



A Blessed Christmas to you and yours; and every good wish for a happy and healthy New Year in 2021
Well, what a year we've had!
Thank you very much for all your

support to the ministry team here in the United Benefice during this time. We've said goodbye to our departed members Marlene Bogle, Colin Squirrel, Don Hollyoake, Hubert Burke, Abdul's dad and Lynne's mom. We've all been affected by COVID-19 in one way or other. Whether it's missing coming in to church when we felt at our lowest; or we were (and still are) shielding and/or isolating; we've lost loved ones but couldn't attend their funerals in person; we've been tested positive for COVID-19, or unable to visit our loved ones in Care / Nursing Homes, or other reasons altogether.

In spite of our losses, we have some positives for which we give thanks to God. We've made it to Christmas 2020! We've added new words and meanings to our vocabulary like Zoom and Microsoft Teams; and have made more use of social media platforms like Facetime, WhatsApp video, Twitter, Facebook, etc. and of course have increased our use of the telephone as we kept in touch with one another. Whether we felt able to attend church in person or were only able to access online worship – we give thanks to God. As a result of our Zoom Confirmation classes, we have up to 7 persons to be confirmed next February 6th at our Deanery Confirmation at St. Jude with St. Aidan Church. So we do have a lot to be thankful for even though we're now in Tier 4. We now have a vaccine which we hope will halt the spread of the virus, keeping it at bay altogether. During this time, we can still attend public worship as we adhere to the COVID-19 rules – wear a mask if you can, wash your hands often or use hand sanitiser / anti-bacterial wipes, maintain 2m physical distance and open windows and doors to allow ventilation. Congregational singing is still not allowed, neither is the sharing of the peace.

Other activities **not allowed** include:

- Church services or carol singing in a public outdoor space beyond the churchyard/church land
- Physical meetings for PCC, APCM etc. in church or church hall
- Weddings with more than six present; anyone working is not included
- Provision of youth services.

I conclude with a **Thank You** from our Archdeacons: "Research indicates that there has been almost no traceable transmission of COVID in places of worship in the UK. We know that you, your wardens and others, have taken great pains to ensure COVID-secure practice and the work you have done in risk assessing and implementing this has been outstanding. Whether or not you decide to continue worship in church now, we would like to congratulate you on the excellence of the provision you have made. Thank you." They continued, "Online worship can be hard work and we are so grateful for the heroic efforts made by clergy and lay leaders to ensure that services have continued and the vulnerable been attended to. We are proud of your persistence and dedication. Please, look after yourselves and give yourselves time for rest and recreation after Christmas."

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



24th December 2020

Vicar: Canon Roxanne Hunte

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Christmas Eve: 9pm Midnight Mass

President and Preacher, Bishop Jonathan Clark

Isaiah 52.7-10 * Psalm 98 * Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12] * John 1.1-14

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Friday, 25 th December	The Nativity of our Lord / Christmas Day	8.00am BCP Mass at St. Mark NO 10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents 9pm Compline online
Saturday, 26 th December	Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr	9.00pm Compline online
Sunday, 27 th December	First Sunday of Christmas	St Mark: 8.00am BCP Mass 10.00am Parish Mass 9pm Compline online
Monday, 28 th December	The Holy Innocents (Boxing Day transferred)	7.00pm St. Mark's Fundraising Quiz Night online 9.00pm Compline online
Tuesday, 29 th December	John, Apostle and Evangelist (transferred)	9.00pm Compline online
Wednesday, 30 th December		9.00pm Compline online
Thursday, 31 st December	John Wyclif, 1384 (New Year's Eve)	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents 9.00pm Compline online ? 11pm Watchnight?

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is still available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile 07723 038215 or mtroxanne@gmail.com Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

For your prayers: Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe. **For those who are sick** in body, mind or spirit. Those in hospital or hospices, care homes or nursing homes and those who are for them. **Those who are bereaved** at this time, especially the Burke and Pryke families; and for **those who've recently died**, Hubert Burke and Moira Pryke. **Years Mind.**

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a
pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born
again
and made your children by adoption
and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good
news, who announces salvation, who
says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
voices, together they sing for joy; for
in plain sight they see the return of the
LORD to Zion. Break forth together
into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his
people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations; and
all the ends of the earth shall see the
salvation of our God.

PSALM Psalm 98

*R All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory. *R*

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly
shown
in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have
seen
the victory of our God. *R*

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you
lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
shout with joy before the King, the
Lord. *R*

Let the sea make a noise and all that
is in it,
the lands and those who dwell
therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy
before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world,
and the peoples with equity. *R*

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the
prophets, but in these last days he
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through
whom he also created the worlds. He
is the reflection of God's glory and
the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his
powerful word. When he had made
purification for sins, he sat down at
the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to
angels as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs. [For
to which of the angels did God ever
say, "You are my Son; today I have
begotten you"? Or again, "I will be
his Father, and he will be my Son"?
And again, when he brings the
firstborn into the world, he says, "Let
all God's angels worship him." Of the
angels he says, "He makes his angels
winds, and his servants flames of fire."
But of the Son he says, "Your throne,
O God, is for ever and ever, and
the righteous sceptre is the sceptre
of your kingdom. You have loved
righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness
beyond your companions." And, "In

the beginning, Lord, you founded
the earth, and the heavens are the
work of your hands; they will perish,
but you remain; they will all wear out
like clothing; like a cloak you will roll
them up, and like clothing they will be
changed. But you are the same, and
your years will never end."] *R*

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came
into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him
was life, and the life was the light
of all people. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it. There was a man sent
from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through
him. He himself was not the light, but
he came to testify to the light. The
true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world. He was in
the world, and the world came into
being through him; yet the world did
not know him. He came to what was
his own, and his own people did not
accept him. But to all who received
him, who believed in his name, he
gave power to become children of
God, who were born, not of blood or
of the will of the flesh or of the will
of man but of God. And the Word
became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son, full of grace
and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts and shine in our words and
deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.