

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in partnership

26 November 2023

**Sunday before
Advent: Christ the
King**

Today is the last Sunday before Advent. A time of preparation and anticipation as we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth at Christmas. As many of you will know Helen and I have been anticipating a move to another part of the country where we would celebrate Christmas in our new home. As I write this on Thursday this move is in doubt once again. It has been stressful but we must count our blessings. I suppose one might think of it as a bit of a first world problem. Feltham has been our home all our lives and St Dunstan's has played a huge part in our lives. I was baptised at St Mary's Bedford and Helen at St Richard's Hanworth. We were married at St George's Hanworth so that's more or less the full set. St Catherine's is due an honourable mention in dispatches and while helping to tidy the church yard there as a child in preparation for a visit by the Bishop I apparently asked "are we going to put all the weeds back when the Bishop has gone?" Like many people I drifted away from church life in my teens and twenties but always new there would be a warm welcome for us at St Dunstan's and that was what happened. Whether we move in the next couple of weeks or not we know there is a place for us here. The kindness and generosity we've been shown will never be forgotten.

Duncan Forsyth

Today is the last Sunday before Advent and we celebrate Christ the King. As well as the important religious aspect, it is perhaps a chance to take a deep breath and have a little thinking space before the secular world and the busyness of the modern Christmas season is upon us.

I find Christmas seems to come round quicker every year and much of modern Christmas seems to begin far too early in the shops (as is the case for most seasons for example one summer, when they advertised "Back to School" in July before the poor children had even broken up and Easter eggs on sale from January!) and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find "religious" Christmas cards, never mind the cost of a postage stamp these days! However, some modern aspects are definitely an improvement, such as LED fairy lights – can anyone tell me why the ones with replaceable bulbs worked when you put them away and when you got them out, but not when placed on the Christmas tree? It is also Stir up Sunday today, a reference from the Collect, often taken as a reminder to make the Christmas pudding, which now thanks to that useful innovation, the microwave, takes minutes rather than hours in a steam-filled kitchen and no danger of boiling dry and burning, or as once happened to my mother, the plastic container melting – not a lovely Christmas pudding smell in the kitchen that day.



Of course there are some aspects that change little, Christmas services, carols, Nativity plays, colder weather, wishing for a white Christmas, excited children, lots of good old films and specials to watch and hopefully meeting up to celebrate with family and friends. Moving into Advent, may you all find time for some peace and quiet.

Dee Howley

Church notices: Southville Methodist

Sunday services:

- 9.00 am **Revival & Prophetic Prayer Service**
- 10.00 am **Prayer and Praise**
- 10.30 am **Morning Worship** - with Holy Communion once a month

Methodist Circuit

Bible Study, in person, on Thursdays 10.30-11.30am. Contact Graham Wells for details on 01784 258785 or g.wells988@gmail.com.

Church notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Sunday service:

9.45am **Holy Communion** in Church

Monday:

11:00am **Funeral** of Alice Webster in Church

Wednesdays:

10:00am: **Holy Communion** in Church

Regular events:

Monday coffee drop-in 10.00am to 12 noon in the Church Centre, every Monday except bank holidays. Free tea and coffee in a friendly gathering, which might include crafts or gentle activities and always a joke! Come and go as you please; bring anyone who might enjoy it.

Second Thursday of the month 2pm-4pm: **WOT group** (Women on Thursdays) meets in the Church Centre. The next meeting will be on 14th December with a **bring-and-share meal, a secret Santa and a hamper raffle** for our chosen charities. For the bring-and-share, it would be helpful to let Shirley or Marian know what you plan to bring, just in case everyone has the same inspiration! For the secret Santa, if you are able, please bring a wrapped gift to the value of around £5.

Messy Church monthly on Thursdays at 3.30pm in the church. The next session is 7th December.

Advent



Follow The Star: Advent Calendar Daily activities, from 1st December, for children and their families. These daily activities are designed for children and their families using either the printed [Follow the Star Advent Calendar](#) or the Church of England online calendar available via www.cofe.io/AdventCalendar. A version of this daily Advent challenge for all ages – with a short daily reflection – is also available via the Follow the Star app. Find out more at www.cofe.io/JoinTheSong.

Tuesdays 7:30pm-9.00pm **Advent Bible Study on Zoom™**. Sheila Hassan, who is one of the Local Preachers from Staines Methodist Church will be leading the Advent Bible Study course, The 5 sessions will be on Tuesdays; 21st & 28th November and 5th, 12th & 19th December, but it's not essential to be at every session. To sign up, e-mail Sheila on sheila_peter2002@yahoo.co.uk.

People

Duncan and Helen Forsyth do invite everyone for cake & tea/coffee at St. Dunstan's on Sunday 26th November, after the 9:45am service. As you will have read in Duncan's article, their move is now uncertain.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 26th November – Sunday 10th December, **Angel Tree** collection through St. Dunstan's. Donations of money are invited to fund small gifts for children of those held in FYOI.

Sunday 26th November: **Advent Books** available for order/sale at St. Dunstan's.

Tuesday 28th November 8.00pm: **PCC meeting** at St. Dunstan's Church Centre.

Saturday 2nd December 10.30-12 noon: **Coffee Morning** in St. Dunstan's Church. Tickets £4 (includes tea, coffee, squash and either a toasted sandwich or bacon butty).

Saturday 2nd December **Christmas crafts for children** at back of Church. *FREE*

Saturday 2nd December 5.30pm: **St Paul's Cathedral Advent Carol Service**. Tickets are free. In addition, young people from across the diocese can be part of the procession of light which moves through the Cathedral; there is a rehearsal earlier in the afternoon for this, for the children and their supervising parents/guardians. The service will last approximately an hour and a quarter. *Tickets are still available from the Parish Office.*

Saturday 2nd December 10.00-11:30am: **Brick Church** at Southville Methodist church

Monday 4th December 10am-2pm: **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** event in Feltham Assembly Hall. Speaker and discussion on what transformations are needed to enable more people with disabilities to participate in sports, entertainment, media, education and employment.

Wednesday 6th December 6.30pm: **Question your local councillors** in Feltham Assembly Hall. Register online and submit your question in advance (via the Council's website or by letter); questions will be randomly selected on the night.

Thursday 7th December 3:30pm: **Messy Church** at St. Dunstan's.

Saturday 9th December 7.30pm **Feltham Choral Society Christmas Concert** at St Dunstons Church. Tickets £10 on the door (cash only)

Sunday 10th December 8.30am **Holy Communion** at St Dunstan's.

Sunday 10th December 9.45am **Christingle** service at St Dunstan's.

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm Joint **Carol Service** at St Dunstan's for Southville and St Dunstan's

Volunteer needed

We are looking for a **news & prayer sheet compiler**, from the beginning of February 2024, to update this news & prayer sheet weekly on a computer, at home. A copy of Microsoft Word is essential.

Southville Methodist Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 9NU
Website: www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk
Email address: contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk
Minister: Revd. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah (0208 890 2783)
Email: rev.kofi@sfmc.org.uk

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

Prayer sheet for 26th November 2023

for the Ecumenical Parish of Feltham: St Dunstan's Anglican and Southville Methodist churches

Collect from the Anglican tradition:

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

Readings, Sunday by Sunday

26 th November (Sunday before Advent; Christ the King)	3 rd December (Advent Sunday)
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46	Isaiah 64: 1-9 I Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37

Invitation to remember in our prayers this week:

In the news

As the last few weeks of term begin, we pray for teachers, head teachers and school governors, that they may be enabled to offer the care and education that the students deserve; and especially we pray for wise and tolerant discussion between schools and parents, where there are differences of view over what should be included and how it should be taught.

From Churches Together

We ask God to bless the Salvation Army corps, Lieutenant James Pegg its leader, and all who worship there; we praise God for all the ways in which they reach out to our most disadvantaged neighbours, and ask that their presence in Feltham may grow.

In the parish

Those living or working in Sherringham Avenue, Craigwell Avenue, Hayling Avenue, Spring Road, Spring Corner, Sunbury Road, Grange Mews, Sunbury Crescent and Ryland Close.

Those who are ill or in particular need:

Jim Devine, Julie Dutton (Brenda Cook's daughter), Amanda Elliott, Hilary Elliott, Jonathan Griffiths, Fiona Holloway, John Howliston, Jacob Hunter, Pam Kemp, Ian Lecky, Ray Newell, Antonio Sorenti, Mary Walden, Gill Welland, Barry Went, Susanna Woollam

Those who have recently died: Alice Webster

Those whom we remember this week: Hector Cross, Elsie Newell