



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES

# NEWS from ST. DUNSTAN'S

## SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

## ADVENT 3



### 10.15am PARISH EUCHARIST and Farewell to Jack

Setting: *Setting in E (Darke)*

Anthem: *My soul there is a country (Parry)*

Postlude: *Rhapsody No 2 (Howells)*

### SUNDAY CLUB

### READINGS:

Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-end

John 1: 6-8 and 19-28

### COLLECT

God, most high, and most near,  
you send glad tidings to the



lowly, you hide not your face  
from the poor; those who dwell  
in darkness you call into the  
light. Take away our blindness,  
remove the hardness of our  
hearts, and form us into a  
humble people, that, at the  
advent of your Son, we may  
recognize him in our midst and  
find joy in his saving  
presence. We ask this through  
him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near: your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives

and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever  
and ever.

### POST 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.

### CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

**Friday 15th:** Jack Gonzalez-Harding, Musical Director

**Saturday 16th:** Five Ashes Cottage Hospice

**Sunday 17th:** St Dunstan's Choir

**Monday 18th:** Mayfield School for girls

**Tuesday 19th:** Vanessa and our bell ringers

**Wednesday 20th:** All who own businesses within the  
parish, including our farmers

**Thursday 21st:** Nina Sanderson and the Flower Guild

**Friday 22nd:** Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish  
Councillors

### PRAY ALSO ...

**For the courage** to make the most of every opportunity  
to share our faith with others through words and deeds  
**For church growth** in numbers, spiritual commitment  
and in service to our community

**For those struggling** because of cost of living increases

**For our local schools, teachers and pupils**

**For all known to us who are sick; for those awaiting  
hospital appointments/surgery; for the NHS/all carers**

**For the recently departed and all who mourn the loss  
of loved ones**

**For those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Dorothy Bridger, Esme Cornford, Douglas Downer, Jeff  
Bolam, Jean Franks, Michael Fenner, Violet Streeter,  
Phyllis Fenner and George Cohen

### OUR PRAYERS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

**For our Government, Prime Minister and national  
institutions** in the many challenges facing us

**For our King and Queen** and all members of the Royal family

**For all national leaders** that they be guided by a Godly  
wisdom in their decision-making

**For peace and reconciliation** in all areas of conflict—  
especially at this time for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan

**For safe refuge** for the displaced and homeless

**For all victims of intolerance**, persecution and oppression

**For compassion and wisdom** in dealing with migrants

**For healthcare services both in this country and throughout  
the world; for aid agencies** and all who work, both here and  
abroad, to alleviate poverty, hunger and disease.

**For adequate supplies of clean water** for all

**For those affected by adverse weather conditions**

**For COP28 and an urgent and determined global response  
to climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity**

### This Advent ... remembering the gifts of HOPE, PEACE and JOY we have in Christ

Loving God, we thank You for the JOY  
brought to us through the coming of Jesus  
into the world and the good news of  
salvation.

May the message of HOPE that we have  
through the Messiah reach those who are  
lost and searching.

May Your message of PEACE and healing  
bring comfort to our anxious and hurting  
world.

May this message of great JOY pierce  
through all the noise and turmoil and enter  
into every heart. Amen.



## DECEMBER DIARY

- Fri 15<sup>th</sup>:** 7pm Concert Rehearsal  
7pm **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup>:** 10.15am PARISH EUCHARIST followed by farewell to Jack Gonzalez-Harding
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm CAROL SERVICE in St Dunstan's
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup>:** 10am SAID EUCHARIST in the Lady Chapel
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>:** 9.30-12noon HOLY DUSTERS
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 10am CHRISTINGLE-MAKING in St Dunstan's
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup>:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
10.15am SAID EUCHARIST  
5pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE in St Dunstan's  
11pm MIDNIGHT MASS in St Dunstan's
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup>:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10.15am Christmas Day SUNG EUCHARIST
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup>:** 10am SAID EUCHARIST in the Lady Chapel from reserved sacrament
- Sun 31<sup>st</sup>:** 10.15am EUCHARIST with CAROLS

CONTACT DETAILS FOR FR MICHAEL ASQUITH:

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CHURCH OPENING HOURS: daily 9am to 4pm

PARISH OFFICE/LONDON HOUSE BOOKINGS:

[office.stdunstans@gmail.com](mailto:office.stdunstans@gmail.com)

Office hours: 9am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri. Tel: 01435 873484.

Website: [www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk](http://www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk)

## Sunday Club

Meet in London House from 10am. The children will join the Service in Church as the 'Peace' is being shared.

## HOW JOHN RESPONDS TO SEARCHING QUESTIONS

God of light, help us to learn from John the Baptist. When he was asked difficult questions, he pointed away from himself to Jesus. When he was in the spotlight, he pointed away from himself to Jesus, to your glory. **Amen.**



Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-end  
John 1: 6-8 and 19-28

THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH-WARDENS and Deacon Di for battling with a particularly large Christmas tree—now awaiting the big 'switch-on'!



Thank you to Bishop Nicholas for being with us on Sunday to bless the new statue of St Dunstan given in memory of Sheila Humphrey



The statue was specially commissioned by the Flower Guild from woodcarver Stephen Moroder, who has his workshop in Tyrol, Austria.

## ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

For the most part foil wrapping paper cannot be recycled. Please watch out for the recycling symbol when purchasing your Christmas wrapping paper and ribbons.



**HOLY DUSTERS 9.30-12noon Thurs 21 Dec**—a reminder of the next church cleaning session. All welcome! Coffee provided! Further info: [emma@ryderrichardson.co.uk](mailto:emma@ryderrichardson.co.uk)



## URGENT: 4/5 ADDITIONAL FIRE WARDENS NEEDED FOR

**CHRISTINGLE**—meet prior to service on **Sunday 24 December at 4.20pm** for briefing. The PCC has revised the fire risk assessments for Christingle and concluded we need more people on duty to counter the risk of naked flames or hot wax causing injury. Anyone willing to help please contact Philip James on [james153fish@gmail.com](mailto:james153fish@gmail.com) or 07774 730901 as soon as possible. Thank you.



**Christmas shopping online?** Many retailers will make a donation every time you shop online at no additional cost to you. Please see <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/> and make 'St Dunstan's Parish Church' your chosen charity. Alternatively, Please click here to help directly with the running costs of St Dunstan's.

**DONATE**



## Handel's Messiah

7pm Friday 15 December  
DOORS OPEN 6.30pm BAR

## E Greetings

If you would like to extend Seasons' Greetings to our congregation via Enews, please submit your message **by Monday 18 December** to [julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com) for a 'Christmas messages' supplement to the Enews to be circulated on Friday 22 December.



## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

5pm CHRISTMAS EVE

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COME AND JOIN THE FUN OF MAKING CHRISTINGLES!  
10am SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

ALL WELCOME!



Next services at the COTTAGE HOSPICE in FIVE ASHES  
SAID EUCHARIST on JANUARY 14&28.



## SHARE THE WARMTH

Once again, FSW, our chosen Parish charity, are inviting supporters to donate their **HMG Winter Fuel Payment** to the 53,000 households living in fuel poverty across the Diocese. Please click on the logo to give online or send a cheque payable to FSW, to FSW, Garton House, 22 Stanford Ave, BN1 6AA

**10.30-11.30am WEDNESDAY COFFEE** in St Dunstan's (after 10am Said Eucharist) **ALL WELCOME** for a cuppa and a chat!



**SATURDAY PICNICKERS**  
12.30-2.30 London House  
NOT 23 DECEMBER Tel Valerie 873253

