

Pews News



I March 2026: Lent II

Today's Services:

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Mass with Junior Church

**Welcome to
Guildford St Nicolas Parish Church**

Rector: Canon Neil Roberts

Children are welcome here

Please do not worry about children making noise or moving around. Junior Church is for children aged 4-11 and takes place next door during the service. Younger children are welcome to join if accompanied by their grownup or they are equally welcome to stay with us in church. If you haven't been to us before, adults please follow the Junior Church team out with your child and they will make you feel very welcome.

Making yourself comfortable

Kneelers can be found in the narthex or under the back pews. If you need to use the toilets in the Parish Centre during the service, a sidesman will unlock the Centre for you. Please join us for refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Safeguarding

St Nicolas' is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for all, including children and adults who may be at risk of abuse and neglect. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of St Nicolas' Church. If you are concerned that someone is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please contact Jo Radley or Jill Sandham on safeguardingteam@saintnics.com

Please be aware that our services are generally live-streamed so if you do not wish to appear on camera, please sit in the designated rows. The congregation will not be filmed during the distribution of the Sacrament.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 13:30 - 18:00 * Thursday 08:30 - 18:00 * Friday 13:30 - 18:00

parishoffice@saintnics.com 01483 564526

This week's services, readings & intentions/parish streets

M		Luke 6:36-38	Chad Beech Lane, Bray Rd, Bury Street
Tu		Matt.23:1-12	Buryfields, Catherine's Place, Chestnut Ave
W	10:00 Morning Prayer	Matt.20:17-28	Denzil Road Devon Bank
Th	10:00 Morning Prayer 11:30 Funeral Service for Shirley Mackay	Luke 16:19-end	Dunsdon Avenue Farnham Road
F	10:00 Stations of the Cross 11:00 Mass	Matt.21:33-43, 45-46	Ferry Lane Flower Walk
Sat	16:00-18:00 Messy Church @ GURC	Luke 15:1-3, 11-end	Perpetua, Felicity & companions Friary Bridge Genyn Road
Next	08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)	John 4:5-42	Lent III
Sun	10:00 Mass with Junior Church & Healing after Mass		

Today's Services

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Mass Celebrant: The Rector; Preacher: Craig Nobbs

Voluntary: Prelude on Llef - *Alan Rees*

Processional: Hymn 338 At the name of Jesus

Mass Setting: New Plainsong Mass - *David Hurd*

Reader: Wendy Gabriel **Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

For the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 121 (sung responsively)



My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

- 1 I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
From where is my | help to come?
My help comes | from the Lord,
The maker of | heav'n and earth.
- 2 He will not suffer your | foot to stumble;
He who watches over you | will not sleep.
Behold he who keeps watch | over Israel
Shall neither slum-|ber nor sleep.
- 3 The Lord himself | watches over you;
The Lord is your shade at | your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike | you by day,
Neither the | moon by night.
- 4 The Lord shall keep you | from all evil;
It is he who shall | keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going
out and your | coming in,
From this time forth for | evermore.

Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

For the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Hymn 76 Take up thy cross

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can

do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Intercessions

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Those who have asked for our prayer: Holly Gregory, Edward Wild, Jeremy Pedrick, John West, Chrissie Patterson, Ruth, Adam Dorber, Sam Hughes, Rodney More, Louis Remillard-Lam and Bishop Andrew.

The Recently Departed: Shirley Mackay

The Year's Mind: Arthur Ford (priest), Geoffrey Campion Bateman, Gwendoline Mansel, Sara Turing and Enid Dance.

Offertory: Hymn 148 The God of Abraham praise (**omit * verses**)

Anthem: Let my complaint come before thee – *Adrian Batten*

Let my complaint come before thee, O Lord,
Give me understanding according to thy word,
Let my supplication come before thee,
Deliver me according to thy word.
My lips shall speak of thy praise when thou hast taught me thy statutes.
Yea, my tongue shall sing of thy word,
For all thy commandments are righteous.
O let my soul live and it shall praise thee,
And thy judgements shall help me. Amen.

Psalm 119: 169-172, 175

Voluntary: Prelude on Bryn Calfaria – *Robert Jones*

Our YouTube livestream: <http://youtube.com/@SaintNics>

This Week / Next Week

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00 Mass with Junior Church

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector
Reader: Wendy Gabriel
Intercessor: Rory Fenner
Chalice: Craig Nobbs
Sidespeople: Cath Anderson,
Angela Goodwin
Coffee: Peter & Pauline Oldroyd

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00 Mass with Junior Church and Healing
after Mass

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector
Reader: Rachel Chapman
Intercessor: John Varney
Chalice: Donald Thompson
Sidespeople: David Greenwood, John Vines
Coffee: Helen Gould, Lizzie Evans

This Week's Notices

Bishop Andrew

Please continue to keep Bishop Andrew and his family in your daily prayers.

*God of our hope and salvation,
we thank you for Andrew, our brother in Christ and father in God:
for his discipleship and leadership, and for his love and care of our diocese.
At this time of his illness, we pray that you would visit him with your healing love,
comfort and strengthen him with your Holy Spirit,
and protect him and his family with your holy angels.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

Fr Alistair

Fr Ali's Collation and Induction takes place **this evening, SUNDAY** 1st March at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Merton Park. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins his ministry in that place.

150th Anniversary Composition

We are very excited to be commissioning a piece of music for St Nicolas' 150th anniversary by the Guildford composer and world renowned Will Todd. Music has played an important role in the very fabric of our church from hymn writing Rectors to the present. I am therefore inviting sponsorship opportunities for this important project which will be used, I am certain, for the next 150 years. If you would like to make a contribution to the estimated cost which will be around £6000, then please have a quiet word with me.

Fr Neil

Fridays in Lent

You are welcome to come to all or some of our

Fridays in Lent:

Coffee Shop from 10

10 Stations of the Cross

11 Mass

12 Lent Lunch

1 Lent Study Group

Our 5-week Lent Course 'Living the Mystery of Faith' focuses on Matthew's Gospel and has been compiled by the Diocese of Chichester. The booklet is available on this link <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/documents/lent-course-2026/>

Another resource which you can use throughout the year but may wish to start during Lent is the Church of England app 'Everyday Faith'. It provides daily reflections, including selected Bible readings, a simple prayer to prepare you for the day ahead, and thoughts based on a weekly theme. See details here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith#na>

Lent Study Group

What does it mean to be a follower or disciple of Jesus? Is it simply agreeing to a statement of beliefs? Or attending church on Sunday? Sometimes?

For the first disciples, the call was something far more immediate, personal and life-altering. As Jesus walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he interrupts the ordinary, sweat-filled workday of two sets of brothers. His call is not to a new hobby or a weekend activity but to a radical reorientation of their entire existence. They are invited to leave their economic and domestic security and embark on a new mission.

This week, at the second session of our Lent study group, we will explore via Matthew 4:18-22 this compelling call and ask what it means for us to hear and respond to it today. Join us at 1pm on Friday, 6 March as we continue our Lenten journey through Matthew's portrayal of Jesus and His ministry.

David Greenwood

Keeping the Church Open

Could you help to keep the church open to visitors? We need at least 2 people each weekday morning from after Morning Prayer at 10am until midday. Hilary has a rota and needs more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are able to help, even occasionally, please let her know or email parishoffice@saintnics.com

Rosary - an Introduction

If you would like to learn more about the Rosary and how to use it in prayer, then one evening after Easter the Rector will be leading a short introduction. If you would be interested, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

Open Church Day - Wednesday 1st April, 11am-3pm

Is anyone able to help with our Open Church Day on Wednesday 1st April? If anyone has an activity they would like to lead, a short time slot would be great, eg tour of the church, learn to knit, bicycle maintenance, prayer activity, craft activity, Bible study Nicky is open to suggestions. Please get in touch with her if you would like to know more and have any ideas.

Nicky Geraghty missionenabler@saintnics.com 07903028299

Maundy Thursday Watch

We are keen to maintain our tradition of watching through the night from the end of the Maundy Thursday service which starts at 8pm, and 7am on Good Friday morning. It is essential that there are at least two people in church at all times during this period. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church for you to sign up to an hour or two.

Annual Church Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 22nd March. Ahead of this, we are required to revise our Electoral Roll. This process ends on Saturday 7th March.

The Electoral Roll is our register of electors. It's an important way of confirming your commitment to St Nicolas' community and to the vision of the church. It means you can vote on church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC or Deanery Synod. Being on the Electoral Roll doesn't make you a 'member' of the Church; simply regarding St Nicolas' as your spiritual home does that.

To join the Electoral Roll you must be aged 16 or over (or due to turn 16 this year), you must be baptised and a member of the Church of England and EITHER living in the parish OR have attended St Nicolas' regularly for at least 6 months.

Forms are available from church and from the parish office and an easy-to-fill online form which you'll find by following this link:

<https://guildfordstnicks.myknowchurch.co.uk/form/load/bkFkdm4xc2pybkIpeml4RE5PL3JxcXcrQ2JIU0NBMFI0L2JTSXVNBzFiSVWdkeHJsQ0QIa0UvRI dTZHMI>

or scan this QR code.

Paper forms should be returned to the parish office or to Fr Neil.

See the noticeboard in the narthex for all the notices relating to the meeting.



The Bishop of Guildford's Lent Appeal

The Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund was first set up in recognition that pockets of poverty can exist in the most unlikely places – relational and spiritual poverty alongside physical deprivation. Our funding comes mostly from collections at special bishop-led services (confirmations, licensings and the like) and the Lent Appeal. Given that the Trustee body is voluntary and does all of the administration involved, all of the money that is given goes directly towards its charitable purposes.

Last year we raised around £28,000 in all, which enabled the Fund to support projects run by parishes or church-linked organisations providing real practical support to the communities they serve. Ten grants ranging from £500 to £3,000 helped fund meals for the vulnerable, cafés for the isolated, youth and community workers and other wellbeing initiatives.

We urgently need to continue this work, not least at a time when charitable funding in general has been on the decrease and community need on the increase. Your generosity can bring hope to those who are struggling - people living with disabilities, battling mental ill-health, facing financial hardship, or experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage. Even a small gift can make a big difference, offering dignity, hope, and a brighter future.

It is so important that we all make a special effort this Lent to remember those less fortunate than ourselves and to support a wide range of initiatives through which the Church lives out the sheer 'goodness' of the Good News of Christ. Thank you in advance for your support.

Bishop Andrew

Please support Bishop Andrew's cause by donating in the wallbox in the narthex, to our bank account (see below for details) or please ask to use the card reader.

Salvation Army Food Bank

The Salvation Army welcomes your donations which can be left in the box near the font. If you are able to contribute, it will be very much appreciated. They particularly ask for:

Long-life semi skimmed milk; Fray Bentos pies; Tinned carrots; Porridge pots; Tinned potatoes; Tinned soup; Tinned meat; Baked beans; Shampoo.

Support

To support St Nicolas' Church, please make a bank transfer using the details below. Donations to our Good Cause can also be made direct, using the reference 'Good Cause'. Thank you.

PCC of St Nicolas Sort Code: 60-09-21

Account No: 59904003

We are members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), designed to support funding of our mission and ministry. The service allows you to:

- Give One-Off amounts by Credit/Debit cards & Apple/Google pay wallets
- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Sign up to inflation-linked giving annually
- Enhance your gift by having Gift Aid at 25% added to your giving
- Give securely and donate anonymously, if you prefer



- Scan the QR Code which will take you direct to our page on their website
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/guildford-st-nicolas-guildford/>

Messy Church SONGS GAMES STORY CRAFTS

This is a free event, no booking required

RECHARGE!

at Guildford URC, Portsmouth Road, GU2 4BS

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 4-6PM

REST.PLAY.RECHARGE
 A space for families to recharge their batteries as we look forward to spring

www.saintnics.com
www.guildfordurc.org.uk

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Guildford United Reformed Church

GREAT^{little} ORCHESTRA VIENNESE WHIRL
 Great Classics associated with Vienna, City of Music

R.STRAUSS - FOUR LAST SONGS
J.STRAUSS II - EMPEROR WALTZ
 W.A.MOZART - FIGARO OVERTURE F.LEHAR - VILJA
 J.STRAUSS II - ADELE'S LAUGHING SONG
 Featuring soprano Hannah McKay

<https://buytickets.at/greatlittleorchestra/2020817>

7.30pm, Friday March 13th 2026
 St. Nicolas' Church Guildford, GU2 4AW

HATCH MANSFIELD
 UK Specialists in Premium Wine

"GLO...such a high standard" Tim
 "The GLO were shockingly good" Susan

Guildford Chamber Choir
 Principal Conductor *Tristan Weymes*

Jonathan Dove

THE PASSING OF THE YEAR

Works by Finzi, Ireland and Judith Weir

Saturday 14th March 2026
7.30pm
 St Nicolas Church,
 Bury Street,
 Guildford GU2 4AW

Cheryl King TRUST
 IHRCT The Harbridge Robinson Trust

The Chantry Singers
 Peter Hicks - Conductor

IHRCT The Harbridge Robinson Trust

To, the full, final sacrifice
 Choral anthems for Lent

Saturday 21st March 2026 7.30 pm
 St Nicolas Church
 Guildford
 GU2 4AW

Tickets: £18 (16 and under: £2)
 Scan the QR code or phone
 07969 906 439

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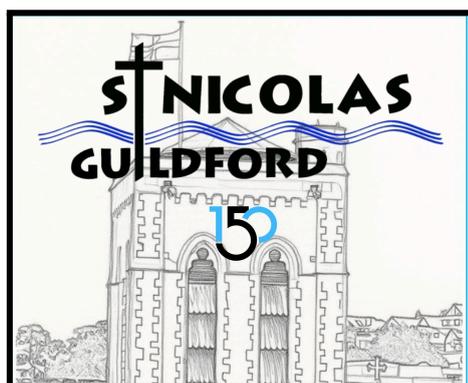
GUILDFORD USA SINGERS

Make a Joyful Noise

Songs for Easter
 on **Wednesday 25 March**
2.00 p.m.
 at **ST NICOLAS CHURCH**
 Bury Street, Guildford GU2 4AW

Entry is free
 Voluntary retiring collection towards Church funds

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150th Anniversary Programme

A few highlights - more dates to follow

- Tuesday 10th March** Lecture: Canon Jeremy Haselock FSA
7:30pm The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture
- Holy Week & Easter** We will be joined by The Right Reverend Peter Hancock
- Thursday 7th May** Lecture: Dr Michael Shapland, senior archaeologist
7:30pm University College, London
The Hill of the Dragon: A medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine's Chapel (in the Parish Centre)
- Thursday 4th June** Corpus Christi Mass - preacher, Fr Victor Stock, former Dean
8pm of Guildford Cathedral
- Saturday 20th June** Midsummer Dinner with comedian Paul Kerensa
- Thursday 8th Sept** Lecture: Charles O'Brien FSA
7:30pm "The Ugliest Church in Surrey?" - a reassessment of St Nicolas' and its Victorian designers
- Sunday 4th October** Dedication Festival Mass & Lunch
- Tuesday 10th Nov** Lecture: Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite
7:30pm Victorian Church Music

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday 6th March

from 10 am Coffee Shop

10 am Stations of the Cross

11 am Mass

12 pm Lent Lunch

1 pm Lent Study Group

Saturday 7th March

4 - 6 pm Messy Church @ GURC

Sunday 8th March : Lent III

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Mass with Junior Church & Healing after Mass

Tuesday 10th March

7:30 pm 150th Anniversary Lecture: Canon Jeremy Haselock FSA

The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture

Friday 13th March

from 10 am Coffee Shop

10 am Stations of the Cross

11 am Mass

12 pm Lent Lunch

1 pm Lent Study Group

7:30 pm Great Little Orchestra Concert

YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Fridays in Lent

Lent Lunches

Friday 20th March

Fizz & Friends

Thursday 23rd April

Curry & Questions

THIS WEEK

I - 8 March 2026

Sunday	LENT II 8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10 am Mass with Junior Church 1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday	10:30 am – 12:00pm Zero@St Nics Community Fridge
Tuesday	10 am Tuesday Group <i>“Signs of Spring” individual contributions</i>
Wednesday	10 am Morning Prayer 10 am Café Play
Thursday	10 am Morning Prayer
Friday	10 am Stations of the Cross 10 am – 12:30 pm Coffee Shop 11 am Mass 12 - 1:30 pm Lent Lunch 1 pm Lent Study Group
Saturday	4 - 6 pm Messy Church @ GURC
Sunday	LENT III 8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10 am Mass with Junior Church & Healing after Mass 1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy
