



**St John the Divine Church
Selsdon
Sunday 26th December 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

Welcome

Welcome to St John's, we hope that you enjoy today's service. There will be no refreshments this week but will be back next weekend.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

First Reading – A reading from the first book of Samuel 2.18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

This is the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Second Reading – A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians
3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2.41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

For your prayers:

We pray for God's love to surround:

Jonathan Aitken, Ian Brentnall, Linda Gordon, Chloe Lou, Michelle Lord,
Marjorie Tarlton

We pray for those who have died recently:

We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 27 th December | Winifred Bates | (1974) |
| | Tom Hughes | (1982) |
| | Margaret Sergeant | (1987) |
| | Andrew Hay | (2016) |
| 28 th December | Frank Lilley | (1977) |
| | Alan Hill | (1990) |
| | Joan Allchin | (1994) |
| 29 th December | Doreen Malley | (1982) |
| 30 th December | John Mercer | (1980) |
| 31 st December | Philip Holder | (1988) |
| 1 st January | Sylvia Platts | (2010) |

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email

Revd Younis revd.younis@gmail.com

And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please speak to Younis.

If you'd like to discuss arranging any of the following



***Baptism (christening) *Wedding *Funeral * Home Visit**
Please call Revd Younis on

Tel: 0208 6572343 / 07504 721 294

email revd.younis@gmail.com

Just a reminder that nothing should be left at the church door if you need to drop anything off please do this on a Sunday morning or office times. Monday – Thur 9am-2pm or call Amanda on 0208 6579466 and arrange a time

COVID

The number of cases is rising significantly

- Please do not come to church if you are unwell
- Wear a mask as you come in and out of church and as you go up to take communion
- Remember all the other precautions that we have got used to taking and consider carefully whether you want to start keeping a bit more distance, wear your mask more etc

If you have any concerns, please speak to Younis or one of the wardens.



Meeting God in Silence

We will be taking a break over Christmas and New Year.

Meetings will resume on Monday 19th January.

A Little Note

Just a note to thank everyone for their kind cards and good wishes. I hope and pray that you will all have a safe and happy Christmas season and be able to take its joy and hope into the new year.

All best wishes,
Stephen



**CROYDON
REFUGEE
DAY CENTRE**

The Croydon Refugee Centre is in desperate need of :

- **Men's, women's and children's shoes inc trainers and sandals**
- **Men's and children's clothing**
- **Toiletries and food.**
- **Toys for children aged four-to-twelve-year-olds**
- **Saucepans**
- **Mugs**
- **Utensils**
- **Mens Belts**

All items need to be clean and in reasonably good condition. Please rummage in your cupboards and donate any unwanted items to Debbie Brown.

You can leave your items in the office Mon -Thur 9am -2pm or bring to the service with you and leave in the porch on Sunday.

Stamp Appeal

For every kilo of stamps, Bone Cancer Research Trust receives £20.

The Trust is dedicated to save lives and improve outcome for people affected by primary bone cancer through research, information, awareness and support.



Please save your stamps for me, useful guide:

- **Any stamps (modern more valuable, old ones are pre-2008), foreign ones accepted please keep separate**
- **Minimise amount of card/paper attached, good guide is finger width (1cm) all the way round**
- **No pre-printed labels**

**Thank you
Catherine Sands**

Father Michael's Diary

24 DECEMBER 2021 TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN



The Council of Chalcedon met at Chalcedon in modern Turkey in the year 451. It was the last and largest of the four great Ecumenical Councils which brought together bishops from the whole Christian world (hence ecumenical) to discuss and decide the great doctrines of our faith. All four council were concerned with Christology: the doctrines concerning Jesus Christ, especially the doctrine of the incarnation. The issue they all addressed was this: the second person of the Trinity (Christ) is the active principle of the Godhead through whom the cosmos was created yet this same Christ was born into our world as the man Jesus. How could this be? And how were Christ and the man Jesus related?

Over the years between 319 and 451 four explanations were advanced all of which were found to be unsatisfactory: that Christ was a created being and not divine, that Jesus was not a true man, that the two natures God and man existed side by side in Jesus who was sometimes one and sometimes the other and finally that the manhood of Jesus was swallowed up by his divinity. Between them the four councils rejected all of these unsatisfactory explanations and were left with the conception that Jesus Christ was 100% man and 100% God at one and the same time. They embodied this in a definition which has come down to us as the Nicene creed which we recite every Sunday at the Eucharist (named after the first council which was held at Nicaea in the year 325). The Nicene definition is very hard to get your head around and its very easy to fall back on one of the unsatisfactory explanations which were rejected by the councils, a danger we always need to be aware of: the unsatisfactory explanations are still with us.

In the days following Christmas the Church commemorates these Christological debates: 1 January is the feast either of the Circumcision of our Lord (which commemorates his manhood) or of Mary Mother of God which celebrates the title given to Mary by the third council which defended the divinity of our Lord. The following day we remember Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus two theologians who championed the orthodox doctrine of the incarnation in the fourth century.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

26 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS 1/HOLY FAMILY – Luke 2. 41-end – the finding in the Temple – our families and friends

27 DECEMBER – JOHN THE DIVINE – 1 John 1 – we declare to you what we have seen and heard – our parish

28 DECEMBER – HOLY INNOCENTS – Matthew 2.13-18 – the massacre of the innocent children – the NSPCC and all child protection agencies

29 DECEMBER – Thomas à Becket, Archbishop and Martyr – Ecclesiasticus 51.1-8 - you rescue those who wait for you – Justin, our archbishop

30 DECEMBER – Thursday – 1 John 212-17 – those who do the will of God will live for ever - those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light

31 DECEMBER – Friday – John 1-1-18 – the Word was made flesh – for a proper understanding of the Incarnation

1 JANUARY – THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS/MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - Luke 2 16-21 – that God may bless us throughout the coming year

Church Breakfast

Just a reminder that there is no breakfast in January and the next breakfast will be on Sunday 5th February 2022

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas break

The Breakfast Team.



LET IT SNOW CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thank you to all who helped make the Let It Snow Christmas Market a great success. We raised £ 2105.47 that will go towards the warm church fund.



Thank you to those who gave up your time to organise, man a stall, make a cake, donate a item and spread the word.

We are grateful for all your help!!

Sunday School now open!!!!

Come and join us every Sunday at 10am the children will go into the garden room to do activities and then join the congregation during communion and share what they have been doing that morning.



Church Diary

(Sunday 26th December – Sunday 2nd January)

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|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 26 th | 10am | Eucharist Service |
| Monday 27 th | 10am-4pm | Private Prayer |
| Tuesday 28 th | 10am-4pm | Private Prayer |
| Wed 29 th | 10am- 4pm | Private Prayer |
| Thursday 30 th | 10am-4pm | Private Prayer |
| | | No Eucharist service this week |
| Sunday 2 nd | 8 am | Eucharist Service (BCP) |
| | 10 am | Eucharist Service |

Coming Soon....

Saturday 1st January New Years Day Service

Service 12 Noon followed by bring and share lunch in the hall

Sunday 2nd January Epiphany Service

Holy Eucharist 10.am

Contact Us

You can contact the Revd Younis by Calling
0208 657 2343 / 07504 721294 or emailing: revd.younis@gmail.com

The Parish Office is normally open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6579466 Mobile: 07958 682103

Email: bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

****!!The office will be closed from Fri 24th December until Thursday 6th January
Please leave a message on the mobile or email and if urgent we will get back
to you if not urgent we will reply on Thur 6th Jan!!****

St John's Website address is: www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

To find our Facebook page simply search **St John the Divine Selsdon**