

St Stephen's, Canonbury
17 Canonbury Road, N1 2DF
Exploring Faith – Sharing Hope – Growing in Love

December 2018

Join us as we 'Follow the Star' to Bethlehem
We wish you a hopeful Advent and a happy Christmas

Welcome to St Stephen's. We seek to know God through Jesus Christ. Encountering Him in worship, service, love for each other and those around us. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please leave us your details. Our prayer team can talk and pray with you. If you have a particular need for which you would like prayer, talk to the service leader.

On most Sundays there is Sunday School for children 4-11 and 'Dreams' for young people 11+. On 2nd and 3rd Sundays there is a group for toddlers to reception as well. There are toys for younger children at the back of the church. The sermons are recorded and are available on the website.

Services in December

- Sun 2 11am Confirmation and Holy Communion
Readings: Isaiah 9:2-6; Matthew 4:12-17
Leader and preacher: Rt Rev Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington
- 6.30pm Advent Service of Light
- Sat 8 3pm Messy Advent
Leaders: Lois Gallagher & John Beauchamp
- Sun 9 11am Morning Worship – Songs of Advent 1
Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 – Isaiah's song
Leader: John Beauchamp; Preacher: Timothy Muller
- 6.30pm Advent reflections
Leader: Stuart Evans
- Sun 16 11am Holy Communion – Songs of Advent 2
Reading: Luke 1:39-56 – Mary's song
Leader: John Beauchamp; Preacher: Stuart Evans
- 5pm Candlelight Carol Service
- Sun 23 11am Morning Worship – Songs of Advent 3
Reading: Luke 1:57-80 – Zechariah's song
Leader and preacher: John Beauchamp
- Mon 24 4pm Family Crib Service
Leaders: Lois Gallagher & John Beauchamp
- Tue 25 11am Christmas Family Celebration with Communion – Songs of Advent 4
Reading: Luke 2:1-20 – The angels' song
Leader: John Beauchamp; Preacher: Margaret Evans
- Sun 30 11am Morning Worship
Reading: Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-end
Leader: Stuart Evans; Preacher: Margaret Evans

Please pray this month

Urban Hope

- For the recruitment process for a new female youth worker and interviews taking place on 7th December
- For Urban Hope's Christmas parties and celebrations.
- For young people who find Christmas a time of stress and anxiety because of personal and family issues.

Pre school childrens work

- For Messy Advent on 8th December and the crib service on Christmas Eve
- For families with young children who will join us at our Christmas services.
- For Rotherfield Primary School reception visiting St Stephen's to see the Church and hear the Christmas story.

Manna

- For the new project worker who will be starting work in December.
- For winter night shelters opening their doors and for success in helping people to access this provision.
- For Manna's Christmas sessions, that extra support can be given to the most vulnerable at this time.

Church

- For those who are unwell: Yazna, Joy Maitland, Brenda Coomes, Mary Allen, Val Bull, Len Chalkley, Elizabeth Ainger, Mary Fergus, Rachel Green, Sylvia Dolan, Wendy Reeves, Vivien Mehmet, John Lowe, Stephen Spencer and those mourning the loss of loved ones including the family and friends of Lisbeth Palia and Evelyn .
- For our Christmas services and all who will visit us at this special time.
- For the completion of the new steps with handrails and balustrades before Christmas

World

- For the people of Eritrea, both in the country and those living as refugees across the world. For new justice and democracy in this oppressed country. For Father Shenouda and the St Mary's Eritrean Orthodox community at Archway.
- For a new hope of peace between Israel and Palestine as the Nativity story draws our focus to this region.
- For all troubled and war-torn places where the angels message of 'peace to all people' needs to be heard.

MESSY ADVENT – SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER, 3pm. Come and join us for Messy Church with an Advent theme on Saturday 8th December. Lots of Advent and Christmas crafts and fun as we think about the hope of Advent and the wonder of Christmas that this season leads us to. Messy Church is for everyone whether you have children to bring or not. Tell your family, friends and neighbours and come and join us at this special time.

CHURCH STEPS. The steps project should be completed before Christmas with the fitting of handrails and balustrades. We thank the Richard Cloudesley Charity, Garfield Weston and all who have supported this work.

FOLLOW THE STAR THIS CHRISTMAS. Our Christmas theme this year is 'Follow the star.' Come and join us as we follow the star to Bethlehem to join angels, shepherds and Magi around the manger. Our special Christmas services are:

Sunday 16th December, 5pm, Candlelight Carol Service.

With candles, traditional carols, the Christmas choir, readings and poetry from our young people and a special drama, we will tell again the familiar and wonderful story of Christmas. Younger children are invited to come dressed as nativity characters to join the stable scene.

Christmas Eve, 4pm, Family Crib Service.

We tell the Christmas story, put the figures in the crib, sing carols and pray for the world. A service in which children of all ages take part and a chance to pause in the Christmas excitement and remember what it is really all about.

Christmas Day, 11am, Christmas Family Celebration and Communion.

Join us on Christmas Day and bring a present or something from your stocking to show and tell us about. A service for all ages together.

ADVENT EVENING SERVICES. We begin Advent with a Service of Light at 6.30pm on 2nd December. Taking us from darkness to light with readings and music, this is a special way of beginning your Advent journey. On 9th December the evening service will be an Advent reflection entitled 'Begetting – Important women in Jesus' family tree.'

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS APPEAL. This year we will once again support a charity who are working with refugees. The plight of young refugees is particularly difficult as many are in foreign countries isolated by language and cultural issues as well as away from family and friends. 'Young Roots' is an organisation working in London, Lebanon and Nepal to support young refugees to achieve to their full potential in education and as members of their adopted societies. They offer educational and mentoring support and much more. You can read more at www.youngroots.org.uk. Pick up a flier which will tell you how you can support Young Roots this Christmas.

SERMONS IN ADVENT. During Advent our themes at 11am services will be 'Songs of Advent.' We will hear the song of Isaiah, the song of Mary, the song of Zechariah and the song of the angels as we discover more about what these prophecies tell us about who this baby really is and what he brings into the world. Don't forget our sermons are recorded and posted on the website, so you can catch up if you miss one.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET CONCERT. Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm in St Stephen's. An evening of barbershop from the international award-winning quartet 'Tagline' and friends. With songs from some of the biggest artists from the last century, from Nat King Cole to Bruno Mars via Spandau Ballet. Tickets: £13 (£10 concessions) on door or search 'Eventbright.'

WINTER SOCIAL EVENTS. Come and chase away your winter blues with some fun evenings at St Stephen's.

Saturday 12th January, 6.30pm - a Bring and Share New Year Party along with a chance to talk about High Leigh and plans for our weekend for 2020.

Saturday 9th February, 6.30pm - Board Games evening with refreshments & nibbles.

Saturday 9th March, 6.30pm - Board Games evening with refreshments & nibbles.

All are welcome to these events. Bring your friends and neighbours as well.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MANNA. The Manna is always keen to hear from people who would like to explore joining the team of volunteers who make running the project possible. There are a variety of volunteer roles: assisting in the kitchen, supervising showers and washing services, befriending visitors and responding to requests for items, help and support, helping set up or clearing down after sessions. At this time we would particularly like to grow the number of volunteers from the congregation to keep the link between the Manna and our worship as strong as possible. Manna sessions are on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings but it may be possible to arrange volunteering outside of these times. If you would like to know more, please contact Kate Moore on kate@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk or 020 7226 5369. Thank you.

Regular events

Mon 4-6pm After School 'Chillzone' years 6 & 7 (Halls)

7-8.45pm Urban Hope drop-in - years 7-9 (Halls)

Tue 9.30am Urban Hope prayers (Urban Hope room)

7-9pm The Manna (Church Halls)

Wed 10.00am Prayers for The Manna (Manna Office)

1-3pm The Manna (Church Halls)

3pm Holy Communion and prayers for healing (1st & 3rd Weds - Church)

6.30-8pm Urban Hope Juniors Club – year 4-6 (Halls)

Thurs 6.30-9pm Urban Hope Drop-in – years 10+ (Halls)

Fri 9-11am The Manna Key-work Session (Church Halls)

PASTORAL CARE TEAM. PCT members are available to support and pray with you in all circumstances. Contact John Beauchamp by email or on 07946161098.

CHURCH FLOWERS. You can contribute towards flowers for anniversaries and special occasions. Please contact Carol Mellor 020 7263 6916.

Vicar – Rev John Beauchamp – 020 7226 7526 or 07946 161098

vicar@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk

Church Administrator: Rose Mwsigwa

Church office – 020 8616 5505 administrator@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk

Office open: Mon 9.30am-3pm, Thur 9.30am-3pm, Fri 12 noon-4pm

Church Wardens – Suzanne Roberts & Janice Emslie (Contact through the church office)

The Manna – Homeless and adult support (see diary for opening times)

020 7226 5369 – themanna@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk

Urban Hope – Youth Support Project (see diary for opening times)

020 7354 9616 – hello@urbanhope.co.uk