

Notices

Monday 13th December

14:00 Christmas Games Afternoon & Party

A CHRISTMAS FILM

Wednesday 15th December 14:00

Stardust - a sprinkling of magic.

Saturday 18th December

10:00 Christmas Coffee Morning.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 19th December at 18:30

The Christmas story, told in bible readings, and carols for choir and congregation.

Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Wednesday 22nd December 19:30

A time to pause and soak up the meaning of Christmas before the rush really starts!

CHRISTMAS EVE,

Friday 24th December

CHRISTINGLE CRIB SERVICE at 16:00

Nativity story and Blessing of the Crib

A special service for families with a surprise (or several!).

MIDNIGHT MASS at 23:30

With Christians throughout the world, we welcome Christmas in this service of Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY,

Saturday 25th December

All Age Communion at 10:00

Start your Christmas Day at this joyful service for all ages. We will be singing carols; bring a present to show everybody!



Choir rehearsals for Carol Service

- Sunday 12th December
- Sunday 19th December

Check out our new website:



www.cogsonline.co.uk



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD BOROUGH GREEN

1906—2021



Vicar Revd. Chris Turner 882447 vicar.cogs@gmail.com (Not available Tuesdays)

Churchwardens: Carole Simpson 883073, Julie Sweeting 885437

Lay Ministers Elaine Almond 886440, Ruth Burnham 884154 **Reader** Chris Almond 886440

PCC Secretary Jo Smith 882515 **Treasurer** Mark Sweeting 885437

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Carole Simpson 883073, Chris Atkins 366615

3rd Sunday of Advent — 12th December 2021

Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd

10:00 Holy Communion

41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
26 Advent candles
46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
** Rejoice in the Lord, always

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer after communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen

IN OUR PRAYERS Please remember those who are ill or in special need at this time:
Pat Head, Celia Smith, Alan & Margaret Soames, Gillian Aitkenhead, Barry Corbishley,
Pam Jones, Brenda Hewson, Linda Vallance, Marion Alcock, Sophie Collin

RIP:

For changes or additions to the pew sheet please email: vicar.cogs@gmail.com

Did you know that to pay our bills we need to raise over £1000 per week. If you would like to help support our work you can give online. Scan the QR code to see our donations page.

Thank you



Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Isaiah 12.2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they

asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Prayer for third Advent Candle

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

