

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sundays 20 & 27
December 2020

**Third and
Fourth in
Advent**



While this Christmas will be very different for most of us, the heart of the celebration – ‘the reason for the season’ -remains unchanged. Once again we hear the angels announce the Good News!

We need to hear this even more in this time of pandemic, while we mourn those who have died. While we pray and seek to support those who are sick and those seeking employment. Regardless of the Christmas services in church being different or not being held at all. And although very sadly many of us will have to spend the days alone, while others will miss not being able to meet up with many of their friends and family. While our contact with each other may be only by phone or online; still ‘a child is born *for us*, a Son is given. And his name shall be called mighty Councillor, the Prince of peace’.

At Christmas we celebrate the most precious gift of God’s own self, his Son Jesus Christ. Who came as one of us, to suffer and to die that we might receive eternal life – new life with God. This Christmas we will be celebrating and giving thanks mostly in our own homes. Many of us may find we will have more time to reflect, to spend time in God’s presence and to wonder at God’s love for us shown in the birth of a vulnerable new-born baby. Jesus whose birth in poverty 2000 years ago brings tidings of comfort and joy for all today.

I pray you may all have a safe and (maybe surprisingly) joyful Christmas.

Anne Dollery

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

Following the announcement that London is being placed in Tier 3 from Wednesday and the neighbouring area of Surrey **from Saturday Southville Methodist Church will not be holding physical services** this is in line with our Covid19 Risk Assessment and resolution at a meeting of the Church Trustees held on 27th October 2020, **this will also be the case over the Christmas period.**

We would encourage that you join other services online, we will continue to circulate material as we have been since the first lockdown. If you would like to join services or receive printed / electronic service material (electronic is easier and more cost efficient) please contact: Jonathan Griffiths details Tel: 020-8890 1978 Email: jonathan.media.southville@sfmtc.org.uk or call: Marilyn Woodley on 07958 737094

As always your safety is our top priority . Your pastoral visitor will continue to keep in touch during these times.

Jonathan Griffiths and Marilyn Woodley
Southville Methodist Church – Covid-19 Officers

Meanwhile the Staines **Zoom Service** continues each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact service.staines@sfmc.org.uk for a link.

Circuit Bible Study by zoom on Thursdays starting at 9.30am studying Matthew. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details to join – you can join by phone. Email contact: jonathan.griffiths@sfmc.org.uk

Church Notices: St. Dunstan

Services in church every week:

Sunday 9.30am: **Holy Communion** (said). Please book by Saturday lunchtime.

Next Morning Prayer on Thursday 31st December at 10.00am (not Wednesday): No need to book. There will be no Morning Prayer on Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th December.

The **Sunday Zoom service** takes place every Sunday at 10.30am. All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone or tablet.

Christmas services:

NB Singing in church is not permitted, except by a very small socially distanced group; however, singing (socially distanced) outside is allowed. We are therefore planning several short services in the churchyard, weather permitting.

Today (Sunday 20th December):

4pm **Carols and readings in the churchyard**. Come warmly dressed. You are invited to bring torches, and a thermos of coffee if you wish. Socially distanced.

6.30pm **Readings, reflections and music for Christmas in church**. Booking is essential.**

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December:

3.30 pm **Crib service in churchyard**. Weather permitting. Dress warmly. Socially distanced.

11.30pm **Midnight holy communion service in church**. Booking is essential.**

Christmas Day:

9.30am **Service on zoom** (ending before the service begins on BBC 1). There will also be a separate recorded service on our website.

**Booking for these services needs to be a very firm commitment to attend please. Bookings can now be taken.

Many thanks to Duncan and Ian for firmly anchoring our Christmas tree and to The Mockett family for decorating it so beautifully.

Many thanks to all those involved in providing the outdoor Christingle service last Sunday. It was lovely to see so many people there!

Bible Study by zoom: is taking a break until 8pm on Monday 4th January. Please contact Anne Dollery for details of how to take part (remotely).

Christmas cards: all cards for the church display board need to be sent to the Parish Office, by post, or through the letter-box. (Normally we have a board in the church porch where anyone can pin their Christmas card to everyone in the church.) We will be displaying the cards in church so that messages can be read without touching the cards. **All the cards received by Monday 22nd will also be scanned and available to view on our website.** Please note the parish office is unable to deliver or post cards to individual members of the congregation. To prevent the spread of Covid 19 the pigeon holes in the church are not to be used and cards should not be left please in the church or foyer this year.

Helping those in need

Please continue to support the **Feltham Food Bank**: website <http://felthamfoodbank.org> to donate on line and find out more. Donations of sealed packaged and tinned food can be left at the back of the church on Sundays. (No Christmas foods please). Please contact the Foodbank on 07448 831297 if you need to be referred for support. The Foodbank is part of the Covid 19 Response in Feltham.

The Bedfont Lane Community Centre, run by the Southern Avenue Residents Association, is distributing surplus food – 'bridging the gap between food waste and food poverty' 12–2pm Monday - Friday. Please do check their Facebook site to confirm times. They are asking that those taking food make a meaningful donation.

Christmas appeals: listed below are just some of the charities with online Christmas appeals who will be working to help those in need in our borough. Many will also take donations by phone or post.

Crisis – helping support the homeless in different ways this year

St Martin's in the Fields Christmas Appeal – helping the homeless in London and across the country.

Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

AgeUK

Sharing the joy (or joke?)

Would you like to share a picture of your nativity set? We invite you to email us pictures of your sets. These will be attached to this Newsletter and put on the churches' websites. Please email to admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk. **Pictures of your Christmas trees** are also welcomed – as not everyone has a nativity set.

We also invite you to dress up as a character from the story of Jesus' birth and again send us a picture, if you are happy for it to be shared online. Are there some kings, angels, Marys, Josephs, innkeepers, donkeys, camels – maybe even a Herod or two? Head and shoulders or full length photos. Please email to admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th January 7pm-7.45pm: **Life in abundance: finding Jesus in the storm.** How can we take care of our mental and spiritual health, and live life faithfully and to the full, in the face of uncertainty, loss and change? John Swinton, in conversation with the Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral. Available on catch-up; see www.stpaulsresources.co.uk.

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St. Dunstan (C of E)	St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Minister Rev. Anne Dollery (020 8890 8347) Email: AnneDollery@yahoo.co.uk
	C of E Parish office 39 St.Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Closed to visitors until further notice. Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Tel: 020 8890 2011 Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk