

Pews News



3 May 2026: Easter IV
Today's Service:
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 12:20-26	English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era Denzil Road Devon Bank
Tu		John 14:27-end	Dunsdon Avenue Farnham Road
W	10 am Morning Prayer	John 15:1-8	Ferry Lane Flower Walk
Th	10 am Morning Prayer	John 15:9-11	Friary Bridge Genyn Road
F	10 am Morning Prayer 11 am Mass	John 15:12-17	Julian of Norwich Guildford Park Ave Guildford Park Road
Sat		John 15:18-21	Guildown Avenue Guildown Road
Next Sun	08:00 Holy Communion (BCP) 10:00 Mass with Junior Church	John 14:1-14	Easter V

Today's Service

10:00 Mass & Junior Church

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Nicholas Edwards

See separate Order of Service and below

Voluntary: Variations on Noël Nouvelet (Now the green blade riseth) – *Stephen Burtonwood*

Processional: Hymn 333 All my hope on God is founded

Gloria: Dom Gregory Murray

Reader: David Greenwood **Reading:** Acts 7:55-60

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were

stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

Reading: I Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,' and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

Gradual: Hymn 113 Love's redeeming work is done

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Intercessions

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United).

Diocese: The Parish of St John's, Egham.

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

The Year's Mind: Betty Julia Long, Eric Ware (priest), Robert Ainslie, Marjorie Ellen Spooner, Eugene Doherty and Brian Elkington.

Offertory: Hymn 477 Ye that know the Lord is gracious

Voluntary: Paraphrase on Handel's Judas Maccabeus – *Felix Alexandre Guilmant*

Live Streaming Link

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



This Week / Next Week

10:00 Mass with Junior Church

08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Mass with Junior Church

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

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector

Reader: Donald Thompson

Intercessor: Caroline Coleman

Chalice: Jonathan Neil-Smith

Sidespeople: Jill Sandham, Daniel Vines

Coffee: John Vines, Rory Fenner

Dear brothers and sisters

150th Anniversary Musical Commission

As you may 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.

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.

This Week's Notices

ST NICOLAS' GUILDFORD 150TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES

St Nicolas' Parish Centre - 7:30 pm

THIS 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.



Good Cause for May



Each year we arrange a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and we like to encourage those who have never visited before. The PCC took the decision some years ago to pay for first-time pilgrims. Our Good Cause for this May, Mary's Month, is the St Nicolas' Pilgrim Fund. This will allow us to continue offering this benefit to our members who would like to make the visit.

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.

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/>

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

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 Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Thursday 21st May

7:30 pm Walsingham Cell Mass

Friday 22nd May

8 pm Fizz & Friends

Sunday 24th May : Pentecost / Whit Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Mass

Sunday 31st May : Trinity Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Mass

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

3 - 10 May 2026

Sunday	EASTER IV 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
Wednesday	10 am Morning Prayer 10 am Café Play 10 am Mass
Thursday	10 am Morning Prayer
Friday	10 am Morning Prayer 10 am – 12:30 pm Coffee Shop 11 am Mass
Saturday	
Sunday	EASTER V 8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP) 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