St Nicolas News

75p

February 2025







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

Weekday Services

8.30am Bible Reading and Open Prayer

Monday and Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion (Said) Thursday

9.00am **Prayers for our church** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays

10.00 am Church Development Plan Prayers –

1st 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

If we are a Christian, does doctrine matter? In other words, does it matter what we believe or, at the end of the day, are we free to sign up to whatever beliefs suit us?

My contention is, doctrine matters very much. And so, if we proclaim the name of Christ, we are not free simply to believe whatever we want to believe!

Why do I say that?

Well logic, for a start. After all, if we all believe different things, we are not really a united body of believers at all, but a disparate group with very little in common.

But not just logic. Scripture too invites us, indeed insists, that we cohere round a shared set of understandings and beliefs.

Writing to the younger Timothy, the Apostle Paul tells him to "preach the word". To "be prepared in season and out of season". To "correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction". (2 Timothy 4:2)

Why did he say this? Because he knew that if Timothy didn't do this, people would end up believing all sorts of things. Indeed, "to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to

hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

This is human nature folks! We resist hard teaching to make life easier for ourselves. But that is not Christian discipleship. Christian discipleship is acknowledging Jesus as both Saviour and Lord and, as such, recognising that we are not at liberty simply to believe what it suits us to believe.

In our own day, for those of us in the Church of England, doctrine is summarised in what are called The Canons of the Church of England. On these pages are stated what the church believes about all sorts of things including the forms of service baptism, communion, use, marriage, and ordination. Of course, these things theoretically can be changed, but to do so is a big deal and should therefore only happen after considerable thought, prayer, and debate, and a significant majority of the church's General Synod agreeing.

As the General Synod once again meets this month (10-14 February), as ever it will be essential that it abides by its own canons if the unity of the church is to be protected.



Help and guidance available on communications and advertising events and activities

Are you wanting to promote or organise a church activity or event? Do you need guidance on how to publicise it or how to prepare publicity materials?

Want to know how to use social media for St Nicolas? – then read on....

If you have responsibilities for communicating with others either within or on behalf of St. Nicolas, help is now at hand.

An online folder explaining St Nicolas' communications strategy and giving practical guidance and ideas is now available via the link below. There is an introductory sheet listing all the documents available, with screen shots so that you know what to look for. Please feel free to have a browse to see what will be of help to you and your colleagues.

The folder includes help with:

- How to organise and publicise events or new activities, e.g. poster design, planning template, risk assessment forms, etc
- How to use social media to promote an activity or event including best practice
- Advice on poster design taking into account people with visual impairment or learning difficulties as well as copyright best practice
- Guidance for those welcoming people to our church and signposting to different information, activities and groups
- Improving day-to-day communications among those with different responsibilities in our church
- Named contacts of people with skills and experience to advise and signpost you to helpful information and tools.

Provision of the online folder and its contents is part of the PCC approved Communications Strategy for St. Nicolas Church, which was one of the Church Development Plan objectives for 2022-24.

Link to Communications folder

Copy and paste this hyperlink address into your address bar or ask Nick Garrett or David Gatland (Parish Office) for the link to be emailed to you.

https://bit.ly/40j1v1L

A link will also be added to the Communications page on the church website.

We hope this folder will prove helpful for anyone involved in communications. If you have any questions about the folder contents, please feel free to contact Nick Garrett or myself.

<u>Nick.garrett@stnicolasbookham.org.uk</u> or vicki.dixon@stnicolasbookham.org.uk

Vicki Dixon - on behalf of the Communications Strategy Group



St Nicolas News

Although the price of the magazine has stayed the same for over 15 years, unfortunately we need to increase the price because the cost of paper and printing has gone up each year. The price for 2025 has been increased to 75p per issue and the annual subscription price increased to £7.50. For those who take out an annual subscription, please pay £7.50 by online bank transfer (Sort code 40-52-40, Account 00019044) noting that the payment is for the magazine. Alternatively, please pay via the parish office or the wall safe in church.

Barnabas





Barnabas, January 2025

Christian funerals are an opportunity to mourn, but they also focus on the hope of eternal life. Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Do we have hope of eternal life?

The first comment was "No-one has come back after death including Houdini", followed by "We should have a 'Death Café' to discuss what happens after death". At a funeral we often have very little idea of what the deceased believed. Professor Henry Becker is putting his trust in cryogenics since he is agnostic.

As engineers know, energy cannot be destroyed only changed, so why not us? Humans are animals who develop and grow then shrink; their elements evolve. Hawkins believes that black holes can be destroyed and their energy is changed. The heavens are infinite so there is plenty of room for all aspects of our elements and spirits to live on.

Two people described out of body experiences; one was looking from the corner of his room at all that was in it, including himself – he realised that he had been lying in a strange position which probably explained the cause. The other had suffered from sepsis which caused a vision of a long tunnel with his grandfather beckoning to him from the far end; fortunately, something distracted him and brought him back to consciousness.

C S Lewis wrote "The Great Divorce" - a book giving an insight to what an eternal life might be like. Your body will go but your spirit will continue. We teach religion but not faith. Children's questions about faith can be very deep about reincarnation.

Current cosmological theories are beginning to consider that something may have existed before the Big Bang 13.5 billion years ago. That would tie in with God creating the world we live in.

John Adie



We ended last year with a Miscellany of Carols and various readings along with tea and cakes and a quiz with not *Name that tune but Name that Carol.* A nice afternoon to set us up for Christmas.

The New Year started with a Bring and Buy stall raising money for various MU projects "Away from it all holidays" for disadvantaged families, "Literacy projects" mainly abroad enabling women abroad to read and write to help with families and education of their children; these are just some of the projects that the MU supports internationally.

We had a general discussion on the theme "The Way Forward" and the national theme for the next few years "Join us and Join in". Both food for thought.

Our February meeting on Thursday 13th is our AGM chaired by Rev Gill Caldwell. All welcome, come and hear what we have done, and what we are hoping to do. Things may change.

Chris Collins

Items needed for the Women's refuges in the Diocese.

Following what seems to have been a very successful harvest collection for Leatherhead Start, Guildford diocese of the MU are collecting similar items for all the Women's Refuges in the area.

Women's toiletries, sanitary products, bubble bath, shampoo.

Cleaning products, washing powder, fabric conditioner.

Tinned food Dried food, pasta etc Childrens craft materials Snacks Tea and coffee.

There will be a box in church by the south door and the blue recycling box.

World Day of Prayer



This year's service on Friday March 7th has been prepared by the Christian Women in the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean. They have celebrated 200 years of Christianity in the

group which is 15 different islands which are spread over almost 800,000 square miles.

This year inspired and led by the Christian women who have shared stories of their struggle during Covid-19, of their culture being devalued, and of improvements in obstetric healthcare. We give thanks for their honesty and witness to God's strength in their lives.

Based on the words of Psalm 139 and woven in the stories of three Christian women, the service invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care.

As a church if possible we need three leaders, three voices, a narrator and someone to do a reading, and someone who can work the sound desk, as I feel we will have to use a CD for the hymns.

God created us. God knows us. God is with us. Come and share this message with us on :-

Friday 7th March 10.30am St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham 7.30 pm Effingham Methodist Chapel

Chris Collins



Our interviewee this month is Lucy Hicks the Bookham Youth Project Worker.



The home I grew up in -

I grew up in Guildford with my parents and older brother. My dad has a habit of trying out recipes he sees on Bake Off with excellent results, and my mum is an avid gardener and often has to rescue my houseplants. My brother was both my biggest tormenter and greatest defender, and now that we don't live together anymore, we find each other much less annoying!

When I was a child, I wanted to -

Be an author. I loved reading when I was younger, and I spent a lot of time writing my own stories.

An experience that changed me forever was -

Finding a church in Edinburgh. It was an absolute lifeline in lockdown and afterwards, and I am so grateful to have been in that community for 5 years.

You might not know it, but I'm very good at -

Playing the flute! I finished my Grade 8 and did a performance diploma.

You might not know it, but I'm not very good at -

Pool (the young people remind me of this often) and remembering things (everything **must** be written down). I am also not good at bowling, and I lost the last time I played. Unfortunately, I am very competitive and was not a gracious loser.

A book (apart from The Bible) that influenced me was -

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. It's about two women living in Afghanistan under the Taliban and tells a beautiful and heartbreaking story about love, sisterhood and resistance.

The music I most listen to is -

It often changes but at the moment I really love Griff. She's got a beautiful voice, and I love her fashion – she makes her own clothes!

The work of art I'd most like to have in front of me is -

The Water Lily Pond by Claude Monet. I visited his house in Giverny when I was about 12 and I was a bit young to appreciate the art at the time, so I spent the day with my friend playing pooh sticks on the bridge in Monet's Garden. It feels like I was living in the art that my parents were learning about, and now when I see that painting it's not just a beautiful work, it's a reminder of a really happy memory.

If I have time to myself, I -

If I'm not seeing friends, I enjoy reading, doing something creative like scrapbooking or painting, and watching something light-hearted on TV.

What makes me laugh the most is -

The nursery rhyme challenge on Taskmaster in Series 2 (specifically Joe Wilkinson's rendition of Old MacDonald).

My greatest regret is -

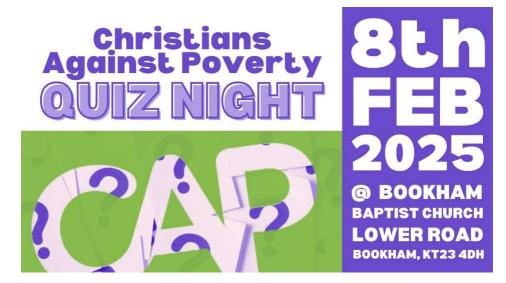
Not trying new things because I was afraid of looking bad or failing. I'm trying to remind myself that it's okay to give things a go and not be an instant success!

I am most proud of -

My friends. They are the best people I know, and I would be lost without them. It's a privilege to have them in my life and to have their constant love and support. I am proud to be their friend and very proud of everything they accomplish!

My life in seven words -

Joy, community, friendship, family, creativity, excitement, blessing.



CAP, Christians Against Poverty Quiz Night

Why not support CAP, one of our Outward Giving Links in a fun way by getting together a group of friends to make up a team of 8 for their annual Quiz evening. This will be held on Saturday, 8th February at Bookham Baptist Church with doors opening at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

and finishing at 10.00pm. Light refreshments will be available of tea, coffee and cakes, and feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tables of 8 need to be booked as a whole, with the cost at £10 per person (£80 per table).

Details and a booking form are available using the link https://bookhambaptist.churchsuite.com/events/usrfbwi3 or by using the QR code to be found on the CAP posters in the Tower or Outward Giving Display board (near the choir vestry) in church. Any questions, please contact reception@bookhambaptist.org or phone 01372 811313

HOUSEGROUPS

Our Housegroups continue to flourish! There are now nine groups, meeting on various days and at different times, some in the day, and others in the evening. Some meet weekly, some twice monthly and some monthly. Most groups regularly study the Bible, and several also study various other topics, including such things as prayer, forgiveness and friendship. Most also have regular socials, with friendships within the groups being very strong and supportive.

There is a new leaflet at the back of the church with up-to-date details of all groups, most are willing and able to welcome new members.

If you have not tried a housegroup before, then Spring is an excellent time to start. It is quite all right to change to another group if your first choice doesn't work out, or to try several before deciding. Why not give it a try? – you won't regret it!

More information on the leaflet, or e mail Jean Forward: housegroups@stnicolasbookham.org.uk

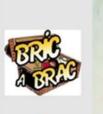




Fairtrade Coffee Morning Saturday 8th March 10am—12 noon St Nicolas Church Great Bookham











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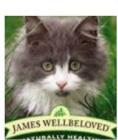
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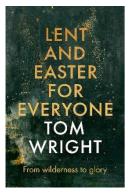


Lent and Easter for Everyone - from Wilderness to Glory By Tom Wright,

Join Tom Wright on a transformative journey through the Gospels as he explores the life and impact of Jesus: the highs and lows of his earthly ministry, the power of his teaching and his victory over sin and death.



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Each reflection is drawn from a key passage in Wright's immensely popular For Everyone series, and each one ends with practical suggestions for personal reflection or group discussion.

Whether used individually or in groups, *Lent and Easter for Everyone* serves as a trusted companion, encouraging spiritual growth, deepening understanding, and fostering a renewed sense of hope and purpose as you continue your Christian journey.

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

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10am-12.00 noon

February 22nd
March 29th
April 19th

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All our volunteers have been trained by the audiology departments of Epsom & St Helier Hospital or the Royal Surrey County Hospital and hold training completion certificates.



Do you have 1-2 hours free a week? Would you like to make a difference to someone's life? Yes?



Then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you. We are looking for volunteers to join our Befriending Service across Mole Valley.

We have a waiting list of older, lonely and isolated people who need a Volunteer Befriender. **Can you help?**

For more details, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diana Webb on: **07821 649683 / 01306 899104** or email: diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

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Fund raising for Anna (Nee Matthews) Collins.

Our daughter in law has a place to run in the London Marathon in aid of Breast Cancer

Now. I am organising: -

A film night 14th March Doors open 7pm starting 7.30pm

St Johns Hall Epsom Rd Merrow GU4 7AA

Tales of olde Guildford and a short supporting film

Do you know the story behind the Clandon Dragon or the Silent Pool?

Tickets £10 available soon

Raffle.

Tea, coffee and wine for donations. Ice creams in the interval Chris Collins

Great Bookham's very own PCSO, Marion Hawkins, will be holding a Surgery at The Meeting Place Warm Space in Bookham Baptist Church on:



Tuesday 4th February Tuesday 4th March Tuesday 1st April

She is happy to talk about any issues you may have, and just generally. She looks forward to meeting you.



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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

Church Development Plan Prayer Focus			
2 nd February	Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith		
9 th February	Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community		
16 th February	Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church		
23 rd February	Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith		

F	From the Parish Registers	
Deaths		
8 th November 2024	Jill Verco	Aged 88
29 th November 2024	Reg Carlier	Aged 98
16 th December 2024	Pamela Cheesewright	Aged 94
21 st December 2024	Tina Lamborn	Aged 81
Baptisms		
24 th November 2024	Darcey Dawkins	
1 st December 2024	Sophia Suarez	
5 th January 2025	Bessie Hutchinson	



READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES February 2025



2nd Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2: 22-40

9th Fourth Sunday before Lent

1 Corinthians 15:1-11: Luke 5:1-11

16th Third Sunday before Lent

1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

23rd Second Sunday before Lent

Revelation 4: 1-end; Luke 8:22-25

St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer February 2025

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

2 nd	Christian Solidarity Worldwide Val Lambert Jenny Evans	Tots Alive! Celest Rios	Beales Road
9th	The Meeting Place Margaret Hibbert Val Lambert	Tuesday	Newenham Road Styles End
16 th	Fairtrade and Eco Team Margaret Hibbert and Team	Coffee Julia Watts	Brodrick Grove Lower Shott
23rd	Mission Aviation Fellowship Julia Watts Sue White	The Fabric Team David Wall	Bookham Grove Grove Corner

Occupation for February: Finance, Accounting, Insurance



Forgiveness brings wellbeing
Forgiveness frees your heart
Forgiveness is not easy and is often a process
Forgiveness is not dependent on the other person
being sorry or understanding
Forgiveness is sometimes miraculous

Calendar February 2025

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).

Janua	ary		
30th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
31st	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
Febru	ary		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
1st	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers (Church Room)
2nd	Sun	1000	Morning Praise (Church)
3rd	Mon	0830	Morning Prayer (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
4th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
		1130	Mothers' Union prayers (Church)
5 th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
6th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
7 th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
8 th	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
10 th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (Online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
11 th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
12 th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
13 th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
		1415	Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre)
14 th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
15 th	Sat	0830	Barnabas Mens Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)
17th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive Christmas Party (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
18 th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
19 th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
20 th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
21st	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
22 nd	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)

		1200	Wedding of Abigail Scrase and Mike Barrow
	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
24 th		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
25 th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
26th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
27 th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion – Mothers' Union (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
28 th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
Marci	1		
1st	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers (Church Room)
2nd	Sun	1000	Morning Praise
3 RD	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
9th F	ebruary - C	Copy for Mai	rch 2025



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