

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST NICHOLAS GODSTONE,
ST STEPHEN SOUTH GODSTONE AND ST JOHN BLINDLEY HEATH

Rector: Revd Peter O'Connell 01883 741945 rector@godstonebenefice.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Revd Evelyn Randall 07590 099326 evelynrandall@uwclub.net
Church Wardens: St Nicholas: Graham Millar 07710 096 103
St John: Trevor Nightingale 07739 100857 St Stephen: Karen Jackson 01342 894669

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 3rd December 2023:- Holy Communion (CW)
at St Nicholas Church **9.00 am**

Sunday 3rd December 2023:- TOY SERVICE

TOY SERVICE at St
Nicholas Church **10.30 am**

Sunday 3rd December 2023:- CHRISTINGLE at St
Stephen's Church **10.30 am**

Tuesday 5th December 2023:- Coffee & Company at St
Stephen's Church **10.00 am – noon**

Wednesday 6th December 2023:- Memorial Service for
Pat Rodgers at St Nicholas Church **11.00 am**

Friday 8th December 2023:- Funeral at St Nicholas
Church – June Deeley **12.30 pm**

Sunday 10th December 2023:- Holy Communion & on
YouTube at St Stephen's Church **9.00 am**

Sunday 10th December 2023:- Holy Communion at St
John's Church **10.30 am**

Sunday 10th December 2023:- Morning Prayer at St
Nicholas Church **10.30 am**

Tuesday 12th December 2023:- Funeral at St Nicholas
Church - Leslie Head **2.00 pm**

PRAYER LIST

St Nicholas'- Daphne Hughes, David Collins, Roger Bedford, Stan Rodgers, Maureen Hollands, Andrea Millchap, Archie Butler, Karen Butler

St John's:- Hugh Hunter, Janie Reed, Basil McFarland, Fiona Mackenzie, Shiela Prilling, Rosemary Edwards, Julien Hollingshurst, Lesley Winn, Barbara Burch, Helen McRobert, The Benefice link with Rutendo in Zimbabwe.

St Stephen's:- Alan Kearton, Michael Bourne, Eileen Stewart, Eileen Bourne, Liz Windridge

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO
HAVE DIED:-

June Grant June Deeley Leslie Head
Pat Rodgers

NOTICES

FOODBANK UPDATE – the demand for the Foodbank at St Matthew's, Redhill continues to increase. They now estimate that they are helping about 200 people a week. Donations can be left at The Rectory. Please **NO** perishable food, out of date food, alcohol or medicines.

The following items are now needed:-
Vegetarian Meals, Vegetarian Soup, Fruit Juice, Peas.

ADVENT GROUPS

Groups are meeting at Jean Goddard's on Mondays 2 – 2.30 p.m. beginning November 27th and on Wednesday's at my home 2-3 p.m. on Wednesday November 29th. Those who have the Advent booklet "Journeying Through Advent", please do some to the meetings as often as you can over the next four weeks.

Please do let Jean know if you are one of the Monday group unable to attend and let me know about Wednesdays. There is room for a Monday member to come on a Wednesday, if that works best any week but not the other way as Jean has full house.

Rita 01883 743032/07780 822040
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Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

First Reading

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Gospel

Please remain standing for the Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord

leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I saw to all: Keep awake.'
Mark 13.24-37

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
