



# All Saints Church, Kingston-upon-Thames

*The Ancient Parish Church of Kingston*

## 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas)

You are very welcome to All Saints Church for this Sung Eucharist.

The Celebrant and Preacher is The Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Newcastle.

The choir are on holiday this week.

The service is filmed and broadcast on our YouTube channel. Please sit in the back three rows if you want to avoid being filmed.

Please stay for refreshments in the east end of the church after the service and do remember to always keep your belongings with you.

### Hymns

32	O little town of Bethlehem
22	Away in a manger
25	God rest you merry, gentlemen
28	In the bleak midwinter

### Mass Setting

Gloria – Margaret Rizza (on laminated sheet)  
Sanctus & Benedictus – John Merbecke (NEH 542)

### Collect

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**

## **Readings**

### **Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### **Luke 2:15-21**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## **Post Communion Collect**

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**

## **News and Events**

### **Weekly Eco-tip**

Recycle food packaging at large supermarket. You will find information on the packaging itself. As a general rule, this includes crisp packets and plastic cereal packets.

**Christmas Day Collection** - will be given to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. This is the Anglican Church hospital in Gaza City that was recently bombed and has now been re-opened. If you wish to make your own donation you can do so via: [The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](http://TheJerusalemandtheMiddleEastChurchAssociation.org)

**Epiphany Carol Service with dedication of Saxon Embroideries** - following the successful installation of the Embroidery of Athelstan in 2022, we are pleased to invite all members of the congregation to the unveiling of the next three embroidery panels in a special Epiphany service and drinks reception event on **Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. The Embroideries are of Edmund, Eadred and Eadwig and, as before, have been designed by award winning contemporary artist and designer Jacky Puzey, based on original designs by Sophia Pearson and then embellished with hand embroidery and beading by Beatrice Mayfield, contemporary hand embroiderer and visiting lecturer at the Royal school of Needlework.

### **Removal of Christmas trees**

Liz would appreciate any help to remove the Christmas Trees on Wed 3rd Jan from 10am, particularly the decorations on/removal of the big tree. Thank you.

**Bereavement Café** – this is a space to talk about bereavement and to find mutual support and encouragement from others who understand the experience of loss. No booking necessary. **Every other Wednesday** 2.00 - 3.30 pm at All Saints Church.

**Next session is on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Flyers are available in the church with further details.

**Youth Café** – this runs from 4-5pm every Sunday in term-time in the church café. It's open to all Young People aged 11-18. Next session 7<sup>th</sup> January at All Saints.

**Leaders needed for Children's Church** – could you help lead our Sunday morning sessions? Training, resources and support provided. Once every 5-6 weeks. If interested please talk to [libbylazenby@gmail.com](mailto:libbylazenby@gmail.com) or Eithne [ejfray@btinternet.com](mailto:ejfray@btinternet.com)

### **Dates of Café Closure for Christmas and New Year Period**

Please note that the café will not be open on New Years Eve (31<sup>st</sup> Dec), New Years Day (1<sup>st</sup> Jan), & Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

## **Faith Talks – Climate change: is civil disobedience justifiable?**

The first of the series of Faith Talks, hosted by Rev Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston, will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at All Saints Church. The main speaker is Ruth Valerio, environmentalist, theologian, social activist and author.

### **Services This Week:**

**Tues** Holy Communion at 12 noon

#### **Wed**

Holy Communion at 12 noon

Choral Evensong at 5:30pm

#### **Thurs**

Holy Communion at 12 noon

Destress Meditation at 5:30pm

#### **Sunday**

Holy Communion at 8am

Choral Eucharist at 9:30am

Requiem Choral Evensong at 6pm

### **Contact Details**

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