

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in partnership

22 October 2023

**Twentieth Sunday
after Trinity**

On Tuesday morning The Archbishop of Canterbury stood on the steps of Lambeth Palace in solidarity with other faith leaders in response to the tragic events in Israel and Gaza and the impact this has had on community relations here in the UK. Archbishop Justin, Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg stressed the importance of our common humanity. They emphasised the importance of friendship, and shared prayers for the dead and bereaved. There was a joint condemnation of antisemitic attacks and of hatred and prejudice in all its forms.

Here stood men of faith and goodwill united by a desire for peace. As their voices rose and fell against the sound of the London traffic it would have been tempting to dismiss them and their words as insignificant, but I thought it represented a ray of hope albeit a small one. Only the peacemakers can solve this and we should pray for the diplomats and all those behind the scenes working to avert further death and suffering. A ghastly humanitarian crisis is already apparent on the Gaza Strip. The wider implications for peace in the region are significant. On Tuesday evening, a hospital in Gaza was blown up; both sides deny responsibility; the television pictures are horrific.

Archbishop Justin described the bombing of the Anglican Al-Ahli Hospital as devastating. He went on to say: "I mourn our brothers and sisters - please pray for them. I renew my appeal for civilians to be protected in this devastating war. May the Lord God have mercy."

Amen.

Duncan Forsyth

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

Methodist Circuit

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

Church notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Sunday services (usually Holy Communion at 9.45am every week):

- 22nd October 8.00am **Holy Communion** in St. Dunstan's, said service
- 9.30am **Service of Confirmation in St. Mary, Bedford**
- Anne Dollery will be there with our confirmation candidates Tadiwanashe, Yani, Austin, Cristina, Maureen and Soheila; anyone who would like to support them is welcome
- 9.45am **Morning Worship** in St. Dunstan's led by Catherine Day (with hymns)
A farewell card will be in Church to sign for Duncan & Helen Forsyth.

Wednesdays:

- 10:00am: **Holy Communion** in church

Regular events:

Monday coffee drop-in 10.00am to 12 noon in the Church Centre, every Monday except bank holidays. Free tea and coffee in a friendly gathering, which might include crafts or gentle activities and always a joke! Come and go as you please; bring anyone who might enjoy it.

The fortnightly **Bible study on Zoom™** has paused – contact the vicar if interested.

Second Thursday of the month 2pm-4pm: **WOT group** (Women on Thursdays) meets in the Church Centre. The next meeting will be on 9th November.

Dates for your diary

Monday 23rd October 7pm-8:30pm, **Autumn Lecture Series 2023 – Here I Stand, I Can Do No Other** on Mondays at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Attend in person or livestream (£10). Next dates: 23rd October Rory Stewart: Politics on the Edge, 30th October Sam Wells Here I Stand With God.

Tuesday 24th October 7.30-8.45pm: **Information evening for new Anglican Church officers**, on Zoom™. Register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kensington-area-new-church-officers-evening-2023-tickets-695190793377?aff=oddtcreator>.

Wednesday 25th & Friday 27th The **Parish Office** is closed.

Sunday 29th October **Farewell to Duncan & Helen Forsyth**: Coffee, tea & cakes after the 9:45am Service at St. Dunstan's

Thursday 2nd November 8pm, **Service for All Souls' Day** at St Dunstan's

Saturday 4th November 10-11:30am **Brick Church** at Southville Methodist Church. Children must accompany a parent/carer.

Friday 10th November, 7-8.30pm **Kensington Area Youth Event** for young people in Years 7-13 at St Saviour Sunbury. Email the Office for a booking form.

Saturday 11th November 10am-1pm, **Lego™** morning in St. Dunstan's. Children must be accompanied by an adult carer.

Sunday 12th November 3pm: **Service and ceremony for Remembrance**, Feltham War Memorial, High Street, Feltham. Parade starts 2:45pm.

Saturday 2nd December 10.30-12 noon: **Christmas Coffee Morning** at St. Dunstan's in the Church.

Saturday 2nd December 5.30 pm: **St Paul's Cathedral Advent Carol Service**. Tickets are free. In addition, young people from across the diocese can be part of the procession of light which moves through the Cathedral; there is a rehearsal earlier in the afternoon for this, for the children and their supervising parents/guardians. The service will last approximately an hour and a quarter; email admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk by Friday 10th November, saying how many tickets you need and if any young people want to be in the procession.

Advance notice: the main Christmas services

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm Joint carol service at St. Dunstan's

Sunday 24th December 10.30am Family Christmas worship at Southville

4.00pm Crib service at St. Dunstan's

11.30pm Midnight Communion, both at Southville and at St. Dunstan's

Christmas Day 10.00am Holy Communion at St. Dunstan's

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@sfmtc.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
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Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk
Facebook: @stdunstansfeltham

Prayer sheet for 22nd October 2023

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

Collect from the Anglican tradition:

Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings, Sunday by Sunday

22 nd October	29 th October
Exodus 32: 1-14 <i>or</i> Isaiah 25: 1-9 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 <i>or</i> Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18 I Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46

Invitation to remember in our prayers this week:

Please pray for Tadiwanashe, Yani, Austin, Cristina, Maureen and Soheila who are being confirmed today at St. Mary Bedfont.

In the news

Following the horrific destruction of a crowded hospital in Gaza City, we pray for doctors, nurses, ambulance workers and all health staff everywhere who are working in dangerous conditions. We call upon God to guard them and protect them, whether from injury or from sectarian condemnation.

From Churches Together

We ask God to bless the people of All Saints Hanworth, now in an interregnum, asking God to guide the congregations (English and Ukrainian) and the Christian bikers there, and to send them fresh leadership.

In the parish

Those working in Feltham's health centres and surgeries, and all the health workers living among us.

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, Ian Lecky, Ray Newell, Mary Walden, Gill Welland, Barry Went, Susanna Woollam

Those who have recently died

Rose Mayger

Those whom we remember this week:

William Housden

Treasury Notes



Dedicated readers of Treasury Notes will know that for years we have been working towards installing a disabled access ramp to the church, to be followed eventually by a kitchen and toilet inside the building. Back in March I started writing a new Treasury Note, announcing that we were close to obtaining agreement from the Diocese to go ahead with the ramp. Sadly, this optimism was misplaced and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) requested more details and possible changes to the plans - extremely disappointing, as we had been told that only minor tweaks would be needed. In the meantime, our planning permission for the work has expired so whatever the outcome of discussions with the DAC, we will then need to reapply to Hounslow Council. I was so dispirited by the situation that I did not feel able to continue writing. Over the next few months our hopes were raised and then dashed again. But with some good news to report it is time to get the keyboard out to write a new issue of *Notes*.

We have been awarded a grant and loan of just over £28,000 by the Kensington Area of the Diocese towards church building works - both the improvements mentioned above, and church repairs. The money has to be used by October 2024. We have also, within the last couple of weeks, received the second interim payment from the estate of Jenny Morrison. This has been a very long drawn out affair (Jenny died nearly eight years ago) but this payment of £35,000 is most welcome. There may be a small final payment still to come. The PCC will be considering the best allocation of these funds at its next meeting.

On the downside, we learnt this week that our architect will be retiring in the next few months. Neil Barr knows and loves the buildings and has provided expert advice to us on both church and Church Centre for around 20 years. We wish him a long and happy retirement. This will inevitably have some effect on our plans for the church although he will be providing as much support as he can. In consultation with the diocese, we hope to have a suitable replacement early in the new year.

In the meantime, we have had Smart meters installed for both gas and electricity in the Church Centre which will remove the need for the meters to be read manually every month. The church electricity meter

has also been replaced but there are some issues with the gas meter which appears to have been wrongly entered into the national database several decades ago! However I am hopeful that the switch will be completed within the next month or so.

Church Centre

The Monday drop-in group has requested some grab rails or other support in the downstairs toilet to make it easier for less able users of the Centre. It is not possible to provide full disabled access to the toilet without major changes to the building, but the PCC has agreed to fit suitable grab rails either side of the toilet and these have now been purchased. The rails can be swung out of the way and locked in a vertical position when not required. Installation should take place shortly, as will various repairs in other parts of the building.

Church

Because the church improvements have been had to be put on hold until we can agree the proposals with the DAC, the PCC has agreed to go ahead with repairs to the church which were identified during the quinquennial inspection; the most visible of these will be the repair of cracks to the plaster around the main church door. The local building contractor, Woodruff, will be working both inside and outside the church over the next few weeks.

Alan Rice has very kindly taken on the informal role of organising working parties in the churchyard. This is a great help and the results are visible for all to see. Thank you Alan.

Final Thoughts

Sadly there have been two incidents recently of youths hanging around during the day outside the vestry door (which is in a very secluded spot at the far end of the church). We suspect that drugs are involved. In one instance, Alan Rice was verbally abused while working in the churchyard. The police have been informed of both events. Do please take care if you are in the church or churchyard and see anyone acting suspiciously - do not approach them but let Anne, Gary or I know and do please inform the police. The PCC will be considering how to try and deter further activities of this nature.

Ian Stuchbury October 2023