



Parish of Fleet  
All Saints  
St Philip & St James

## News Sheet for Sunday 20 December 2020, Fourth Sunday of Advent and Sunday 27 December, First Sunday of Christmas

### WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

I hope you are well and coping with these difficult and rapidly changing times.

May I wish every one of you a safe, peaceful, and happy Christmas.! I do so aware that for everyone this will be a very different Christmas, and probably not celebrated as we would have hoped.

I know some of you are planning to be with family or friends but even as you do so may be worrying whether that is the right thing to do. Others I know may have taken the decision not to visit friends and will have to cope with the loneliness and disappointment that decision brings. Others still will have to choose between their children or between their parents as to who they do and do not mix with - an unenviable situation to be in.

Whatever your circumstances, and whatever decisions you make, I know that you will do so 'in good faith' (in every sense of that phrase) and I pray that God will bless you and keep you safe in all circumstances.

Please remember that wherever we are and whoever we are with, God himself will be present with us, and he is always the same, always faithful, and always looking after our best interests. Trust in him, and he will enrich and bless all your celebrations.

Here in the parish, we are doing our best to celebrate the birth of Christ with joy and gladness.

This Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>) you can join our online Service of Carols and Readings, which has taken a great deal of work and ingenuity to put together so please do take a look – it will be on [our Facebook page](#) from 6.30 pm.

On Christmas Eve we will be holding two Crib services, with live congregations at 3pm and 5pm – if you would like to attend IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK, but please do join in online via Facebook live for the 5pm service.

At 8.00pm we will be holding our Early midnight Mass - again it will be necessary to book if you would like to attend, but it can be viewed on Facebook live or later if you prefer (even at midnight if that suits you better!).

On Christmas morning there will be an 8.00 am Prayer Book communion service in church, followed by our 10.00 am Parish Eucharist which will also be livestreamed.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> the Bishops have taken the unusual step of encouraging us not to hold a service in our churches, to provide a break for all those who work so hard to enable these services. Instead, they have provided a diocesan service online, which we will make available, for all to join in. The Diocesan service will be available via our Facebook page at 10.00 am. This will be very much an 'All Age' and all styles kind of service, and if you would prefer something more traditional a service from the cathedral will also be made available at [Guildford Cathedral \(facebook.com\)](#). We hope all this will be of help to all.

Meanwhile, some people have sent me Christmas greetings, on video, to share with you all on Christmas day online – please think about doing something like this yourself. It can be a short video of you and or your family saying 'Happy Christmas', a photo, a written or drawn message - anything you like!

Finally, apologies for the technical difficulties that led to there being no livestreamed service last week, it was unavoidable. We hope normal service will quickly be resumed!

Thank you all for your cards and messages of good will and encouragement - they mean the world to us!

Happy Christmas!

*Mark*

## THIS WEEK & NEXT

### Sunday 20 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00am Morning Service in Ss Philip & James Church (booking essential)<sup>1</sup>,  
livestreamed via our Facebook page followed by 'Zoom Coffee',  
[Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

6.30pm Service of Carols and Readings (online only) streamed via our Facebook page.

### Wednesday 23 December

9.30am Midweek Service, Ss Philip & James Church and via Zoom, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

### Thursday 24 December - Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service in Ss Philip & James Church (only, booking essential)<sup>2</sup>

5.00pm Crib Service in Ss Philip & James Church (booking essential)<sup>2</sup>,  
livestreamed via our Facebook page.

8.00pm Early Midnight Mass in Ss Philip & James Church (booking essential)<sup>3</sup>,  
livestreamed via our Facebook page.

### Friday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion in Ss Philip & James Church (only, no need to book)

10.00am Family Eucharist in Ss Philip & James Church (booking essential)<sup>3</sup>  
livestreamed via our Facebook page.

### Sunday 27 December - First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am Morning Service, streamed via our Facebook page (only).

**Wednesday 30 December** No service.

**Ss Philip & James Church is open for prayer Wednesdays 10.00am-3.00pm & Sundays 12noon-3.00pm.**

## SERVICE BOOKING DETAILS

<sup>1</sup> To book for Sunday 10.00am services in church please 'phone Mary Goodson on 01252 815103 by Friday.

<sup>2</sup> Crib service booking is via our [Parish Website](#), - no later than 9.30am on Wednesday 23 December.

<sup>3</sup> Please contact Mary Goodson, 01252 815103, to book for the 8.00pm service on Christmas Eve and the 10.00am service on Christmas Day .

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**TODAY'S COLLECT** God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

**Those in urgent need of our prayers including...** Alona Beauchamp, Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns and Timothy Rayment.

**Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers...** Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Marion Brown, Patricia Bull, Dilys Denney, Pearl (Frances) Draper, David and Yvonne Dunk, Jonathan Eddy, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Mollie Hayes, Dexter Heard, Sue Huddie, Catherine Holder, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John & Barbara Simson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, Tyler Thompson, John Tillyer and Molly Wilson.

**Those who have died recently...** Mark Hawes and Frederick Taylor.

**Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time...** Mary Norman, Vera Jeffries, David Mearing, Bernard Beer, Keith Jones, Gwen Loverseed, Donald Brodie, Ivy Cox, Leslie Wigg, Lorna Anderson, Edith Griffith, Charles Marsh, Bert Atkinson, Doreen Suter, Frederick Cooper, Robert Stannard, Hugh Lindsay and Peter Duckworth.

### PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 21 DECEMBER 2020

**Meditation** 'We are not grains of sand upon the shore buffeted by sea and storm, we are individuals loved by God more intimately than we could ever know. Though from a distance we seem insignificant and frail the creating breath that formed us now lives in and sustains us.'

**We give thanks for...** Jesus, the Saviour of the World, God's gift to us all.

**Please pray...**

**Mon** - For the people of Bethlehem and all Palestinian people.

**Tues** - For modern day shepherds, and all who work in agriculture in these uncertain times.

**Wed** - For midwives, obstetricians, and those who work in neonatal care.

**Thurs** - Christmas Eve - For all who are busy, travelling, overwhelmed or alone.

**Fri** - Christmas Day - For the homeless, the refugee, and all who reach out to them.

**Sat** - (St. Stephen) For all imprisoned or endangered for speaking out for their faith or for justice.

**Sun** - (St. John the Evangelist) For St. John Ambulance, the Red Cross and all who offer first aid to others.

**ALL WEEK** - For those who live in Chertsey Street, Chestnut Close, Cheviot Drive, Chineham Close, Cholsley Drive and Church Grove.

### NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

[2 Samuel 7.1-11 & 16](#) - *At this time (about 1000 BC) the Jewish people were still a tribal society. David had only just assumed kingship over both Israel and Judah but had not yet gained Jerusalem as his city. The reluctance to build a more permanent dwelling for the Lord reflects tribal resistance to David being overall king. Nathan, though, prophesies that David will found a dynasty.*

[Luke 1.46b-55 \(the Magnificat\)](#) - *Although these words, which we know as the Magnificat, have been put into the mouth of Mary they follow very closely Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving when she offered her first-born son, Samuel, to Eli, the priest of the Temple (1 Samuel 2.1-10).*

[Romans 16.25-27](#) - *These are the final verses of Paul's great epistle which form a doxology (a finishing prayer) that glorifies God.*

[Luke 1.26-38](#) - *In this familiar account of the Annunciation it is not always remembered that Mary seems not to have been frightened by the sudden appearance of the angel and, more importantly for us, she said 'let it be with me ...' when she could have said 'no'.*

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**TODAY'S COLLECT** Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

**Those in urgent need of our prayers including...** Alona Beauchamp, Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns and Timothy Rayment.

**Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers...** Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Marion Brown, Patricia Bull, Dilys Denney, Pearl (Frances) Draper, David and Yvonne Dunk, Jonathan Eddy, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Mollie Hayes, Dexter Heard, Sue Huddie, Catherine Holder, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John & Barbara Simson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, Tyler Thompson, John Tillyer and Molly Wilson.

**Those who have died recently...** Mark Hawes and Frederick Taylor.

**Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time...** Keith Clubley, Peter Jaynes, Gillian Martel, Jack Townsend, John Stocks, Lilian Buck, Connie King, Brian Duke, David Healey and Irene Joy.

### PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 28 DECEMBER 2020

**Meditation** 'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.' *Minnie Louise Haskins.*

**We give thanks for...** the rest and recreation of recent days.

**Please pray...**

**Mon** - Our cleaners, sacristans, hall manager, churchwardens, gardeners, and all who care for our buildings.

**Tues** - Victims of slavery and people trafficking.

**Wed** - Those who work in the transport industry.

**Thurs** - New Years Eve - For all who work in catering and hospitality.

**Fri** - New Year's Day - For all who are having to work today in order to maintain essential services.

**Sat** - (St. Basil and St. Gregory) Christians of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

**Sun** - (Epiphany Sunday) For people of all faiths to work together for the sake of all humanity.

**ALL WEEK** - For those who live in Church Road, Clarence Road, Coach House Gardens, Colbred Corner, Connaught Road and Coombe Drive.

### NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

[Isaiah 61.10-62.3](#) - *This dates from the time of the release from exile in Babylon and looks forward to the re-establishment of the New Jerusalem. It is full of imagery in depicting a new start for the Jews when they return to the Promised Land.*

[Psalms 148](#) - *The psalm is one of the five that conclude the Psalter as a whole. It is a great hymn of praise that encompasses all God's creation including all that coexist in harmony (young men and maidens) and that which are opposites (wild beasts and cattle).*

[Galatians 4.4-7](#) - *In the previous verses Paul explains that before Christ's birth humankind had the status of a slave or a minor whose rights were governed by a guardian (the Law). Now that we have become fully-fledged 'Children of God' and are able to call God 'Abba, Father' we are entitled to inherit in our own right.*

[Luke 2.15-21](#) - *In saying 'Mary pondered these words in her heart', as she did again after finding the boy Jesus in the Temple, Luke implies that Mary had still not fully understood the significance of what was happening but she was being supported and guided by the Holy Spirit.*

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Please note that items with headlines underlined are new this week.

**SERVICES IN CHURCH** - Please contact Mary Goodson (01252 815103) to book in for the 8.00pm service on Christmas Eve and the 10.00am service on Christmas Day in Ss Philip & James Church. For all other services please see the service listing for booking details. Face masks must be worn in church.

**CAROL SERVICE** - There is an online Service of Carols and Readings being streamed today, 20 December, at 6.30pm via our Facebook page.

**PARISH ADVENT CALENDAR** - We are very sorry that our online advent calendar site has been down, this is due to circumstances beyond our control. Unfortunately we can't easily recreate the exact thing elsewhere but if you are signed up to our advent calendar mailings you will be sent a random selection of the items that we had used on the calendar. You can still sign up for the emails via the [Parish Website](#).

**JANUARY PARISH MAGAZINE** - The Fleet Parish Magazine for January is now available - you can view it online via our website. Paper copies can be collected from Ss Philip & James Church (Wednesdays & Sundays during opening hours only) and from outside the FPCC on 21-23 December 9.30am-3.00pm and on 24 December 9.30-1.00pm.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE** - The Parish Office will be closed from 1pm on 23 December and re-opens on Monday 4 January.

**CHRISTIAN AID** - Do you normally support Christian Aid by coming to the annual carol concert? Sadly there's been no opportunity to come together this year but you can still bring hope for the poorest and most vulnerable people in this time of global crisis by donating via their website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

**PHYLLIS TUCKWELL FUNDRAISER** - Hart Voices' annual fundraising carol concert in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care had to be cancelled this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. So to replace the income lost, they, along with The Chantry Singers, Farnham Youth Choir and Ninebarrow have worked hard to make a socially-distanced recording of a Christmas song by Roy Rashbrook, the musical director of Hart Voices and have decided to donate all proceeds from this song to the charity. You can watch the video at [www.pth.org.uk/event/theangelssong](http://www.pth.org.uk/event/theangelssong) and contribute to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care at the same time.

**IN SEARCH OF CHRISTMAS** - Looking for something to do with your family over the Christmas holidays? FACCTS have produced a fun treasure trail around Fleet to discover the real meaning of Christmas, visit [insearchofchristmas.wixsite.com/fleet](http://insearchofchristmas.wixsite.com/fleet) or watch the trailer at [vimeo.com/488500192](https://vimeo.com/488500192) for more details.

**GIVING OPTION** - You can now donate to Parish funds by scanning this QR code with any smart phone with a QR reader on it - it takes you directly to a web page where you can make a donation.



## PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281 📧 vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller ☎ 01252 629346 📧 s.m.buller@btopenworld.com

Administrators, Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson *Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 1.00pm*

✉ Parish Office, Parish Community Centre, Church Road, GU51 4NB ☎ 01252 812114

📧 office@parishoffleet.org.uk **website:** [www.parishoffleet.org.uk](http://www.parishoffleet.org.uk)



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