

Sunday 18th May 2025 - 5th Sunday of Easter

| Welcome to the United Benefice | | |
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| Rector: Revd Peter O'Connell | 01883 741945 | rector@godstonebenefice.org.uk |
| Assistant Priest: Revd Evelyn Randall | 07590 099326 | evelynrandall@uwclub.net |
| St. Nicholas, Godstone | Churchwarden : Safeguarding Officer : | Graham Millar 07710 096 103 Louise Case 07903 652 337 |
| St.Stephen, South Godstone | Churchwarden+Safeguarding Officer : | Karen Jackson 01342 894 669 |
| St.John, Blindley Heath | Churchwardens : Churchwarden+Safeguarding Officer : | Trevor Nightingale 07739 100 857 Helen McRobert 01342 893 190 |

| Upcoming Services | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| St.Stephen's | 18th May/ 9.00am | Communion (CW) | 25th May/9.00 am | Communion (CW) |
| St.John's | 18th May/10.30am | Communion (CW) | 25th May/10.30am | Morning Prayer |
| St.Nicholas' | 18th May/10.30am | MORNING PRAYER AT ST NICHOLAS YOUTH CENTRE | 25th May/10.30am | Communion (CW) |
| St Nicholas | 18th May | St Nicholas AGM afterwards | | |
| | 18th May 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm | CHURCH & TOWER OPEN WITH TEA AND CAKES | | |

| Please keep the following in your prayers this week: | |
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| St.Stephen's | Eileen Stewart |
| St.John's | Basil McFarland, Fiona Mackenzie, Julien Hollingshurst, Lesley Winn, Barbara Burch, Shirley Kemp, Valery Pull, Selina Lea, Coral Denyer, Sean Hayley, Chris & Sue Farr |
| St.Nicholas' | Daphne Hughes , David Collins, Roger Bedford, Stan Rodgers, Maureen Hollands, Nathan Jackson, Sarah Goad, Phil Buttifant |
| Let us also remember those who have recently died. | |

| Notices and Events |
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| COFFEE & COMPANY - Tuesday 20th May 2025 - 10 am - noon - St Stephen's Church Hall |
| ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL - PRIZE BINGO & MUSIC - Friday 23rd May - 7.00 pm. Bring your own drink & snacks |
| WEDDING AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH - Saturday 24th May - 3.00 pm Amy Corps & Sam Brennan |
| PICNIC IN TANDRIDGE - Sunday 22nd June - 1 pm This is organised for our Deanery as a whole, but also an opportunity for us to get together as a parish. Peter will be intending to lead a group from St Nicholas across the fields to Tandridge starting at about noon . There is a route that goes under the bypass so we don't have to dodge the traffic! |
| ST NICHOLAS - We have an anonymous donor who has offered to match any fundraising we do as a Church up to a total of £1,000. This is intended to encourage individuals to do what they can to fundraise for St Nicholas. So if you can raise £50 or £100 selling plants, or through sponsorship then this will be doubled! |

| Give- a – Little QR Codes | | |
|---|---|---|
| St.Stephen's | St.John's | St.Nicholas' |
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Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonders of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter, he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God? ". When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life'.

Acts 11.1-18

Gospel

Please remain standing for the Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

John 13.31-35

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth,
and the life:
grant us to walk in this way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.