

Pews News



26 April 2026: Easter III
Vocations Sunday
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.



Fr Neil says "Who have you invited to church lately and who are you going to invite next?"

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 Parish Centre 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.

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

M		John 10:1-10	<i>Christina Rossetti</i> Walnut Tree Close West Mount
Tu		John 10:22-30	<i>Peter Chanel</i> Wherwell Road Wodeland Avenue Woodcote
W	10 am Morning Prayer	John 12:44-end	Catherine of Siena
Th	10 am Morning Prayer	John 13:16-20	<i>Pandita Mary Ramabai</i>
F	10 am Morning Prayer 11 am Mass	John 14:1-14	Philip and James Annandale Road Artington Walk
Sat	4-6 pm Messy Church @GURC	John 14:7-14	Athanasius Beech Lane, Bray Rd Bury Street
Next Sun	10:00 Mass with Junior Church	John 14:1-14	Easter IV

Today's Services

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Mass & Junior Church

Celebrant: The Rector; Preacher: Revd Dr Craig Holmes

See separate Order of Service and below

Voluntary: Prelude on St. Columba – *Charles Villiers Stanford*

Processional: see Order of Service

Mass Setting: (choir) Mass of St Thomas – *David Thorne*

Psalm 23: Chichester Psalms – *Leonard Bernstein* (sung in Hebrew)

Gradual: Hymn 282 Faithful, Shepherd, feed me

Offertory: Hymn 459 The Lord's my shepherd

The descant was first publicly sung in 1947 for the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II, whose centenary we observe this week.

Anthem: Brother James's Air – arr. Gordon Jacob

Voluntary: Processional – Martin Shaw

Dear brothers and sisters

150th Anniversary Musical Commission

As you might know, we are very excited to have commissioned Will Todd, an internationally accomplished composer, to write a motet to celebrate this year's 150th anniversary of the third church on this site. Will has spent time with me in church to talk about what it is we want to achieve and we shared a vision of the space, light and holiness of the building which should be reflected in the music. We spoke, too, about the text which should be the basis of what will be, I am sure, a fabulous choral piece to reflect our tradition. We settled upon the words of Psalm 96 memorialised in the hymn sung around the world written by a predecessor of mine, John Samuel Bewley Monsell, O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. These words are beloved of Catholic Christians throughout the world and will be recognised as a suitable offering from our tradition.



The purpose of this commission is two-fold: first, to express the desire of the human heart beyond words in this place in an important year; and secondly for it to be then shared with the wider church as an anthem dedicated to St Nicolas Guildford and sung for generations to come.

I am writing, therefore, to ask for your help. As someone who is generous with their time and resources, I am inviting people who have expressed an interest in supporting this venture to be named benefactors of this enterprise. Your name would be inscribed in the manuscript, should you so wish, and forever be associated with this piece which will be sung in cathedrals and churches in this and the next generation.

The cost of this piece is some £5000 and we are required to pay the deposit of £2500 in the next month or two for the work to begin. If you would be so inclined to make a donation to St Nicolas church for this important work, I would be most sincerely grateful. If you would rather remain anonymous, then, of course, I shall respect that if you make that clear when making your donation.

You might wish to write a cheque (made payable to the PCC of St Nicolas) or electronically.

Thank you for your ongoing support to St Nicolas and I am most grateful to you for taking the time to prayerfully consider making a donation towards this milestone opportunity.

With my best wishes and thanks for your partnership in the gospel.

Fr. Neil

PS Do you have anything musical that you no longer need? Instruments, sheet music, etc. We are happy to accept donations to sell these and the money to go towards the commission. Do speak to me or Cath.

Intercessions

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Diocese: Epsom Deanery.

Those who have asked for our prayer: Holly Gregory, Edward Wild, Chrissie Patterson, Ruth, Andrew, Julia Wake, Jerry Floyd, Rodney More, Louis Remillard-Lam, Jeremy Whittaker and Steve Reeds.

The Recently Departed: Jeremy Pedrick.

The Year's Mind: Ida Taylor, Millie Black, Mary Claydon, Caroline Williams, Vera Peake, George Massey Wheeler (Rector), Rebecca Elston and Katharine Beckett.

Live Streaming Link

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



This Week / Next Week

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Mass with Junior Church

10:00 Mass with Junior Church

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector

Reader: Jon Hebditch

Intercessor: Naomi Parkin-Tyrie

Chalice: Jill Sandham

Sidespeople: Iain Ferguson, Daniel Vines

Coffee: Jo Radley

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: Fr Nicholas Edwards

Reader: David Greenwood

Intercessor: Catherine Ferguson

Chalice: Jana Phillips

Sidespeople: Cath Anderson, John Vines

Coffee: Iain Ferguson, Deborah Tizard

This Week's Notices

Vocations Sunday



We are delighted to welcome The Revd Dr Craig Holmes, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, to preach at Mass this morning.

This is an opportunity to pray for vocations - lay and ordained - and to ponder what skills, gifts and talents you offer to the church. Reading the lesson? Praying the Intercessions? Helping with Zero Waste? Friday Coffee? Helping with Toasty Tuesdays or Pizzas at 8? Take another look at the booklets at the back of church - **what do you think God is**

calling you to next?

Supporting all our volunteers

We are refreshing and updating our Safeguarding procedures in line with Church of England Guidance on Safer Recruitment. In short this will give clarity to both the church and those who volunteer of what is expected of them in their roles and to whom they can turn for support and direction. This is a way of both valuing and supporting all who fulfil the many voluntary roles at St Nicolas', and also ensuring that we are recruiting to these roles safely.

Over the next month you will receive an email or hard copy of a new volunteer working agreement which you will be invited to sign, and additionally those who work regularly with children or adults who are vulnerable will be asked to return a Safeguarding Confidential Declaration. If you have any questions, please talk to Jo or Jill, our Parish Safeguarding Officers, or the Rector.

ST NICOLAS' GUILDFORD 150TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES **St Nicolas' Parish Centre - 7:30 pm Thursday 7th May 2026**

All lectures in this series are free though donations are always welcome.

Refreshments are available.

'The Hill of the Dragon: a medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine's Chapel' by Dr Michael Shapland, FSA senior buildings archaeologist at Archaeology South-East, part of University College London, and the consultant archaeologist for Chichester Cathedral.

St Catherine's chapel, lying in St Nicolas' parish, was built in the late 13th century, and its ruins still dominate the southern approaches to Guildford. It's an enigmatic building and much of its history still remains a mystery to historians and archaeologists.

In March 2020 historical knowledge took an unexpected step forward when a sudden landslip in the railway cutting through the hill on which the chapel stands revealed a cave and a series of medieval carvings. The carvings contain, among other things, a niche akin to a Gothic arch, and a carved Calvary cross on a stylised hill signifying Golgotha, which was a common image in the late medieval period. These suggest it was perhaps a hermit's shrine.

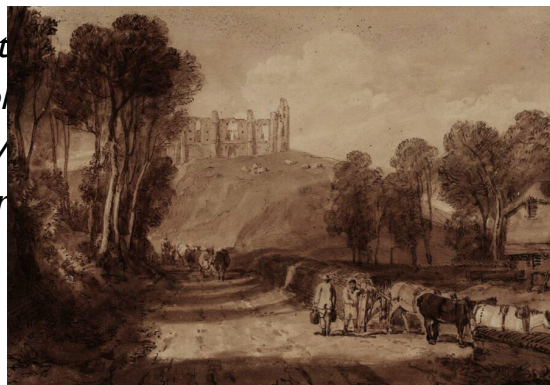
Dr Shapland has been leading the excavation of this cave and trying to interpret its meaning. The situation of St Catherine's is enigmatic but symbolic and the 'site bears the possibility of much older and deeper ritual significance' writes Dr Shapland. It is positioned on an ancient river crossing, by a medieval sacred spring, which lay at the intersection between two early long-distance routes. Anciently known as 'The Hill of the Dragon', this is thought to be the ancient assembly site for two of Surrey's early tribal kingdoms.

We look forward to hearing about Dr Shapland's latest discoveries.



Carvings in the newly revealed cave in St Catherine's Hill

*Painting of St Catherine's Chapel
(from south) JMW Turner*





**A FUN EVENING WITH
COMEDIAN**

PAUL KARENZA

British Comedy Award-winning co-writer for BBC's Miranda, Not Going Out, Top Gear, ITV's Royal Variety, C4's TFI Friday, CBBC and much more!
Paul brings his unique blend of stand-up, stories, music and faith



**SATURDAY 20TH JUNE
7:30PM**

TICKETS £20

includes finger buffet & first drink
Licensed bar

Limited tickets - book early!
parishoffice@saintnics.com

The Rosary - an Introduction

Do you want to learn more about the Rosary and how to use it in prayer? The Rector will lead a short introduction at 7:30pm on Thursday 11th June. It's not too late to sign up on the list at the back of church.



HUSTINGS - FOR 7TH MAY ELECTIONS

Tuesday 28th April | 7:30pm | Onslow Village Hall

With the new West Surrey Authority elections approaching, come and hear from the candidates who want to represent us in the Guildford South West Ward (previously Onslow and St. Nicolas Wards).

Organised by **Onslow Village Residents Association**

Open to all

- **The Line-up:** Lib Dem, Labour, Conservative, Green, Reform, and Independent candidates.
- **The Format:** Short introductions followed by a Q&A session.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Please email your questions to info@ovra.org.uk or bring them with you on the night.



ovra.org.uk



Good Cause for April



1 in 700 babies is born with a cleft lip and/or palate globally. Clefts cause difficulties eating, breathing, hearing and speaking. Smile Train is the world's largest cleft-focused organisation. Its model of empowering local medical professionals to provide life-changing, comprehensive cleft care in their own communities means that, since

it was founded in 1999, it has supported more than 2 million safe, high-quality cleft surgeries worldwide.

Please support this good cause by donating in the wallbox in the narthex, to our bank account (see below for details using the reference GOOD CAUSE) or please ask to use the card reader.

Abbot's Hospital Community Engagement Volunteer

Abbot's Hospital, Guildford's historic High Street Alms House, is seeking a volunteer to help: develop contacts with the people of Guildford and the area, and organisation and bodies interested in charities such as ours; to publicise activities and news relating to the Hospital through a newsletter and social media; to keep social media up to date; and to facilitate events in the Hospital involving the public. This role is initially for a volunteer but could develop over time. The volunteer would work closely with the Master and Governors. If you might be interested in helping, either contact Ian Bowler, the Master, directly (master@abbotshospital.org), or else the Parish Office, which has details of those to contact at the Alms House.

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 Baked Beans, Soup, Tinned Veg, Tinned Tomatoes, Teabags, Small Jars of Coffee, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Custard, Cereals and Tinned Meat Meals.

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

Messy Planet Protectors: Growing Hope Edition

At Guildford United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, GU2 4BS
All are welcome to join us as we explore the
world of nature, thinking about how we can
help plants grow and growing ourselves as well.
Faith-based fun with crafts, games, worship
and a meal afterwards.

Saturday

2nd May

4pm



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

familiesworker@guildfordurc.org.uk

For this Messy Church, we are looking for jam jars and plant cuttings/babies suitable for a terrarium. Baby spider plants, fittonia, African violets, succulents, cacti or similar would be great if possible (need to be small to fit in jam jars!! jam jars!! Please bring them in, or let Nicky know what you have as soon as possible please so she knows what she's working with.

Also, small plastic plant pots size 9 or 10.5cm please!

HOLIDAY CLUB

PLANET PROTECTORS: WILDLIFE EDITION

27TH – 31ST JULY
At Guildford URC

£15 PER
CHILD
FOR SCHOOL
YEARS R-6

FAITH-BASED
FUN AS WE
EXPLORE THE
WORLD OF
WILDLIFE

STORIES

GAMES

CRAFTS

SONGS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND BOOKING

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



LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 2nd May

4 pm Messy Church @ Guilford URC

Sunday 3rd May : Easter IV

10 am Mass with Junior Church

Thursday 7th May

7:30 pm Lecture: Dr Michael Shapland, senior archaeologist, University College, London

The Hill of the Dragon: A medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine's Chapel

Sunday 10th May : Easter V

8:30 am Mass

10 am Mass with Junior Church

Friday 15th - Monday 18th May

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Sunday 17th May : Easter VI

10 am Mass with Junior Church

Friday 22nd May

8 pm Fizz & Friends

Sunday 24th May : Pentecost / Whit Sunday

8:30 am Mass

10 am Mass with Junior Church

YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Fizz & Friends Fridays	22nd May	26th June	17th July
Monthly Lunch Fridays	29th May	26th June	
Midsummer Evening	Saturday 20th June		
Summer Fayre	Saturday 4th July		

THIS WEEK

26 April - 3 May 2026

Sunday

EASTER III

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Mass & Junior Church

1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy

Monday

10:30 am – 12:00pm Zero@St Nics Community Fridge

Tuesday

10 am Tuesday Group - *Carpet Boules without carpet!*

5 - 6:30 pm Toastie Tuesday for school years 3-6

Wednesday

10 am Morning Prayer

10 am Café Play

Thursday

10 am Morning Prayer

Friday

10 am Morning Prayer

10 am – 12:30 pm Coffee Shop

11 am Mass

Saturday

4 - 6 pm Messy Church @ GURC

Sunday

EASTER IV

10 am Mass & Junior Church

1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy

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