



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES

NEWS from

ST. DUNSTAN'S

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS



SERVICES

10.15am All Together Parish Eucharist and Toy Service with Fr Rob Dillingham

READINGS:

1 Timothy 6: 6-11
Mark 10: 13-16



COLLECT FOR ST NICHOLAS Bishop of Myra c.326

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of

others

and, as we have received, so teach us also to give through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Our parish has traditionally held 6th December (St Nicholas' Day) as a service with a Toy Collection. There is not much known with certainty about St Nicholas, Santa Claus, which comes from the Dutch Sante Klaas. The very old custom of giving presents to children on the Eve of St Nicholas' Day was taken to America by the early Dutch colonists; there it was transferred to Christmas Eve., Santa Claus being

transferred also. Thence the custom came here. The custom of giving presents is said to have originated from a gift of three pieces of gold that St. Nicholas threw through the window of a poor man's house, to enable his three daughters to get married. It's to the point that we bring toys to give away on Sunday, in time for them to be collected and distributed to children who might otherwise have been disappointed on this coming Christmas morning. **Di**

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

We thank You, Lord Jesus, that when You came to earth You came into a family and knew the joys and sorrows of family life. We thank You for all the blessings that family life can bring.

We pray for families who are struggling at this time, and for those who endeavour to help them through their difficulties.

We pray especially for the charity FSW (Family Support Work).

Please give FSW the all resources they require to support those who need their assistance.

We pray for the families that FSW support, that they may see Your loving kindness working in and through the care that they receive. Amen.



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Giving thanks for: Deacon Di, our Churchwardens and PCC, Nicky in the Office, and all those working hard to keep things going during the vacancy.

For all who are missing their usual opportunities to gather together socially.

For those who are anxious or fearful about the future.

For all known to us who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

For the recently departed: Lionel Robinson

For those whose anniversaries fall this week: Eveline Fenner, Tony Donovan, Winifred Hemsley, Pat Brown, Moreen Biron, Ronald Franklin, Sarah Jane Hunt, Brenda Moodey

AND FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WIDER WORLD

For our Queen and for her ministers as they lead our nation.

For all national leaders, that they will be guided by a Godly wisdom rather than a selfish gain.

For scientists giving thanks for potential coronavirus vaccines.

All who work to alleviate poverty, hunger and disease .

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Sat 5th: RAFFLE TICKETS for Sale outside St Dunstan's
Sun 6th: 10.15am—'All Together' ST NICHOLAS TOY SERVICE
Mon 7th: PARISH OFFICE closed
Wed 9th: 10am – MORNING PRAYER led by Deacon Di
1pm – PRIVATE FUNERAL for Lionel Robinson
followed by Interment
Sat 12th: 10am-12noon – FESTIVE CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
outside St Dunstan's
Sun 13th: 10.15am – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—Parish Eucharist
with Fr Christopher Channer
11.15am – DRAW OF THE FESTIVE RAFFLE
12noon – SAID EUCHARIST AT COTTAGE HOSPICE



ST DUNSTAN'S FESTIVE BAKE AND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 10am to 12noon
(outside church and subject to lockdown
restrictions)

Christmas cakes, puddings, 'everyday' cakes,
preserves, chutneys etc. all very welcome.

ALL DONATIONS: a) to Nicky in the Parish
Office - please phone first;
b) leave them at the back
of Church after a Service when we reopen; or
c) any perishables can be
brought direct to the stall on the morning of the
sale.

Thank you to those who have already bought
Raffle Tickets. Additional tickets may be bought
outside St Dunstan's on Saturday 5th December.

The draw will take place on Sunday 13th
December after the 10.15am Service.

PRIZES: a Luxury Christmas Hamper, Christmas
Drinks Hamper and the traditional Harrods
Teddy - all well worth winning!

Thank you, as always, for your support.

If you, or anyone you know, would like a friendly chat over the
phone, please do contact Maggie Holliday on 01435873822,
Denise Packham on 01892523704 or Karen Mack on
01435872607.

LIONEL ROBINSON—the family only service of our good
friend and colleague will be held in St Dunstan's at 1pm on
9th December followed by burial in the churchyard. Family
flowers only. Donations to Mayfield PCC (Churchyard
Fund). The church will continue to be open until 11am on
the 9th should you wish to sit with Lionel and remember
him and his family.

TOY SERVICE
10.15am
this SUNDAY
(6th)

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Please bring along your gifts, new and unwrapped
and in the original packaging, to the

Suggested items for both boys and girls, aged 2 to 17:

Gift vouchers Board Games Lego
Toiletry Sets Books
Socks/Hats/Gloves But please NO soft toys

Toys will be distributed to local families through FSW

DROP OFF POINTS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE SERVICE:

Back of church (Sun and Wed am); London House (foot of the
stairs at the back); and Mayfield Post Office. THANK YOU.



A message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York:

'This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in
Romans 12:15, to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who
weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place –
but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the
celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to
do so. We hope that **Comfort and Joy** will enable us to build a campaign
that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to
offer God's consoling love in the present.' Watch this space for further information.

For the Christmas 2020 video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTtYrCqBnhg>



THE CHURCH
BIG CLEAN
will now take

place on **Wednesday 16th
December at 10.30am.** Please note
change of date. Are you able to
help? Please contact **Emma Ryder-
Richardson** on 01892 783423
or emma@ryder-richardson.co.uk

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

This year the Diocese of
Chichester is offering
Advent reflections twice a
week in the form of
podcasts. The theme will be
taken from the lessons
contained in the Nine
Lessons and Carol service,
chosen to help us celebrate
the fact the Gospel remains
unchanged this Christmas.
These will go out Tuesdays
and Thursdays throughout
Advent and will be
available on [Advent - Diocese of
Chichester \(anglican.org\)](https://www.advent-dioceseofchichester.org/)

See also: [Bishop Martin
introduces the Diocese advent 2020
reflections - YouTube](#)

CHRISTMAS WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

but we aim to bring **Comfort and
Joy** through our services:

6pm December 20: Carol Service 1
6pm December 22: Carol Service 2
10.30pm December 24: Midnight
Eucharist
10.15am December 25: Christmas Day
Eucharist

With the congregation limited to 75
(because of social distancing), we will be
ticketing the services. To secure your seat,



general booking is now available on
Eventbrite—please see accompanying
email for further details.

The tickets are free but you will be
encouraged to donate to help with the
costs of running our beautiful church.
Hopefully, there will be oodles of
wonderful music, traditional readings and
liturgy to help us all share together in the
wonder of Christmas. Despite strictly no
singing out loud from the congregation, the
Choir will be in good voice. Come and let
your heart sing!

Churchwardens

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Parish Office Tel: 873484 ; e-mail stdunstan@tiscali.co.uk

PLEASE BE IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE NAMES ADDED TO OUR PRAYER LIST.

Website: www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk

MAYFACS Helpline: 01435 873888