



Serving the community of Bedhampton
by sharing God's love and friendship

Sunday 24th December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

St Thomas'
Shared at St Nicholas'

St Nicholas'
10.00am Holy Communion
Psalm 89: 1-8
Luke 1: 26-38

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer

Prayer Pointers

1. Children, young people and families
2. Those who are homeless
3. Those who are lonely, worried or depressed
4. Family Gatherings
5. Ukraine and the Middle East

Those requesting prayer

Richard, Malcolm, Judith Clemo, Alan Newman,
Phil, Chris & Jacqui, David & Linda, Val Norman, Gerry, Joan

We pray for the families and friends of those who have died and of
those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Rector's Reflection

Our fourth Advent Sunday is Christmas Eve and so runs straight into the big day itself. On Sunday we remember Mary the mother of Jesus, we remember Joy and the next day we celebrate Jesus himself the source of that hope for joy. The popular song asks, "Mary did you know when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God?" My immediate mischievous reaction is to shout, "yes she did, read Luke 1.29-33." However once I get over myself I realise this question really is worth a ponder. Even those of us who would call ourselves Christian can run straight into Christmas without pausing to reflect upon the fact that what we are celebrating is the existence of "the great I Am." My favourite moment of Christmas is post the Midnight Mass service, as I sit alone in my living room, just before I head up to bed. I sip a small single malt and simply sit with our Father God. I pause and reflect with him my gratitude, I share my hopes for next year and ask for his blessing. It is an exquisite moment that I look forward to every year and as much my Christmas tradition as all that happens the following morning. You don't need to replicate my moment, but do let me encourage you to find your moment this Christmas. Be that a walk, a cuppa, or simply sitting in bed before you rise, find the moment for you and your Father God. It will be a precious moment and when asked, "did you know that baby boy is Lord of all creation?" Your answer will be absolutely!

Suzy and I would like to share with you our love of being part of this community and to wish you the most joyous Christmas and amazing New Year.

What's on

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service: St Nicholas' Church

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion: St Thomas' Church

Christmas Day

10.00am Morning Praise: St Thomas' Church

11.15am A short service of Holy Communion: St Thomas' Church



Easy Fundraising

You can help us to raise funds for our church without it costing you a penny! Go through Easy Fundraising to your favourite online shops and we will receive a small donation per purchase. If you click on the following link and once you've raised £5 using your account we get another £5!
<http://bton.uk/easy>

Camino Primitivo Pilgrimage

For a couple of weeks in May and June 2024 Max is leading a walking pilgrimage on the oldest route to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. We shall be staying in traditional pilgrim albergues and carrying backpacks. There are options for a variety of abilities and time commitments. Speak to Max for more details

Jean Hildersley

The funeral service for Jean Hildersley will be on Friday 29th December, 12pm, St Thomas' Church. All are welcome to attend.

Rev Jill

As Jill prepares to move on to her new role she will be stepping back from pastoral care at the end of December. Jill will be with us on Sundays in January, her last service being an all-together on 28th January at St Thomas'.

Beacon Foodbank

The food bank are in need of:
Coffee, tea, sugar, squash
Cereals, jam, marmalade
Soup, baked beans
Tinned meat, fish, fruit & vegetables.

***Wishing you
a very happy,
peaceful and
blessed
Christmas***

Next week: Sunday 31st December 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

St Thomas'
10.00am Holy Communion

(said)

Isaiah 61: 10- 62: 3

Luke 2: 15-21

St Nicholas'
Shared at St Thomas'

Sunday 7th January 2023

Epiphany

St Thomas'
9.00am Holy Communion

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

4.00pm Compline

St Nicholas'
10.30am Messy Church

Prayer Is Vital

Our Wednesday morning prayer is at 8am every week online. We meet to pray for half an hour that God might use us in Bedhampton. I encourage you to join us, you can find details in the "What's on" section. Whatever you do, please do pray for God's mission in Bedhampton.

The Bible Is Key

The Bible is one major way that God communicates with us. To aid us to better understand the Bible in context and its impact on our lives we have a new sermon series over the autumn. The Bible Series introduces the overarching story of the Bible. Each week touches on key themes and relates them to universal human needs. You can find out more at <https://bedhampton.church/bible> where you will also find details of the book behind the series, which is an easy-to-read text by Bible Society's Andrew Ollerton. I encourage you to consider reading it.

Contact us

Parish Office

Deb Vears

Usual hours

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30

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