

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches
in partnership

Sunday 22
November
2020

**Last before
Advent**



Stir up, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The words of the post communion prayer for today are traditionally associated with the stirring up of the Christmas pudding mixture. Many of us will be feeling that we have had quite enough stirring up this year. But if we go back and take a closer look at the prayer, we will see that it is a call to hope and a message of salvation. Despite the terrible consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, there are real signs of hope: the essential work carried out by the poorly paid has been recognised (if not rewarded); communities have come together to support the vulnerable; questions about our plundering of the environment are being taken more seriously. In our churches, support groups for the vulnerable and isolated have sprung up, while worship via Zoom and on-line has been welcomed by both young and old. Many voices are expressing a desire for a 'New Normal' where justice, compassion, support for the weak and disadvantaged and care for the natural world come to the fore. Perhaps these are signs of the fruit of good works, a glimpse of the transformation which is possible? Maybe, but there is still much work to do if the New Normal is to become a reality: it will take commitment, hard work and holding governments and our leaders to account. That's why we need to pray for God's hand on us, the surging energy of God's compassion and the searing honesty of God's truth, so that our dogged efforts at good works may bear fruit.

Ian Stuchbury

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

There will be no services in church until Sunday 13th December. Meanwhile the Staines **Zoom Service** continues each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact Matt Sendorek (matt.sendorek@btinternet.com) for an email invitation, or Roz Sendorek on 01784 459984 or 07712 816163.

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@sfmtc.org.uk

Church Notices: St. Dunstan

There will be no services in church until Sunday 6th 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.

Bible Study by zoom: 8pm Monday 30th November, currently studying Philipians. Please contact Anne Dollery for details of how to take part (remotely).

St Dunstan's will be open for private prayer on Thursday 26th November and Thursday 3rd December 10.30am-12.30pm.

Bishop Graham's **video of encouragement** in this new lockdown is on our website.

Angel Tree collection – until 1st St December to pay for Christmas toys for children of inmates at Feltham Young Offenders Institution. If you would like to donate please give: online through St Dunstan's Feltham donate button, giving name/reference Angel tree; by bank transfer, again giving reference 'angel tree;' or send/put cheques in letterbox of parish centre. Please make payable to Feltham PCC and label envelopes 'parish office – Angel Tree'. We are not able to purchase or accept toys this year. The maximum cost for each present is £10 plus wrapping and postage.

Church Christmas tree – To support a local business we will be buying a Christmas tree for the church. Donations are invited towards the cost of £130. Please use 'tree' as the reference in any donations sent online or by cheque.

The **Ashford Christmas Trail** is planned for Sunday 6th December and Nicola Whate will be selling craft items made by Susan Collins to raise funds for St. Dunstan's. If anyone would like to contribute other home-made goods – cakes? jam or chutney? – please let Nicola know and she will collect them.

Calling **online Christmas shoppers**: don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising website when you're buying your Christmas gifts online this year. It is really easy to use and St Dunstan's stands to gain financially at absolutely no extra cost to you. Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and navigate from there to John Lewis, Argos, Amazon, EBay, Next, M&S, booking.com and the list goes on, with over 2,700 companies included.

Invitation to a month of prayer:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in a month of prayer during the current lockdown.

Prayers at 6pm: Christians are encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening. In London, we are invited to pray at 6pm on our doorsteps for our neighbourhood, and also for the National prayer points:

Sunday – Family, friends and loved ones

Monday – Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday – Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday – Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday – The NHS and other key workers

Friday – National and local governments

Saturday – All who are grieving and all suffering with physical or mental ill-health

Cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time. Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation. Resources can also be found here: churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation.

Thursday lunchtime prayers: The Diocese of London invites us to come together every Thursday with a time of prayer at 1pm, led by our senior leaders.

When: 1pm – 1.20pm on Thursdays throughout November

Where: Join with others in our Diocese on [Facebook](#) live, or on zoom (the link will be posted on the site 30 mins before).

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
Isaiah 41:10

Dates for your diary

Tomorrow (Monday 23rd November) 7.45 for 8pm: **St Dunstan's PCC** meets on Zoom.

Wednesday 25th November lunch and chat on zoom 12.30pm- 1.30pm. Contact Anne Dollery for joining instructions. Join us with your soup or sandwich!

Tuesday 24th November, repeated on Monday 7th December, 7pm to 8.30pm: **Bishop of Kensington's teaching evening**. Subject this year is 'What is true freedom?', examining the differences between secular and Christian ideas of freedom. The Bishop is known as a lively and accessible speaker who encourages interaction. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-true-freedom-why-freedom-may-not-be-what-you-think-it-is-tickets-126125931055> and the Zoom link will be emailed to you.

People

We send our best wishes to Eddie Menday on his return home from hospital this week.

And a joke (or two)

A grandmother was helping to teach her young granddaughter the names of different colours. So everywhere they went she would point something out, ask the little girl what colour it was and the little girl would answer. After a little while of doing this, the child was beginning to get them right each time but still the grandmother carried on asking. Finally the little girl turned to her and said, "Grandma, I really think you should try and work some of these out for yourself!".

The Sunday School teacher asked: "Now Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say a prayer before eating?". "No, Miss", replied Johnny, "I don't have to – my mum's a good cook!".

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