



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

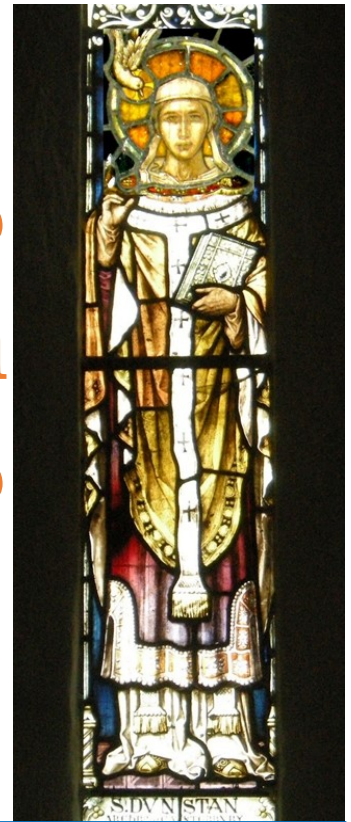
MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES

NEWS from

ST. DUNSTAN'S

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

2ND BEFORE ADVENT



10.15am ONLINE SERVICE with Bishop Nicholas Reade
<https://youtu.be/F9-hhTbn8Zo>

READINGS:
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30



COLLECT:
Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is
pure;

that when he shall appear in power
and great glory
we may be made like him in his
eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with
you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

In this week's Gospel we have yet another parable where the key figure is delayed and his sudden arrival creates a crisis. Often it seems that God has gone away and left us to get on with it, almost as if he doesn't care. But non-interference is necessary for our liberty and he is only hidden because we don't know how or where to look.

NB: The talents are not innate gifts or skills, the slaves are given money.....tons of it.....disproportionately. This parable defines stewardship; everything belongs to God who trusts us to make good use of what he puts at our disposal. Therefore, Paul says from our first reading: "Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." **1 Thessalonians 5 verse11!** **Di**

Sunday 15th November

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

We remember those Christians around the world who are prevented from practicing their faith, not just for a short time because of Covid-19, but completely and indefinitely by those who wish to curtail their right to freedom of belief.

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for persecuted Christians around the world who continually have been denied the freedom to worship You. Those who, even before the pandemic, had faced restrictions in their ability to meet together: to pray together, sing hymns and study Your Word; and those for whom, even to own a Bible, is dangerous. We pray for members of Your Church who have continued to practise their faith despite fear: fear of violence, fear of the authorities, fear of arrest, fear of imprisonment, torture or worse. We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who love You no matter what: who sacrifice their homes, their freedom and their lives to follow and serve You. We pray that You will fill them with Your strength, hope and love and that one day soon all will be able to worship You in freedom and safety. Amen.
(Adapted from a prayer from Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Giving thanks for: Deacon Di, our Churchwardens and PCC, Nicky in the Office, the Online Team, 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; **and all who mourn:** Felicity and all the family

For those whose anniversaries fall this week: Pamela Fyfe, Alan Mathams, Doris Myhill, Marjorie Evans, Jim Cloutt, Joyce Burrige

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Sun 15th: 10-12noon—Church open for private prayer
Mon 16th: 3pm—'All Together' Meeting via Zoom
Tues 17th: 7.30pm—PCC Meeting via Zoom
Wed 18th: 10-12noon—Church open for private prayer
Sun 22nd: 10-12noon—Church open for private prayer



ST DUNSTAN'S FESTIVE BAKE AND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Saturday 12th December from 10am until 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. 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.

For Bishop Martin's Homily on 'Silence' especially recorded for us, please check out the Home Page of the Parish website:
stdunstan@tiscali.co.uk

FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS TOY SERVICE

10.15am SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

ALL TOGETHER PARISH EUCHARIST



We will once again this year be collecting toys for families supported by FSW. Please bring along your gifts, new and unwrapped and in original packaging, to the service on 6th December. 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

Should the current lockdown not be lifted, we will carry on with the collection - please place toys in the box provided at the foot of the stairs in London House. The toys will be distributed in good time for Christmas and we hope this will help some of our local families in what has been a very difficult year for everyone.

CHURCHWARDENS' BULLETIN

♦**The office is open** but please no visitors. Please phone with any enquiries: 01435 873484.

♦**Thank you to our Online Services Team for this Sunday's service.**

♦**The church is open** 10am—12noon Sundays and Wednesday for private prayer—all welcome.

♦**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.

♦**The churchyard path** has been reworked and it looks amazing.



#PrayerfortheNation

It's not too late to join in this nationwide November prayer initiative—daily at 6pm.

For further information:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

Cathedrals and churches across the country have been invited to ring a bell in support of #PrayerfortheNation and ST DUNSTAN'S BELLS will be ringing out. Thank you to our bellringers who will ring a single bell for 5 minutes at 6pm on Mondays and Thursday (maintaining the recommended 72-hour gap between entering the Bell Tower.)

Themes for NATIONWIDE 6pm DAILY PRAYER:

Sunday: Family, friends and loved ones

Monday: Schools/colleges; children/young people

Tuesday: Elderly; the isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday: Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday: NHS; other key workers

Friday: National and Local government

Saturday: All who are grieving; all suffering physical and mental ill-health

SHOPPING ONLINE

When shopping on line, please do consider clicking into Amazon Smile or Easyfunding and making 'The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Mayfield' your chosen charity. This brings in valuable funds to the church and at absolutely no cost to you!



CHRISTMAS WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

but we're very much hoping that the church will be open for:

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.

From Sunday 15th November: **General Booking through www.Eventbrite.co.uk** (search 'St. Dunstan's Mayfield'). 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

REAL ADVENT CALENDARS (£3.99) with 24-page Christmas story can be bought from Traidcraft. Other Fairtrade Christmas goods/presents also available. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk