

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in partnership

Sundays 17th and 24th
December 2023

Advent III & IV



The Christmas Story through 40 songs

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible says, Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day. T'was in the Moon of Wintertime, Bleak Mid-winter, Past Three O'clock and Little Donkey had brought them on their way to the Little Town of Bethlehem. Here, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, there was no room at the inn so Away in the Manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus, this Little Tiny Child, lay his sweet head. On the Midnight Clear, first visitors were certain poor Shepherds who had been Watching their Flocks all seated on the ground this Silent Night and received the First Noël.

Red-Nosed Reindeer Rudolph did not point the way on a foggy Christmas Eve, nor were there Jingle Bells, Chestnuts roasting on an Open Fire; no Rockin' Around the Christmas tree or Dancing in the new old-fashioned way, nor did Snowman Frosty appear. It was not a Fairytale of New York and Santa was not checking who was naughty or nice. Was there a Little Drummer Boy, wassailing, figgy pudding, Holly and Ivy, a Calypso? Good King Wenceslas did not go for a walk with his page on a White Christmas when the snow was deep and crisp and even.

In Royal David's town, Three Ships did not go Sailing by on Christmas Day in the Morning. There were none of the Twelve Days of Christmas gifts; although Three Kings of Orient with gold, frankincense and myrrh came Riding, Riding from the East. Herald Angels from the Realms of Glory, Harked In Dulci Jubilo, Ding Dong! Merrily on high, announcing Unto us a Boy is Born and Oh Come all ye Faithful, as they Knew It's Christmas - Hallelujah!

Dee Howley

The Ecumenical Parish: Southville and St. Dunstan's

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm: **Ecumenical Carol service** in St. Dunstan's. Come along to sing the familiar carols and listen again to the Christmas story, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. As usual, donations will be welcome (cash or card) for **Crisis**, supporting homeless people.

Church calendar: St. Dunstan, Church of England

(Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th 1.30-3pm:
Oakhill School carol concerts in church)

Sunday 17th December

9.45am: **Holy Communion**

6.30pm: **Ecumenical carol service**, with Southville, in St. Dunstan's

Sunday 24th December

9.45am: **Holy Communion**

4.00pm: **Crib Service**

11.30pm: **Midnight Holy Communion**

Christmas Day 10.00am: **Holy Communion**

Sunday 31st December

9.45am: **Holy Communion** (preacher: Rachel Stuchbury)

5 minutes after Holy Communion service ends: **Monthly Informal Prayer**

Plus -

Every Wednesday (except 27th December):

10:00am: **Holy Communion**

Regular events:

Parish Office will be closed Wednesday 27th December & Friday 29th December. Opens again 9:00am Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Sunday 31st December: First of **new monthly informal prayer time** at St. Dunstan's, for 10 minutes, starting 5 minutes after the Sunday morning service. Last Sunday's of the month.

Monday coffee drop-in is taking a break, and will meet again on **Monday 8th January**.

Second Thursday of the month 2pm-4pm: **WOT group** (Women on Thursdays) meets in the Church Centre. The next meeting will be on 11th January.

Messy Church monthly on Thursdays at 3.30pm in the church. The next sessions are 18th January & 22nd February.

Lego Mornings in St. Dunstan's Church. The next session is Saturday 6th January 2024 10am-1pm – children must be accompanied by an adult carer.

Junior Church monthly in the Church Centre on the first Sunday at 9.45am. Next meeting will be on 7th January 2024

Sunday 21st January 11.15am & Sunday 25th February 11.15am **new additional monthly** service at St. Dunstan's. A service of hymns, readings & prayers.

Church notices: Southville Methodist

Sunday services:

9.00 am **Revival & Prophetic Prayer Service**

10.00 am **Prayer and Praise**

10.30 am **Morning Worship** - with Holy Communion once a month

17th December: Holy Communion celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah

24th December: Christmas Family Worship with Mr. Jonathan Perkins

31st December: Morning Worship with Mrs. Pauline Shilston

Also: 24th December 11.30pm: Holy Communion celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah



Methodist Circuit

Sunday 31st December at 10.30pm: **Circuit New Year's Eve service** on Zoom™ led by the Revd. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah

Thursdays 10.30-11.30am: **Bible Study**, in person. Contact Graham Wells for details on 01784 258785 or g.wells988@gmail.com.

Advent



Follow The Star: Advent Calendar Daily activities, from 1st December, for children and their families. These daily activities are designed for children and their families using either the printed [Follow the Star Advent Calendar](#) or the Church of England online calendar available via www.cofe.io/AdventCalendar. A version of this daily Advent challenge for all ages – with a short daily reflection – is also available via the Follow the Star app. Find out more at www.cofe.io/JoinsTheSong.

Christmas & New Year



Reflections for Christmas & New Year “Follow the Star – Join the Song” you’re invited to take a booklet from the back of St. Dunstan’s to take home or download the Advent/Christmas & New Year ‘Follow the Star’ app. Find out more at www.cofe.io/JoinsTheSong.

Tuesdays 7:30pm-9.00pm **Advent Bible Study on Zoom™**. Sheila Hassan, who is one of the Local Preachers from Staines Methodist Church will be leading the Advent Bible Study course. One session remains, on 19th December, and you are welcome to attend just this one! To sign up, e-mail Sheila on sheila_peter2002@yahoo.co.uk.

Other notices

Are you a ‘lark’ or an ‘owl’? A night shelter for rough sleepers has opened at Holy Trinity Hounslow, to be open every night until 31st March. Voluntary help at unsocial hours from people aged 18+ would be very much welcomed; shifts are either 8pm-10pm, 6am-8am, or 9.30pm-6.00am. Duties could be serving food, cleaning, assisting caseworkers with admin duties ... If you might be able to offer some time, please contact sarah.whale@hounslow.gov.uk. A good thing to have on one’s CV!

Calling all shoppers: please remember that you can raise cash for St. Dunstan’s – at no cost to yourself – by signing up for Easyfundraising at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. There’s a surprisingly long list of retailers who are part of it, and if you choose St. Dunstan’s as the cause you want to support, the church gets a small percentage of any purchase you make. Thank you!

And then there’s Christmas cards to write you are encouraged to send just one card to everyone at St. Dunstan’s, by pinning it to the board in the church porch. If you’d like to donate the money saved on cards to Christian Aid, feel free to put cash in the red collecting pot at the back of church, or use the card reader.

New hymnbooks! St. Dunstan's PCC has decided that now is the time to replace our tattered green hymn books, and has chosen the current revision of Hymns Ancient & Modern for the new ones. These have now arrived, and will come into use in January. Part of the cost will be met from the legacy generously left to the church by Connie Rowse. If anybody would like to contribute to the remainder, perhaps by dedicating a hymnbook to someone loved (for which a nameplate will be fixed inside the book), please contact the Parish Office or any PCC member.

Feltham Food Bank Thank you to all who support the Food bank with donations of food or money. Please do continue to support them as much as you can.

Southville Methodist	Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 9NU Website: www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Email address: contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Minister: Revd. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah (0208 890 2783) Email: rev.kofi@sfmc.org.uk
St. Dunstan (C of E)	St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Minister: Revd. Anne Dollery (020 8890 8347) Email: AnneDollery@yahoo.co.uk C of E Parish office 39 St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Tel: 020 8890 2011 Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Facebook: @stdunstansfeltham



Prayer sheet for 17th and 24th December 2023

for the Ecumenical Parish of Feltham: St Dunstan's Anglican and Southville Methodist churches

Collects from the Anglican tradition:

17th December (Advent III)

God for whom we watch and wait,
you send John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

24th December (Christmas Eve)

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings, Sunday by Sunday

17 th December (Advent III)	24 th December (Advent IV)
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 I Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28	II Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38

24 th -25 th December (Christmas Day, early)
Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-1) John 1: 1-14

31 st December (Christmas I)	31 st December (Epiphany)
Isaiah 60: 1-6 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 22-40	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12

Invitation to remember in our prayers this fortnight

In the news

Remembering the birth in a stable, and the flight of the holy family, we pray for all who have nowhere to call home, or who are forced to flee from danger: refugees, asylum seekers and all displaced or stateless people. May God bring them to a place of security where they can settle.

From Churches Together

We remember those who worship at St. George's, Hanworth, and Fr. Michael Dobson, as they work to bring the Good News to their neighbours in Hanworth.

In the parish

Those living or working in Ashford Road, Field View, Portland Crescent, Southgate Avenue or The Clumps.

Those who are ill or in particular need:

Jim Devine, Julie Dutton (Brenda Cook's daughter), Amanda Elliott, Hilary Elliott, Jonathan Griffiths, Fiona Holloway, John Howliston, Jacob Hunter, Pam Kemp, Ian Lecky, Ray Newell, Antonio Sorenti, Mary Walden, Gill Welland, Barry Went, Susanna Woollam

Those who have recently died: Eileen Powell

Those whom we remember this week:

Leslie Grant, John Kedge, May Archer, Samuel Dolby, Joan Langley, Derek Rozario, Ethel and James Devine, Daisy Gamble, Jean Edwards, Fred and Yolande Day, Rita Perry, Babs Parsons