of Jehovah to Him in Incarnation: "Who, being in the form of God, did not

consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8)

Christmas is the wonderful season that reminds Christians why we believe and what a precious gift God has given us in the form of His only begotten Son.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him should not perish but have eternal life". (John 3:16)

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. (2 Corinthians 9:15)

UNTO US A child is born

Deborah Gallacher



WILL WRITING SERVICE

If you are over 50 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can use Age Concern Mole Valley's Will Writing Service.

Once a month, local solicitors, Meaby & Co, are taking appointments for Will Writing at their offices in Dorking. A

donation of £100 can be given to Age Concern Mole Valley for the service. (A solicitor would normally charge over £250 plus VAT per Will.)

To book an appointment for the Will Writing Clinic, please call 01306 899104/07442 017169 or by email: <u>info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk</u> Registered Charity No 1111678



An opportunity to meet together for refreshment, fellowship and encouragement.

Christmas break

Bloom is a women's breakfast which is primarily for us to take a short break from our responsibilities, have a delicious breakfast and meet other women for friendship and encouragement.

We're famous for our big mixed fruit salad accompanied by a selection of yogurts, our savoury breakfast muffins and our yummy pastries, all washed down with as much proper coffee and tea as you can manage! There is a theme to each event and the aim is to give us all something to think about and to stimulate a lively conversation. Some events have included a simple craft.

The intention is to provide an event that you could ask your friends and neighbours to. Several people have bought a friend and we have had good feedback. The atmosphere is relaxed and fun and it is a pleasure to organise and attend.

Saturday 9th December – 9.00 – 10.30am in Pastoral Centre, St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham. £5 a ticket. Book your place: ali.sangwine@hotmail.com



In November, on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, we had the privilege of hearing a speaker from CSW, whom we will call Mena.

Not only did he explain how CSW works for those of all faiths, and none, who are persecuted for their beliefs, but he also gave us first hand facts and stories about those CSW have been working with in Iran and Egypt.

A pastor in Iran, known to our speaker, was imprisoned for six years and suffered physical and emotional ill effects during that time. He was finally released and reunited with his family; they are now in Turkey awaiting further opportunity to move to a safer country.

The Advocacy team at CSW meets weekly to bring to God many requests for situations around the world from where news of suffering is received almost daily. Through prayer and advocacy, they have seen many breakthroughs in justice, release of prisoners and changes in circumstances - all of which bring hope and result in praise to God. Our prayers and financial aid are helping them to continue this vital work. "Response", the CSW newsletter and their Prayer Diary are available in Church.

As we go through Advent leading up to Christmas, we would encourage you to light a candle and pray for people around the world whose belief in Christ puts them in danger. Pray that the light of justice would continue to push back the darkness of injustice.

The team at CSW are so grateful for all the prayer, campaigning and financial support received. It is a privilege for us as a church to be able to support CSW financially and on the day our speaker came there were financial gifts of over £90 given to him. Please continue to pray for Mena, whose work and witness for Jesus in the Middle East, put him in constant danger.

Love and blessings Val and Jenny

ECO Team



The ECO team at St Nicolas Church have been particularly busy over the last few months. In September in partnership with the Baptist Church we held a Green Fair in the Church under the headings Reduce, Repair, Reuse,

Refill. The atmosphere was buzzing as nearly 200 people came to explore and hopefully reduce the impact of their carbon footprint. The many stalls provided an opportunity for visitors to ask questions, try eco products, and to increase their environmental knowledge in caring for God's creation.

Many people took the opportunity to follow our Tree and Wildlife Trail in the churchyard, seeing our bird feeders and nesting boxes, but the highlight for young people is the Wildlife Corner in the Pastoral Centre



garden. Bug-ingham Palace (built for the Coronation of King Charles III) and the Hedgehog Haven provoke an interesting talking point and spotting the hidden creatures is fun for tiny tots.



It has been wonderful to host the two Reduce, Re-use, Recycle Fashion Shows; for these community events, we provided models and refreshments.





Not only has this had a positive effect for the village charity shops, who have felt an increase in trade, with customers choosing to reuse clothing and other articles, but it ultimately has a small but positive outcome for the environment which we can build on!

Quick Link Service Requests and Reporting

Not sure who to report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole or seen something suspicious on your video doorbell?

Our Councils have multiple responsibilities and it is often a challenge to find out which Council and Council department or organisation is responsible for what. To help residents make a service request or report, BRA (Bookham Residents Association) has launched the Quick Link Service Requests portal. The portal page will take you directly to the relevant council department and reporting forms. Also included in the portal are the National Trust, Surrey Police Suspicious Activity, Surrey Wildlife Trust and emergency flooding.

You can find the Quick Link Service Request Portal at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk or type <u>https://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/#reporting</u> into your search window.

Contributed by Gill Caldwell



Leatherhead & District Lions *Project Wenceslas*

ARE YOU RECEIVING FUEL ALLOWANCE AND DON'T NEED IT?

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Project Wenceslas, as the line in the popular carol says, is about 'gathering winter f-u-e-l'.

FUEL POVERTY ISN'T NEW! Leatherhead Lions have been running the project since December 2013. During this time, we have asked better-off pensioners who don't need their winter fuel allowance to donate it. Their donations are placed in a ring-fenced account and every penny is then used to support those less fortunate and in fuel poverty or simply can't put food on the table.

Since its inception, we have helped over 200 households to keep the lights on and stay warm. We work very closely with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Leatherhead and Dorking, Christians Against Poverty in Great Bookham and Leatherhead Community Hub to identify those needing help.

Often, it is serious illness that tips a family into difficulty. For example, we helped one family when the main breadwinner fell seriously ill and had to give up work and his partner also had to curtail work to care for him. From having two incomes, the family became dependent on benefits and fell into arrears. Our Wenceslas fund offered a lifeline to pay off energy debts and keep them warm.

We are appealing for funds again this year as increased energy costs are putting even greater numbers in need of help. **So - if you don't need your winter fuel allowance, why not donate it?** (If you are a taxpayer, gift-aid your donation to increase its value by 25%.) Every penny donated will go to help families suffering with fuel poverty. And like all donations made to Lions, nothing is ever deducted for administration.

DONATE HERE

Or go to <u>www.leatherheadlions.org.uk</u> where you can donate direct or download a Gift Aid form and send a cheque to:

Wenceslas Appeal, Leatherhead Lions Club, Byways, 31 The Street, Fetcham KT22 9RA



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For more information contact Gill Walker 01372 457987 or gillconnect1@gmail.com Supported by Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham

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The Church of England Digital Charter

The Church Development Plan 2022-2024 states our aim to be "a church with an effective communications strategy which underpins both our internal and external relationships" and one of the stated objectives is to develop 'communication tools to support our ministry, including appropriate utilisation of social media'

"Social media is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended. This is different from other forms of communication. We have less control, less time and sometimes less information, but we still need to engage and engage well. This means we need to think differently about how we use it, what we say and where we say it." *Diocese of Guildford (2021*)



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Social media provides great opportunities for churches to be part of the online conversation. It provides a very public way of enabling us as Christians to live out our calling to share the good news of Jesus Christ. It is a way for us to branch out beyond physical boundaries to meet people where they want to be met and be ambassadors for our faith. One of its many joys is that it is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended. However, this opportunity comes with a number of downsides if users do not apply the same common sense, kindness and sound judgement that we would use in a face-to-face encounter.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may.' Ephesians 4:29

The digital landscape has changed considerably and will continue to do so as technology develops. It is important to think about how conversations we have, messages we share and information we provide that will help people for the better. Information may include any posts online, links to articles, news updates or other information which may be distributed onwards, widening the scope of readership.

Everyone's engagement with social media and online communications is different. Whether a member of clergy using social media or a churchgoer replying to the comments on a blog, we all have different views, histories and areas of interest that will affect how we perceive things, and our responses to events. The comments we make can reach thousands and even millions of people both in this country and around the world very quickly.



On considering what it looks like to be a Christian online, the same principles that guide our offline conversations should apply to those that take place online. Interacting through social media does not change our understanding of confidentiality, responsibility and Christian witness. Our actions should be consistent with our work and Christian values, and every individual is responsible for the things they do, say or write.

In September 2023, St Nicolas Church PCC agreed to adopt the Church of England Digital Charter and social-media community guidelines. The Charter is a voluntary pledge that both individual Christians as well as churches are encouraged to sign to help make social media and the web more widely positive places for conversations to happen.

See overleaf to see the Digital Charter commitments and socialmedia guidelines.

The Church of England Digital Charter

St Nicolas Church has signed-up to the Digital Charter and the following commitments and guidelines incorporated into the Communications Strategy. The Charter sets out a series of commitments to ways we can make the digital world as loving and generous as we would when speaking face to face.

Our Commitments:

Ways we can make the digital world as loving and generous as when speaking face to face:

- Truth hold ourselves to high ideals of checking that what we post online is fair and factual.
- Kindness we are all different and that makes the world an interesting place – and at times a challenging one.
- Think the best of people whether they share our views or are speaking against them and aim to be constructive in the way we engage.
- Welcome in the language we use and the way we interact. It's easy for Christians to speak in another language using words that those outside the Church might not relate to.
- Inspiration we are called to be witnesses of our faith and to use social media in a way that genuinely engages others.
- Togetherness we are one Church and other members of this Church are our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is crucial we treat those around us in this way.
- Safeguarding if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, please contact the relevant diocesan safeguarding adviser.
- > Agree to the Church's and Archbishops' social media guidelines.

You are also invited to sign-up to the Charter, which can be accessed through the link below:



https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-charter

Social-media Community Guidelines

The community guidelines for social-media reflect our values. They are built on universal principles and are a resource for Christians, people of other faiths and people of no faith.

By engaging with social media, we agree to:

- Be safe The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained.
- Be respectful Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- Be kind Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just whether you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.
- > **Be honest** Don't mislead people about who you are.
- Take responsibility You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- Be a good ambassador Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online - think before you post
- Disagree well Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.
- Credit others Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- Follow the rules Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.







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settings and requirements) and wear your hearing aid.

From our Inclusion Ambassador



Hello, my name is Zena Rose, and I am your Inclusion Ambassador here at St Nicolas. Next year will be my fifth year in the role, after being appointed and accepted by the Ministry team and the PCC members in 2019.

Since then, I have been involved in some of the big changes to the building. We have installed chairs instead of the pews and we now have two ramps, one leading to the Vestry and the other at the Chancel step.

I also did a survey on accessibility and the survey said that we "could do better". It all started in January 2014, when I was confirmed at St. Martin's in Dorking and welcomed officially as a St.

Nicolas church member. In April that year, I became an Altar Server and took my pledge to serve in an obedient, graceful and Christ-like manner. Sue Lawrence introduced me and I first served with Tracy Gillard and Joy Lord.

I have a support group which is captained by Joy and I have three other support group members - Carole Vaux, Wendy Hoare, and Heather Gerrard. I call them my Godmothers and as they are my seniors, I have to listen to them giving me pointers and feedback!

I am in the Eco Team with Val Lambert, Margaret Hibbert, Jacqy Faull, Sarah Heafield, Fiona Jones and Joy.

For more information on my Inclusion work, the person to contact is our curate Rev Gill Caldwell. For my Support Group please contact Joy Lord.

Zena Rose

<u>OVERWHELMED –</u> FINDING BALANCE IN FAST PACED WORLD



Led by Andy Peck

Saturday 27th January 2024 9.30 am - 1 pm (Coffee available from 9 am) at Godalming Baptist Church, Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

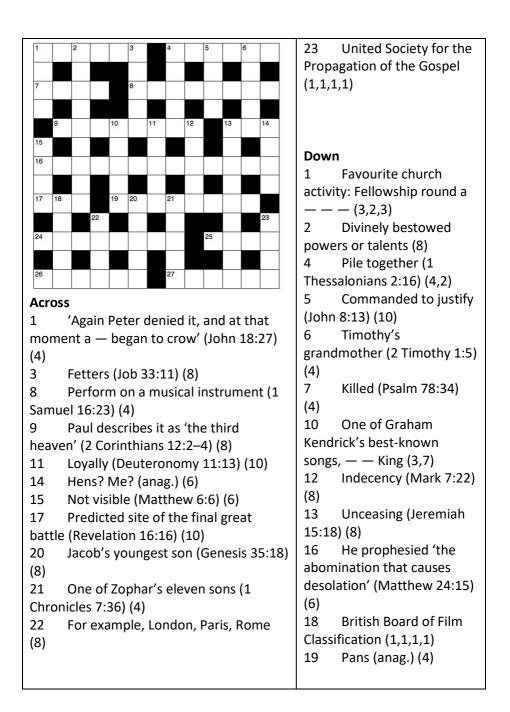
Jesus promises an 'easy yoke' for the believer, yet many Christians find life anything but 'easy'. It seems tough navigating the challenges of 21st century life, inside and outside the church, and we can feel 'overwhelmed', by life itself or the volume of things coming to us.

This morning we will look at the following:

- What makes us overwhelmed?
- How do we typically respond?
- Learn from what Jesus modelled, and taught his followers
- Developing mental strength: how are you thinking?
- Expanding your emotional capacity: how are you feeling?
- Spirit empowered living: who are you trusting?

Come for yourself and those who need our ministry.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk tel: 01483 428646 - by <u>Friday 12th January</u>



A Christmas Prayer

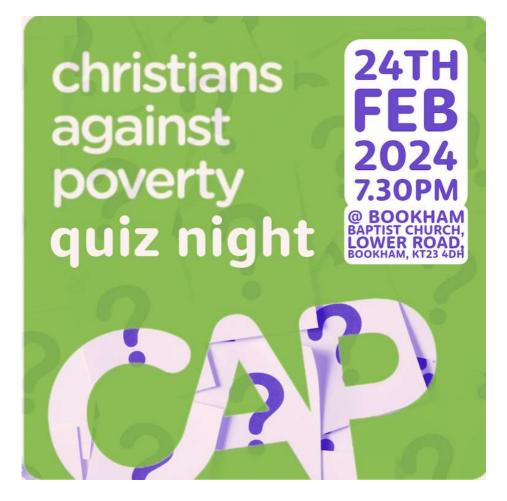
Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. **Amen**

December/January Page of Prayer

Leading up to Christmas, let us pray for: People who are lonely People who have lost a loved one this year Those who have to work over Christmas Refugees with nowhere to call home Our clergy leading and planning our worship Those nursing the dying; those caring for them Those in prison justifiably; those in prison unjustifiably Those without money to buy presents for their children or to celebrate

In 2024 for New Year's Resolutions:

Lord please help me to talk to you in prayer more Think about my faith more Put my faith to work more by helping my neighbours in town, country and the world Smile more Listen more and speak less Use less carbon; far less carbon Tell everyone that Jesus is their Saviour and loves them dearly Trust God more Count my blessings and always give thanks **Amen**



Bookham United Charities

Bookham United Charities need a new Clerk (Secretary) to the Trustees with immediate effect. A full job description is available and in the first instance please contact either Ken Picknell on 07785 244036 or speak to the Rector, Alan Jenkins.



I first heard about LeatherHEAD START, a local charity working with the homeless, when Chris and I, newly arrived in Great Bookham, were invited to the summer party of the Continuum House Group. Mary Railton was our host and she talked to me about the hostel and St Nicolas's support over the years. At one stage, house groups had taken turns to provide the residents' an evening meal on Sunday. Some volunteers, including Mary provided cover over Christmas in the reception area.

It was a short time later, that I agreed to be a joint link with Mary, representing the charity's needs to the church family at St Nicolas. Our regular pattern of support is that we send gifts from our harvest festival, carefully guided by the hostel staff. With the rise of cost of living, we focused this year, on cleaning products as well as the usual tinned and dry goods.

We also, in the three weeks before Christmas, invite the congregation to sign up to provide items for Christmas dinner for the residents. Please look for a list in the Tower and we will deliver the goods the day before Christmas Eve.

Just to remind you of how the charity works, originally it provided short term emergency accommodation for the homeless. Then the accommodation was improved, and the staff ratio increased to provide longer term accommodation for the homeless who benefit from 24/7 support working through the issues that have caused them to be homeless. There have to be rules agreed with the clients about substances not allowed in the hostel. For example, no brandy infused mince pies.

At Christmas time, some of the residents will go to stay with family, but others are estranged from kinsfolk, so the Christmas dinner is very important. In general, the hostel manager says that employing a full-time chef is an investment that enhances hostel life for all. Indeed, the evening when a roast is provided has a positive impact on the atmosphere in the hostel as the cooking smells waft through.

In the past few months, the prayer requests we have received have reflected two trends... one is the need to provide a stable and resilient workforce. This has been challenging after a long period of staff stability. So please pray for their recruitment challenges, and strong collaboration between staff. The second is that the clients seem to have ever greater challenges and although they stay at the hostel for several months, it is harder to enable them to move onto employment and out to independent living, or even to the halfway house, linked to the hostel.

It's an environment which presents many challenges. The hostel has been managed for many years by a diminutive figure, Angela, whose compassion is coupled with realism and loads of practical common sense. She is impressive, and when Mary and I met her recently, she reiterated how much she values our prayers. In her words, they can reach what seems like deadlock, and then something or someone arrives to ease the situation or crisis. She attributes this to the power of prayer. May God bless Angela, her staff and all the residents at LeatherHEAD START. Thank you all for your support and interest.



Barbara Holloway



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Email our offices

dorking@camv.org.uk leatherhead@camv.org.uk



HM Government

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

Christmas Challenge

Do you normally write lots of cards to all your friends at St Nic's? Or do you send numerous e-cards to your friends in the church community?





... living care fully in God's world ...

year, the ECO team would like to encourage everyone to improve sustainability by saving paper, postage and energy by taking part in our communal Christmas card scheme.

How? Simply choose and write one greetings card to St Nic's, bring it to the church and pin it on our festive trellis. This will not only save time

and money, but also help create a display of Christmas Greetings in our newly re-ordered Church space.

We anticipate the display will go up in the first week of December and taken down by the 6th January. You may add your card at any time before Christmas Day.

The ECO Team



| | READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES
December 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3rd | First Sunday of Advent
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13: 24-end |
| 10 th | Second Sunday of Advent
2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8 |
| 17 th | Third Sunday of Advent
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28 |
| 24 th
10am
11.30pm | Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
Romans 16: 25-end; Luke 1: 26-38
Isaiah 52: 7-10; John 1: 1-14 |
| 25 th
10am | Christmas Day
Isaiah 9: 2-7 ; Luke 2: 1-16 |
| 31 st | First Sunday of Christmas |
| | Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21 |
| January 7th | The Epiphany
Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12 |
| 14 th | Second Sunday of Epiphany
Revelation 5: 1-10; John 1: 43-end |
| 21⁵t
Morning
Evensong | Third Sunday of Epiphany
Revelation 19: 6-10; John 2: 1-11
Psalm 33: 1-12; Jeremiah 3: 21-4:2; Titus 2: 1-8, 11-14 |
| 28 th | Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Revelation 12: 1-5a; Mark 1: 21-28 |

St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer December 2023 and January 2024 Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

| Decemb | oer 2023 | | | |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|
| 3 rd | Oasis Charitable Trust
Gill Caldwell
Celeste Rios | Flower
Arrangers | Swanns Meadow
The Lorne | |
| 10 th | Christian Solidarity
Worldwide
Val Lambert
Jenny Evans | and Cleaners
<i>Angela</i>
<i>Stevens</i> | Butterfield Court
Glebe Close
Townshott Close | |
| 17th | The Meeting Place
Margaret Hibbert
Val Lambert | All involved
in the extra
Services and | Little Bookham
Street | |
| 24 th | Christmas | Concerts up
to Christmas
<i>Wardens and</i>
<i>Ministers</i> | Bennets Farm Place
Longmeadow | |
| 31 st | New Year | | Childs Hall Road | |
| Januar | y 2024 | The Ministry
Team
<i>Ministers</i> | | |
| 7 th | Bible Society
Alan and Suzie Jenkins | | Ashley Close
Childs Hall Close
Childs Hall Drive
Christie Close | |
| 14 th | Fairtrade and Eco
Team
Margaret Hibbert and
Team | | Grange Centre | |
| 21 st | Christians Against
Poverty (CAP)
Val Lomax
Catherine Clark | | Sole Farm Avenue
Oaks Close
Fern Close | |
| 28th | Mission Aviation
Fellowship
<i>Julia Watts</i>
<i>Sue White</i> | | Middlemead | |

Occupation for December: Entertainment, Arts, Information Occupation for January: Business, Commerce, Retail

| Church Development Plan Prayer Focus | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|--|
| 3 rd December | Changes to our building | Chris Turner | | |
| 10 th December | Growing a diverse families' and children's ministry | Celeste Rios | | |
| 17 th December | Effective Communications
Strategy | Vicki Dixon | | |
| 24 th December | Confident in our witness and service | Alan Jenkins | | |
| 31 st December | Changes to our building | Chris Turner | | |
| 7 th January | Growing a diverse families' and children's ministry | Celeste Rios | | |
| 14 th January | Effective Communications
Strategy | Vicki Dixon | | |
| 21 st January | Confident in our witness and service | Alan Jenkins | | |
| 28 th January | Changes to our building | Chris Turner | | |

| F | From the Parish Registers | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Deaths | | | | |
| 28 th September 2023 | Anthony Rayner | Aged 81 | | |
| 16 th October 2023 | Sheila Wishart | Aged 87 | | |
| 26 th October 2023 | Audrey Wing | Aged 92 | | |
| Baptisms | | | | |
| 29 th October 2023 | Joshua Vicary | | | |

Calendar December 2023 and January 2024

Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).

| Novem | ber | | |
|------------------|-------|------|---|
| 28 th | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 29 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (Online) |
| | | 1000 | Polesden Lacey Infant School visit (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1000 | Mothers' Union Committee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 30 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church) |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| Decem | | | |
| 1st | Fri | 0900 | Eastwick Junior Christingle Services (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 2 nd | Sat | 1000 | Church Development Plan Prayers (Church Room) |
| | | 1330 | Spirit of Christmas (Church, Pastoral Centre and Church Room) |
| 3rd | Sun | 1000 | Morning Praise (Church) |
| | | | |
| 4 th | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayer (online) |
| | | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1400 | Craft Group |
| | | 1530 | BYouth |
| 5 th | Tues | 1000 | Morning Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | 1130 | Mothers' Union Prayers (Church) |
| | | 1900 | Rainbow Trust Carol Concert (Church and Church Room) |
| 6 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayer (Online)) |
| 7 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church) |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| | | 1330 | Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre) |
| 8 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 9th | Sat | 0900 | Saturday Prayers (online) |
| | | 0900 | Bloom Breakfast (Pastoral Centre) |
| 10 th | Sun | 1200 | Friendship Lunch (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | | |
| 11 th | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayer (Online) |
| | | 1000 | Tots Alive! ((Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1300 | Great Bookham School rehearsal (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1400 | Craft Group |
| | | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 12 th | Tues | 0930 | Great Bookham School Christingle (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |

| 13th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayer (Online) |
|------------------|--------|------|---|
| | | 1830 | Great Bookham School Christingle (Church and Church Room) |
| 14 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church) |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| | | 1200 | Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | 1330 | Great Bookham School Christingle (Church and Church Room) |
| 15 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 16 th | Sat | 0815 | Barnabas Men's Fellowship (The Vineries) |
| 17 th | Sun | 1930 | Service of Christmas Readings and Carols (Church) |
| | | | |
| 18 th | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 19th | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | 1900 | Bookham Choral Society (Church and Church Room) |
| 20 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 21 st | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church Room <mark>)</mark> |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| 23 rd | Sat | 0900 | Saturday Prayers (online) |
| 24 th | Sun | | Christmas Eve |
| | | 1000 | Holy Communion |
| | | 1500 | Crib Service |
| | | 1630 | Family Carol Service |
| | | 1800 | Family Carol Service |
| | | 2330 | Midnight Communion |
| 25th | Mon | | Christmas Day |
| | | 0800 | Holy Communion |
| | | 1000 | All-age Christmas Service with Communion |
| 27 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (Online) |
| 31 st | Sun | | New Year's Eve |
| | | | |
| Januar | y 2024 | | |
| 1 st | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayer (online) |
| 2 nd | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | 1130 | Mothers' Union Prayers (Church) |
| 3 rd | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 4 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church Room <mark>)</mark> |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| 5 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 6 th | Sat | 1000 | CDP Prayers (Church Room) |
| 7 th | Sun | 1000 | Morning Praise (Church) |
| | | | |
| 8 th | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| | | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) |

| | | 1400 | Craft Group |
|------------------|-------|--------------|---|
| | | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 9th | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 10 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 11 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church) |
| 11. | Thurs | 1000 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| | | 1200 | Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre) |
| 12 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 13 th | Sat | 0900 | Saturday Prayers (online) |
| 13 th | Sun | 1600 | Alpha Course starts (Church) |
| 14 | Sun | 1000 | |
| 15 th | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| | | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1400 | Craft Group |
| | | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| | | 2000 | PCC Meets (Church Room) |
| 16 th | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 17 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 18 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (church) |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| 19 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 20 th | Sat | 0900 | Barnabas Fellowship (Pastoral Centre) |
| 21 st | Sun | 1600 | Alpha Course (Pastoral Centre or Church Room) |
| | | 1830 | Evensong (Church) |
| | | | |
| 22 nd | Mon | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| | | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1200 | Silent Prayer Group (Pastoral Centre) |
| | _ | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 23 rd | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 24 th | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| 25 th | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (church) |
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) |
| 26 th | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 27 th | Sat | 0900 | Saturday Prayers (online) |
| 28 th | Sun | 1600 | Alpha (Church) |
| 29 th | Mon | 0020 | Morning Provers (enline) |
| 29" | Mon | 0830
1000 | Morning Prayers (online)
Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) |
| | | 1400 | Craft Group |
| | | 1400 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 30 th | Tues | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) |
| 31 st | Weds | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online) |
| Februar | | 0000 | |
| residal | J | | |

| 1st | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church) | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room) | |
| 2 nd | Fri | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre) | |
| 3 rd | Sat | 1000 | CDP Prayers (Church Room) | |
| 4 th | Sun | 1000
1600 | Morning Praise
Alpha (Church) | |
| 9 th Janu | 9th January 2024 - Copy for February 2024 | | | |



Parish Contacts

| | | Juniacis | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
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| - | - | rev.ireland43@btinternet.c | | |
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| | | celeste.rios@stnicolasboo | okham.org | g.uk |
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| Cathr | yn Jobson, Chris Bridges, He | eather Gerrard, Jan William | son | |
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| Electoral Roll | | Catherine | | 451503 |
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| | | Barbara | | 800381 |
| Guiding Book | ham and Effingham | Christine | | 368362 |
| House Group | s for i | nformation contact Jean Fo | | 450709 |
| Mothers' Unio | | s – Julia Watts and Chris C | | 450709 |
| Samaritans | in distress or despair?. | (24 hour service) ring Fre | efone 1 | 116123 |
| Scouting | | kham Group GSL Christine | | |
| | 3rd Bookha | am Group - Mrs Karen Whe | eler , | 000740 |
| | | n.wheeler@3rdbookham.org | | 800712 |
| Sunday Grou | ps GLO ^v | W at 10am – Celeste Rios | 07707 4 | 139799 |
| Tots Alive! | | Celeste Rios | 07707 4 | 439799 |
| | ighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri | | 0798 6 1 | |
| | | | 2.000 | |
| | | | | |