

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 21st
November 2021

**Last before
Advent**

This week Refugees Welcome Hounslow held its fifth AGM. In 2020 the arrival of Syrian refugees, sponsored by the Home Office, was paused due to the pandemic. But the efforts of the magnificent people (not me) doing face-to-face welfare work were redirected to asylum seekers who filled all the cheaper Hounslow hotels, many of whom arrived with no more than the clothes they stood up in. This intense and demanding work gradually diminished as the pandemic receded and people could be moved on around the country – to better conditions, one hopes.

One more Syrian refugee family has now arrived, again by invitation, and is settling in well; they are related to one of the original ten families, who arrived four years ago and whose third child has been born here – a genuine Hounslow baby! We were all delighted for them. Alas, another family was bereaved in 2020, when the father was drowned during the hot spell of 2020, with a relative who tried to rescue him. The small Syrian community united to comfort and support the two young widows and their children.

Meanwhile, the eyes of the world have turned to refugees from Afghanistan, driven to leave their homes for an uncertain future in a completely different culture by a well-founded fear of imprisonment, torture and death. Hounslow has offered to receive five families, and the first will arrive within a fortnight. The local Afghan community is working hard to prepare a welcome and to identify people speaking the same language, who can begin to explain to them how things work in the UK, knowledge which those of us born here don't even realise we have.

Refugees Welcome Hounslow is working alongside the Afghans, fundraising for equipment the Home Office doesn't consider essential (like a second set of bed-linen for each bed, or the first year's TV licence, or computer tablets if the children are expected to have them for school). Volunteers will show them how to take a bus, where the local pharmacy is. Perhaps just as important, RWH can represent a welcome from the 'host' community, a visible sign that British people care about them and are anxious to help them find security and start to rebuild their shattered lives.

This is a humanitarian imperative: it could be you or I in their position. But many, myself included, would also argue that young, enterprising migrants will quickly become an economic asset to offset the UK's low birthrate and ageing population (for a summary, see <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/january2021#the-uks-population-is-ageing>). Most working-age people, migrants or not, aspire to be in a working family, contributing (gladly or not) to the Exchequer and spending the rest of their pay on goods and services. As someone heading into retirement and hoping for a State Pension when I turn 66, I'm only too pleased to watch them succeed!

Rachel Stuchbury

Methodist Circuit Bible Study

This takes place by zoom or phone on Thursdays starting at 10.00am, please join by 09:45. Contact Graham Wells for details on 01784 258785 or g.wells988@gmail.com.

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

Sunday services at 10.30am:

Today (Women Against Violence Sunday): **Morning Worship** led by Mr. Graham Wells

Sunday 28th November (Advent I): **Morning Worship** led by Revd. Julie Underwood

Southville Church is **open for private prayer** on the first Saturday of the month from 09:30 to 10:30am. Next occasion: Saturday 4th December.

Church Notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Times of services:

Sunday at 9.30am: **Morning Prayer** on Zoom™

Sunday at 9.45am: **Holy Communion** in church

And on Wednesdays:

10.00am: **Holy Communion** in church

Regular events

Every Monday 10.00am to 12 noon: the **Monday drop-in** in the Church Centre. Come along and share refreshments, try your hand at crafts, or just have a chat. Bring your friends! We look forward to seeing you.

Fortnightly on Mondays at 8.00pm: **Bible study on Zoom™**. Next one 29th November, studying Acts. Please contact Revd. Anne for joining details; annedollery@yahoo.co.uk

Second Thursday of the month, 2.00-4.00pm: **WOT group** (Women on Thursdays) meet in the Church Centre. Next meeting is on 9th December, at ****1pm**** because it includes a Christmas lunch. At every other WOT meeting of the year, everyone is welcome; but this meeting is for **members only**, due to catering requirements.

Dates for your diary

Today (Sunday 21st) at 10.00am: **Young people's fellowship** group meet in the Church Centre.

A money **Collection for Angel Tree** at St Dunstan's begins today and ends on Sunday 5th December. This is to fund buying and posting a toy to each of the children of young men held in FYOI. The buying, wrapping and postage which will be organised by the Prison Fellowship. They have set a limit of £10 per toy. Plus postage. For more information please contact Dee Howley. If you wish to make your donation by BACS though St Dunstan's please use Angel tree as the reference and let Ian Stuchbury and Dee know.

Tomorrow 1.00pm: **Funeral** in St Dunstan's church of Jean Elsie Whetton.

Wednesday 24th November 7.45 for 8.00pm: **PCC meeting** in the Church Centre.

Saturday 27th November 11am-12.15pm: **Commemoration of Freddie Mercury**, one of Feltham's most famous residents, on the 30th anniversary of his death. Begins at the World Zoroastrian House (aka Bridge House, Feltham) and ends at the FM memorial in the High Street. All are welcome, please email aparton93@aol.com if planning to attend.

Noon 29th November **Funeral** in St Dunstan's church of Mavis Lawrence.

Advent Messy Church 3.30pm Thursday 2nd December in St Dunstan's church. For primary aged children accompanied by a parent/carer. Crafts, activities and bible story ending with refreshments.

Saturday 4th December 10.30am-noon: **Coffee morning** in church, with cake stall, raffle and craft table. All are welcome (£3 at the door pays for a toasted sandwich/bacon roll, tea and coffee- Yum!), but if you are very likely to attend, it would help with catering if you told Brenda or Ken Deane, or Shirley Howell. (Or the Parish Office would pass a message on



Saturday 11th December: **Feltham Choral Society** hope (restrictions permitting) to give a concert in St. Dunstan's. Watch this space!

Sunday 12th December at St. Dunstan's:

8.00am: **Holy Communion** (said) in church

9.30am: **Morning Prayer** on Zoom™

9.45am: **Christingle** in church, raising money for The Children's Society

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm: the **Ecumenical Carol Service** at St. Dunstan's

Notices

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Beth Resch to St. Dunstan's for a short placement – some of us have already enjoyed meeting her. Beth is in the final year of her theological training.

Booklets of **daily Advent Refection's** will be available to collect from St Dunstan's on Sunday 28th. We ask those taking them to make a donation towards the cost of £3.59 each.

Sing a new song at Christmas: many thanks to all those who have expressed interest. Practices will be held in church on Mondays 6th and 13th December at 7.30pm (for the Ecumenical Carol Service on 19th December). All are most welcome!

Bishop of Kensington's teaching evenings: **The Nicene Creed – A Generous Orthodoxy.** Each session will be transmitted via Zoom™, starting at 7.30pm, and also offered in person (doors open 7.00pm), and will conclude by 9.00pm.

Session 2: Tuesday 23rd November – St Stephen's Twickenham. A Map for Life: The Generosity of Orthodoxy . Book (for in-person or online attendance) through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-teaching-evening-the-nicene-creed-a-generous-orthodoxy-tickets-178560117117>

Session 3: Monday 6th December – St Hilda's Ashford. Living the Creed: The Orthodoxy of Generosity

If you know someone who is **struggling to buy food or other essentials**, please go to https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/news/article/2277/residents_struggling_to_afford_basics_during_coronavirus_urgd_to_apply_for_grants?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term= or phone 0208 583 4242. Hounslow Borough holds several different funds to assist people with pandemic-related hardship.

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**Feltham Food Bank – Reverse Advent Calendar
CHRISTMAS 2021**

Day 1 UHT milk (green or blue)	Day 2 Pasta sauce	Day 3 Tin of meat	Day 4 Fun size chocolate bars
Day 5 Tin of peas	Day 6 Tin of chickpeas	Day 7 Tin of tuna	Day 8 Crisps
Day 9 Fruit juice	Day 10 Microwave rice	Day 11 Pot noodles	Day 12 Chocolate spread
Day 13 Jar of jam	Day 14 Tin of custard	Day 15 Tin of rice pudding	Day 16 Crisps
Day 17 UHT milk (we need milk!)	Day 18 Toothpaste	Day 19 Shower gel	Day 20 Fun size chocolate bars

Other food and toiletries are very welcome!

**Each day, for 20 days, please add an item of food or toiletries to
your advent collection and donate it to Feltham Food Bank**

Thank you so much for your support.

Your completed "advent collection" can be left in Church between Christmas
& New Year and we will arrange Feltham Food Bank to collect them

Feltham Food Bank – Registered Charity Number 1163930
felthamfoodbank@gmail.com 07448831297