

The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 114

December 2019

Organ Recital

by Simon Lindley

Saturday 7th December

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

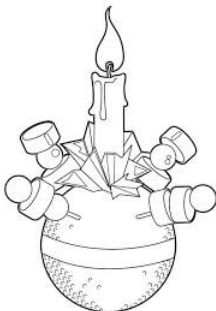
Refreshments provided

Donations welcome



is discontinued
for the time being

Christingle Service



Sunday 1st December

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

All welcome

A Question of Choice

Our Christmas preparations this year are competing for our attention with what seems in some ways to be yet another General Election. Once more we are being told that the outcome of our vote on December 12th will shape our history for years to come: which may be so. It is fascinating to think that an event which has shaped our world for centuries was brought about in the small town of Bethlehem because those entitled to do so were busy confirming their place on the electoral register.

But perhaps for many of us the General Election is less of a preoccupation than the questions which seem to confront us each Christmas: What do we spend on Christmas? And where do we spend Christmas? For some of us neither of those questions is easy to resolve and both can cause heartache and anxiety that remain with us long after the last Christmas tree has been recycled.

This year at St. Jude's we are beginning our Christmas celebrations with a Christingle Service on Sunday 1st December at 4pm. The Christingle tradition began in Germany in 1747 when John de Watteville, minister of a Moravian church, gave children a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Christ as the light of the world — and the final prayer of the service was 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like thine become'. The Christingle tradition was popularised in the 1960s, initially as a means of raising money for the Children's Society. It has become gradually more popular as a joyous way to reflect the message that is central to Christmas: God's unswerving love for the world.

A Christingle is a symbolic object that means 'Christ's light'. It consists of an orange with a candle held in its centre and a red ribbon around it. Four sticks holding fruit and nuts or sweets are pierced into the orange. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon symbolises Christ's love and the blood that He shed for our salvation, the lit candle represents the light of His love, the four sticks represent both the "four corners" of the world and God's unfailing love through the four seasons of our lives. The fruit or sweets symbolize God's creation and the abundance of His provision.

In our Christingle Service we shall have the opportunity to make our own Christingle and to take it home with us. Whatever pressures may be upon us and upon our nation at Christmas 2019, the Christingle is a reminder that at the very heart of Christmas, shines the light of God's love for us and for our world.

All our Christmas Services are highlighted elsewhere in this edition of "The Ship". I am looking forward to my first Christmas among you as Vicar of St. Jude's and I am hoping that many of you will be able to worship with us sometime over the Christmas season. I am also very aware that for some of you reading this article Christmas 2019 will be a difficult and painful time. You may perhaps like to consider joining us for our "Blue Christmas" service on Saturday 21st December at 4pm. This short service enables us to reflect on the past years, to remember loved ones who are no longer with us here and to search for a sense of peace within the turmoil of the world and within the unique turmoil of our own lives. It is almost a Christmas Carol free zone and it is especially designed for those of us who wish we could do December differently - and maybe particularly so this year!

Our Crib Service, on Christmas Eve, 24th December at 4pm, promises a true and lively celebration of the love of God as He came as a babe to Bethlehem. Born among frustrated weary voters, dispossessed and homeless, a helpless refugee in a hostile world, welcomed by those at the very margins of society, God came for you and me. My prayer is that it may be that reality which most preoccupies us the Christmas and which will shape our lives forever.

God bless you in your hearts and homes this Christmas and always. *Judith Allford*

From the Registers

Holy Baptism: (10th November) Olivia Jane Shingles

Funerals: (6th November) Pamela Joan Webb; (8th) James William Cummins; (14th) Denis Grosvenor Hill



Christmas at St Jude's Church



Sunday 1st December — Advent Sunday

9.30am Family Communion
4.00pm Christingle Service

Saturday 21st December

4.00pm Blue Christmas — a service for those who may find Christmas difficult

Sunday 22nd December — Advent 4

9.30am Parish Communion with Junior Church
4.00pm Carol Service

Monday 23rd December

Carol singing round the village — meet at church at 7.00pm

Tuesday 24th December — Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December — Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (said)
9.30am Family Communion with carols

Community Concert

This will be on Saturday, 4th January at 4.00pm and will once again be a variety of music and poetry recitals.

If you would like to offer a programme piece please do contact Geoff Chew on 01784 435664 or email geoffchew1@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Readings at Communion

1st December (Advent 1)	Psalm 122 Romans 13. 11–end Matthew 24. 36–44
8th December (Advent 2)	Isaiah 11. 1–10 Psalm 72. 1–7, 18–19 Romans 15. 4–13 Matthew 3. 1–12
15th December (Advent 3)	Isaiah 35. 1–10 Psalm 146. 4–10 James 5. 7–10 Matthew 11. 2–11
22nd December (Advent 4)	Isaiah 7. 10–16 Psalm 80. 1–8, 18–20 Romans 1. 1–7 Matthew 1. 18–end
29th December (Christmas 1)	Isaiah 63. 7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2. 10–end Matthew 2. 13–end

Diary for December

- Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Christingle Service 6.30pm Taizé service
- Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- Saturday 4.00pm Organ Recital by Simon Lindley Admission free — refreshments provided — donations welcome
- Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- Details of Christmas at St Jude's are shown above
- Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist NO 11.15am service

All events are in St Jude's Church unless otherwise stated

The Church is open each Saturday from 2.00–4.00pm for tea and a chat

The Village Centre (01784 471110) www.villagecentre.org.uk

Life at the Village Centre continues to be busy! Our regular bookings include Ballet classes, Pilates, Music with Mummy, Jazz, Film and Chess Clubs and The Egham Women's Institute (Nightingales) monthly meetings. We also host an informal Arts and Craft Group each week. Our Child Contact Centre and our Baby Basics Project are two major areas of outreach.

Our Computer Drop-In sessions (Tuesday–Thursday from 9.30am to 12noon) offer the use of desk-top computers but also provide support to those bringing their own electronic devices such as laptops, tablets or mobile phones. Our skilled volunteers can provide training in the use of particular computer programmes and are even willing to help you with booking airline tickets or completing other on line forms!

We are currently exploring an alliance with our local GP surgery to provide additional support for those who are currently Carers for loved ones, neighbours or friends.

Our Café continues to thrive and is open Mon–Wed 9am–4pm, Thurs and Fri 9am–5pm, and in school holidays 10am–2pm each weekday. Do sample our delicious "Cake of the Week" donated each Monday by local suppliers! We also have rooms available to hire for a variety of celebrations including Birthday and Baptism Parties!

Further details from our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, on 01784 471110.

Egham Choral Christmas Concert 14th December 2019, 7.00pm



Egham Choral's Christmas Concert of seasonal songs and carols, traditional and contemporary, will get you in a festive mood! This year they will be joined by children from St Jude's School and will be raising money for the St Jude's Church Organ Restoration Fund. The main feature is Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Party by Jonathan Rathbone, inspired by Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". You are promised an evening to remember with carols to sing along to, and ticket prices include mulled wine/soft drink and a mince pie during the interval.

The concert in St Jude's Church begins at 7.00pm, ending about 9:30pm including a short interval. Tickets are £12.50 in advance, £15 on the day. Students £5 and under sixteens free. They are available via their website: www.eghamchoral.org, by texting/leaving a message at the Box Office on 07508 320348 or emailing tickets@eghamchoral.org.

If you feel inspired by the concert, and enjoy singing, please join the choir in the New Year, with an Open Evening on 20th January 2020!