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Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing



Parish of
St Peter Woking
St Peter's · St Mark's · All Souls'

Notes & News

Sunday 12 December 2021

Third Sunday in Advent



* CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES – NEW *

Following Wednesday's announcement that the government is implementing Plan B it is now a legal requirement that face coverings must now be worn in church throughout services for anyone aged 11 and over who is not exempt.

We are still awaiting guidelines from the Church of England as to what exactly this means in practice, but we should be able to sing and have refreshments. Please bring a face covering with you to church, although they are also available in each church.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR RESIDENTS – NEW

Christmas cards with details of all our Christmas services are available in each church for delivery this week to local residents.

Please take a bundle and deliver them this week. They are a good reminder to our local community that our church is still here, active and bring a Christmas message of hope.

* DVDs OF SERVICES – NEW *

For those unable to get to church or get access to the internet we are able to provide DVDs of the livestreamed services after the event if you would like them, especially those who missed Sam's leaving service. Please ask Helen in the Parish Office if you would like DVDs of a particular service or on a regular basis.

Sunday 12 December
Third Sunday in Advent

All Souls' 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

HYMNS 210 Hark the glad sound
575 Rejoice the Lord is King
538 On Jordan's bank
424 Lo he comes with clouds descending

EPISTLE Philippians 4: 4-7 (p1181)

GOSPEL Luke 3: 7-18 (p1029)

SERMON It takes all sorts

St Peter's 10.00am Morning Worship (CW)

This service will be livestreamed

HYMNS 424 Lo he comes
You're the Word of God the Father
39 As with gladness
162 From heaven you came

PSALM 146: 4-10 said from the church Bible (p632)

FIRST READING Luke 3: 7-18 (p1029)

SECOND READING Philippians 4: 4-7 (p1181)

SERMON Christmas is coming

St Mark's 11.00am Holy Communion (CW)

HYMNS 210 Hark the glad sound
572 Rejoice, rejoice, Christ is in you
538 On Jordan's bank
509 O Lord the clouds are gathering

EPISTLE Philippians 4: 4-7 (p1181)

GOSPEL Luke 3: 7-18 (p1029)

SERMON It takes all sorts

St Peter's 5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

HYMNS 102 Come thou long expected Jesus
575 Rejoice the Lord is King
446 Lord thy word abideth
538 On Jordan's bank

PSALM 50: 1-6 said from the Book of Common Prayer

CANTICLE Magnificat (p19)

FIRST READING Luke 3: 7-18 (p1029)

SECOND READING Philippians 4: 4-7 (p1181)

SERMON It takes all sorts

*** MORNING PRAYER BIBLE READINGS – UPDATED ***

Next Week's Bible Readings

Mon 13 Dec	Psalm 49	Matthew 16: 13-28
Tue 14 Dec	Psalm 52	Matthew 17: 1-13
Wed 15 Dec	Psalm 59	Matthew 17: 14-21
Thu 16 Dec	Psalm 61	Matthew 17: 22-27
Fri 17 Dec	Psalm 38	Matthew 18: 1-20

All days are on Zoom now; we are no longer meeting in St Peter's on Thursdays for the foreseeable future. To join Morning Prayer in Zoom enter Meeting ID: 498 905 544 Passcode: 668876

*** VICAR'S VIEW ***

Last Sunday's service when we said farewell to Sam was a wonderful occasion. After such a turbulent year it was lovely to see so many people from all three churches together worshipping God and thanking Him for Sam, Lyz, Luke, Matthew and Abigail and their ministry amongst us. Sam should leave more often!

We will miss them terribly and unfortunately we were not able to secure a curate for next year (there is much competition for curates), so 2022 will be challenging. However, the ministry of the Waakos has left lasting fruit and the Wildes will be leading their homegroup and my wife Sarah will lead the youth group. We also have the Rev'd Martin Smith from Christ Church assisting us twice a month and with other clergy visiting from time to time. A few of our congregation are going on a preaching course early next year, Rachel continues to give brilliant support despite also training for ordained ministry and our existing worship leaders and preachers continue to serve us faithfully.

So whilst there is unsettling change there is also growth and encouragement. I have been encouraged by the new families we are reaching through Refresh Café, the good numbers at Tots, the new people and good numbers coming to Connections Café as well as the ongoing much-valued ministry of the Bereavement Support Group, so God is still very much at work, even if at times we focus on the difficulties and assume he isn't.

The situation with the Omicron COVID variant adds to the uncertainty we all feel as we approach Christmas so once again we need to support one another with love and patience and look to our God who 'Will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus' Philippians 4:19. Jonathan

*** ACCESSING OUR LIVESTREAMED SERVICES ***

The Sunday morning services are livestreamed from St Peter's most weeks on YouTube at 10.00am or once a month from St Mark's at 11.00am.

There are two ways to access these:

via www.stpeterwoking.org/sundaylive which provides a link to YouTube, a service sheet and other information about the service
subscribe to the Parish of St Peter, Woking YouTube channel (click the 'Subscribe' button below the video) to get direct access from YouTube without needing to go via the website

WHAT'S ON

We meet on Zoom for Morning Prayer on Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 9.30am.

Tuesday 14 Dec	10.00am	Tots Toddlers	St Mark's
Tuesday 14 Dec	3.30pm	Bereavement Support Group	Lower Vestry
Wednesday 15 Dec	7.00pm	Carol singing at Hale End Court	
Saturday 18 Dec	10.00am	Flower Arranging at St Peter's	
Sunday 19 Dec	4.00pm	Sutton Green Carol Singing	

***COLD WEATHER REVISED ***

In order to keep air circulating in our churches to minimise the risk of spreading COVID we will continue to have some windows open despite the colder weather. We will keep the churches as warm as we can, but please feel free to bring blankets to services to add some extra warmth. If you have any spare blankets that you could donate for general use please let Helen in the Parish Office know.

*** REFRESH CAFÉ – HELP NEEDED ***

Our weekly Refresh Café at St Mark's on Tuesdays from 3.15pm -4.00pm is an important part of our ministry for the whole parish as we connect with our community.

With Sam leaving we are looking for another helper or two to continue to make it viable. The role is primarily to welcome the families and talk with them, with occasional help making drinks. If you couldn't do every week, once a fortnight or even once a month would be welcome. Please contact Jonathan if you are interested in helping, whatever church you worship in.

Sunday 19 December

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9.30am	All Souls'	Morning Worship (CW)
10.00am	St Peter's	Nativity Service
11.00am	St Mark's	Morning Worship (CW)
12.30pm	St Peter's	Baptism of Jack Dorran
3.00pm	St Peter's	Baptism of Archie Bourne
6.00pm	St Peter's	Carols by Candlelight

*** THIS WEEK PLEASE PRAY FOR ...***

the family and friends of former All Souls' member, Jean Rowe, aged 77 of New Lane, Sutton Green. Jean's funeral will take place at Woking Crematorium on Thursday 16 December at 2.00pm.

the family and friends of Jason Hoford, a former member of St Peter's and for the family and friends of George Still, aged 85, father of our churchwarden Jacquie and her sister Debbie. A thanksgiving service for George will be held at St Peter's on Wednesday 22 December at 1.00pm.

and for Mary Angus, Eileen & Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, Frank Davenport, Pete Eales, Mary Hockey, Jan Kinnell, Trevor Lloyd, Doreen McKinnon, Ketsiya Melamane, Lynda Salmond, Debbie and Jacquie Still, Brian Whitehorn and Geoff Williams.

*** THANK YOU FROM THE WAAKO FAMILY ***

On behalf of all the family, this is a big THANK YOU to all who turned out on Sunday, both in person and online, for our farewell service. It was a truly special service that we won't be forgetting in a very long time. For the ministry team that put the service together, for all who made it for the service, for the very kind words that were said, for the amazing generosity shown to us, and above all the love shown to us, not just on Sunday but for the past three years, we are eternally grateful.

The Parish of St Peter, Woking will always hold a special place in our hearts. THANK YOU

Sam and Family

*** CAROL SINGING AT HALE END COURT ***

Wednesday 15 December 7.00pm



We have been invited to sing carols, together with New Life Church, to the residents of Hale End Court, the new extra care housing development run by Woking Borough Council in the High Street, Old Woking, next to the Shell garage.

If you would like to join in please contact Jonathan as we need to know numbers in advance.

SAM'S INDUCTION – REVISED *

The provisional date for Sam's induction at St Mary's, Andover is **Thursday 6 January at 7.30pm.**

Sam would love it if people from the parish could be there so if you are interested please put this date in your diary and we will give more details nearer the time once confirmed.

A number of people have asked if we can put on a minibus or coach which we are looking into. If you are interested then please let Helen know on 01483 755852, admin@stpeterwoking.org by Tuesday 21 December. Cost will be between £10 and £20 per person depending on numbers.



*** BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP ***

The Bereavement Support Group meets this Tuesday 14 December from 3.30pm-4.45pm in the church lower vestry.

Our first meeting in 2022 will on Tuesday 18 January. For further information please contact either Brenda Cox 07921 160684 or Pauline Wilde 01483 722098

*** ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS TREE – NEW ***

A big **Thank you** to Hire Services Southern (HSS) of Old Woking who have sponsored our Christmas Tree outside St Peter's this year.

*** CHRISTMAS SERVICES – REVISED ***

At present we plan to run the following services over Christmas, but please check www.stpeterwoking.org/christmas for updates nearer the time.

We are asking people to book in advance for the most popular services (as shown below) so we can limit numbers for social distancing. There will be no Guide Dog Carol service this year.

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER

10.00am - Nativity at St Peter's – children can come dressed as a Nativity character

4.00pm - Carol singing around Sutton Green – meet at Village Hall

6.00pm - Carols by Candlelight at St Peter's

THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER

7.00pm - Outdoor Carols by firelight at St Mark's – with Almac Bisley Brass Band, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
Please bring a torch

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm - Christingle at St Peter's – spaces are limited so places **MUST** be booked at www.stpeterwoking.org/christmas

6.00pm - Carols by Candlelight at All Souls' – spaces are limited so places **MUST** be booked at www.stpeterwoking.org/christmas

(All Souls' will be open for prayer and reflection from 10.00am to 5.30pm with carols played and readings available)

11.15pm - Midnight Communion at St Peter's

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am - All-Age Communion at All Souls'

10.00am All-Age Communion at St Peter's

11.00am - All-Age Communion at St Mark's

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

10.00am - Morning Prayer (said) at St Peter's



*** CONFIRMATION TESTIMONIES – NEW ***

It was lovely to have five people from the parish confirmed by Bishop Andrew at Christ Church Woking on Sunday 28 November. The order of service contained their testimonies which were so lovely we thought it everyone should read them. Thank you and congratulations Mary, Angela, Natasha, Emma and Katie.

Mary Angus



I've always been part of the church. When I was little, I went to Sunday School and participated in church through the nativity services and reading. As I grew up, I joined the youth groups and found a really kind, fun and supportive community, which allowed me to be myself in faith and as a person. I wanted to take this opportunity to be confirmed alongside some friends so that I could continue developing my faith and continue growing with the rest of the church family that has become such a huge part of my life.

Angela Eaton



I attended Sunday school as a child and my dad was even one of the Sunday school teachers, so Church was the norm in my life. However, during the teenage years I drifted away from Sunday services, and I missed out on my Confirmation at secondary school. I never stopped believing in God nor praying but it took a major health crisis in 2019 to change the direction of my faith.

Spending eighteen months attached to chemotherapy lines and countless tests in hospital provided me with ample thinking time. I made a new group of friends in fellow patients, witnessed at first hand the extraordinary dedication of our NHS staff, and developed some humility. During this testing time I received many acts of kindness. St Peter's church family provided constant encouragement.

Towards the end of treatment I attended the Alpha course which was inspiring. I started a daily reflection with the Bible App on my phone, started exploring my Bible and attending church. It really brings me peace and uplifts my soul.

I approached our church leaders to be confirmed because I feel that I have a new life today, a combination of the "old and new me" resulting in I hope a better version of myself. I am ready and comfortable to affirm my Christian faith.

1 John 4: 7

Natasha Gatsi



I have been coming to church ever since I was a baby. Now I have decided to have the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

Emma Smith-Gould



Ever since I was baptised, Christ has always been a part of my life. I was christened in Christ Church Surbiton and attended church regularly. I mostly attended the Sunday schools, and this was where I learnt all about the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. My mum's side of the family were mostly all Christian and this confirmed my feelings: if my family believe in Jesus, why wouldn't I?

My first Primary school was a Christian school, and that was where my understandings of God grew further as it was a part of everyday life there.

When I finished primary school, I was extremely nervous about trying to find the best secondary school for me. When we finally found out my school, I was so overwhelmed with anticipation that I would pray every night, asking God for the right tools I would need to be able to enjoy higher school life.

This is when I first joined St Peter's. Other churches were lovely, but they didn't compare to the comfort of our local church. I soon felt an immense gratitude to the Lord for St Peter's and for helping me settle down into my new secondary school.

This is what caused me to pick up the habit of praying every night just to thank him for my blessings, ask forgiveness of my sins and ask once more for anything that I should need comfort in- not just for myself but for others. My faith has grown throughout my life from church to church, home to home, and I am grateful to be a Christian and to be able to be confirmed and to affirm my faith in the Lord.

Katie Smith-Jones



I was Christened as a baby and as a child attended St Matthew's Church in Surbiton I was also in the local Brownie group and then Guides which I absolutely loved. There was always a strong Christian message in both clubs, so I always felt I was a Christian but not necessarily active and serving. It felt like I was in the Christian club, but I dipped in and out when I pleased. My Primary schools in Surbiton also had a strong Christian message. So again, I was a Christian child but did not really think too much about it.

As a family we celebrated Easter and Christmas and my Mum always promoted Christianity and the love of Jesus in our house.

As a teenager I slowly slipped away from my interest in following Jesus, something I think is very common at this age. At University I was far more focused on having fun with my friends, something that often happens. My faith was always in the background of my heart, almost like I had left the room for a few years.

But I returned to that special room when I met my husband Jeff and had my children William, Emma and Mary. I think being married to someone who loves God and follows the life and teachings of Christ really helped ignite and nourish my off the grid faith. I deeply wanted the children to grow up in a house of Christ and the love and teachings of Jesus.

As a family we attend St Peter's in Old Woking. We had tried a few churches in the area which were all lovely but did not quite fit. I immediately felt at peace and with the Lord on that very first service at St Peter's. The team were so welcoming, and it felt like a warm and close family who all met each Sunday to worship the Lord.

I knew I had walked back into the room and come home back to Jesus.