

**The Parish Clergy:**  
 The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate  
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 The Reverend the Hon. Curate Fr. Charles Heard  
**The Churchwardens:**  
 Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mr Alex Davies  
 The Churchwardens Emeriti  
 Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud

fr Charles and fr Andrew,  
 wish everyone a Blessed  
 and a very  
 Merry CHRISTMASS  
 and a happy and peaceful  
 NEW YEAR.



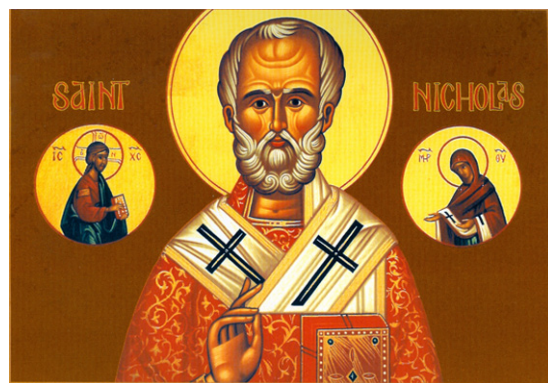
Thank you for your Cards  
 love and prayers.

Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gather here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

**WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY**



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement



Ramp available for access

A Forward in Faith parish under  
 the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham,  
 during the vacancy in See  
 The Right Reverend Peter Wheatley,  
 we are a Eucharistic community  
 who is worshipping in the present,  
 upon the Apostolic Truths of the past,  
 in the hope of finding our future salvation  
 in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

**The Mass is offered daily**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:30am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>



Exposition of the  
 BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION  
 half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

*Confessions:*

Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm,  
 Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.

Please turn off



all mobile 'phones

**PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME**



now read on . . .

## John 1. 1-18

The story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem is so well known, so often told, sung, acted, depicted, that it may seem to become a routine part of the Christmas holiday, a passing reminder of what the season is about. A birth is easy to understand, easy to depict imaginatively without knowledge of the details. But how can we depict the heart of the mystery?

No picture, no narrative, can make the coming of God into the world of human beings a part of our annual pageant. Only the inspired words of the Evangelist can tell of the eternal God, perfect in power and majesty, entering into human life with all its limitations. We have seen his glory.

But who saw it – only the few who were privileged to be of his human family, to be his close friends, to hear him preach, to be the enemies who planned his death? Not for thirty years, but for all time, those who would receive him could share in the divine light, see with the inner eye of faith the glory that had come into the world. It could be seen in a precious relationship, a father and his son in all the suffering and the joy.

The mutual love gives its blessing to the happy families of this day, heals the wounds of past estrangement, and draws us into one as children of the eternal Father.

## Christmas Customs

Christmas is one of the times of year when customs and traditions come to the forefront of our minds. It can be the little things, 'lunch always begins at three' to the bigger things, 'we always have an oversized Turkey at Christmas'.

From the tree to the presents all of these are traditions we love and are attached to, and every family has its own things. There should, however, be customs that we keep in the home that point to the true importance of this festival. It is almost certain that you are doing the most important one as you are in Church worshipping the infant Christ at the crib and receiving him in the Eucharist. But there can be as is more.

Will you say grace before sitting down for lunch, after all should we not give thanks for all that God has given us.

Do you have a crib in your house? It need not look like, nor be as big and exotic as the Church one, but a crib at the centre of each household provides a place to pray before and talk with children about the truths of Christmas.

There is another wonderful custom of a placing a candle burning in the front window of your house so that the Holy Family know that there is a place with room for them in it.

Whatever you do, make sure that there is room for God this Christmas day.

*Forward!* is published each week by Forward in Faith,  
2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG

# Forward!

Welcome to our celebration today

25<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
**Christmas Day**

## The Bishop of Ebbsfleet writes...

Among the many patristic hymns translated by one of the great Fathers of the catholic revival in the Church of

England, John Mason Neale, one of my favourites is that originally written by the early eighth-century Patriarch of Constantinople, St Germanus. It begins, in Neale's version,

***A Great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!***

and is usually set to the lovely Christmas carol melody, *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* ('A Spotless Rose.') Sadly, I suspect it is seldom sung nowadays, not having the familiar appeal of *O Come All Ye Faithful* or *Hark! The herald angels sing!* This is a pity, as, like all the best hymns, it contains some substantial theology. In the second verse, we read:

***The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high***

This couplet reminds us that, in the Incarnation, it is truly the Son of God in the fullness of his divinity (one in being with the Father) who unites Himself with human nature, and comes to exist as man. This is the whole point of the Christmas mystery, the mystery of the Word made Flesh. It is not a weakened, an "emptied out" form of the Son of God who becomes man: it is God, Christ and Son and Lord. It is not that Christ's humanity somehow brings God down to our level, that could never be: rather, it is Christ's divinity which divinises our humanity,

so that we are raised up to God. Christmas – as Pope St Leo the Great taught long ago – teaches us about the nobility and dignity of man.

So much of contemporary society seeks to conform us to a diminished and cramped understanding of what it means to be human: that we are defined by what we buy, what we accumulate, what power we can exercise, even how youthful we look. Thank goodness that the Christian vision of the human person is so much richer. That is what we celebrate each and every Christmas Day.

✠ Jonathan Ebbsfleet





**S. NICHOLAS CHURCH****FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH**

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.

**Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis**

All-powerful God,  
you made  
Saint Nicholas  
a bishop and leader  
of the Church  
to inspire your people  
with his teaching  
and example.  
May we give fitting  
honour to his memory  
and always have the  
assistance of his prayers  
We ask this  
through our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen

**Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper**

If you are celebrating  
a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY  
and would like to share it with your Church Family  
A £15 DONATION  
covers the cost of Sherry  
(You may if you wish provide wine of your own choice)  
to be enjoyed at the back of church after Mass  
Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**The Angelus will be sung at the  
Christmas Crib**

**HYMNS**

Introit:	NEH	Sheet
Gradual:	NEH	Sheet
Offertory:	NEH	Sheet
Communion:	NEH	Sheet
Post Communion:	NEH	Sheet

**PALM CROSSES:**

*Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving*

**THE PASCHAL CANDLE:**

*Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving for Theo & Otto*

**THE SEVEN DAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR DECEMBER****THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

*Jessica Roberts: In thanksgiving*

**THE SANCTUARY:**

*Fr Charles: In thanksgiving for the life of his brother John*

**OUR LADY BY THE LADY CHAPEL:**

*Joy & Stephen Jahans: In thanksgiving*

**OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM:**

*Betty Stroud: In memory of Tillie & Bert*

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA:**

*Murray Smallbone: For the repose  
of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008*

**S. NICHOLAS:**

*Steve Chwalyk: For the repose  
of the soul of Helen Chwalyk 17-8-1926 - 23-2-2011*

**THE SUNDAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER****OUR LADY BY THE TOWER:**

*Gwen Pearce*

**THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:**

*Henry Aguh*

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS:**

*Fr Andrew: for the repose of the soul of Ernie Maty*

**S. JOSEPH:**

*Paul Pangrace*

**S. FRANCIS:**

*Betty Stroud*

**S. MARTIN:**

*Reg & Doreen Martin*

**THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:**

*Fr Andrew*

**FLOODLIGHTING**

**INTRODUCTION**

Today we celebrate God's closeness to us in Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem and with us always. We gather to give thanks and praise to God for the mystery of Christmas.

**Today's Readings****First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10**

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Lord: it is to be a time of great rejoicing, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of God.

**Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6**

All the prophecies of old have been fulfilled by God in the sending of his Son, Jesus Christ. All the angels worship Jesus, who sits at the right hand of God.

**Gospel John 1:1-18**

John reflects on the mystery of the incarnation, where the eternal Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us. In him, we see God's glory.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

With confidence in the goodness and mercy of our God, we approach the throne of grace, making our petitions to the Father.

Let us pray that the Christmas message of peace may be heard anew in every heart, home and nation.

Lord, hear us.

Let us pray that the Church may be an effective witness to God's generosity and goodness.

Lord, hear us.

Let us pray that those in our community who are sick or in any kind of distress may know the comfort and healing of God.

Lord, hear us.

Let us pray that those we have loved and lost may come to their heavenly home.

Lord, hear us.

Lord God, you have given us so much, yet still we ask you for all that we need; we do so confident of your rich mercy. We ask you to grant our prayers through your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER FOR HEALING**

Olivia Grace Kintu Barbara Brunt Jack Brunt  
Murray Smallbone  
Fr Gerald Lane Sarah Catherine Namutebi  
Fr Charles Ada Smith Amina Chaudhury  
Joe Moss Chucks Owilbo Colin Jones Daphne Langford  
Bhupendra Pattini Anita Johnson Lisa Bowden  
Geoff McCarthy Mary Cook Sue Yurik Wayne Yurik  
Josephine Bampton Alison Mules Christina Agin  
Victor Boyce Madeleine Barrelo Heath (10 month old baby)  
Marjorie Unwin Phylis Knight  
Lesley Loftus Ruby Arthurs Diane  
Brian Goulding Issa Olarewaju Lawal  
Doreen Cleaver Mandy McWhinnie  
Carol Bohurjak Tommy Bohurjak Jim Webb  
Pam Webb John David Cook Fr Timmothy Raphael  
Tom Bohurjak Susan Jahans Sarah Burton  
Beverley Goering Paul Rice Stanley Lewis  
Ebere Collins Ofojebe Pat Wenham Liz O'Sullivan  
Bill Russell Kay Nelson Connie Guntrip Diane Fulbrook  
Colin Cresswell Ian Mackie  
Robert McEwan Kay Etherington Joan Gosling  
Diane Kot Danny Bell Vic Clark  
Jill Pearson Howard Weston-Smart Roy Richards Juliet Skinner  
Nicky Thomas Dorothy Crook Dorian Joseph  
Joan Cosgrove Colin Bendall Pete Gray  
Keiran (18 month old baby) Murial Taylor Callie  
Hazel Clark Olive Verrall Grace Beasley  
Brian Marshall Margaret Rusynyk  
Jean Hills David Jahans  
Inge and Mogens Hansen  
Mike Okeze Violet Halley

**IN THANKSGIVING**

Val Marshall Mike Okeze Marie Borland  
Teresa Agin Meghan Belcher  
Stephen Jahans

NOVEMBER	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Intercessions
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> †	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	A. Davies
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	B. Scott	E. Buhl	R. Martin
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	J. Jahans	R. Barzey	B. Scott
Sunday 27 <sup>nd</sup>	P. Alexander	S. Obubo	J. Jahans
DECEMBER			
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	D. Stevens	Y. Stevens	S. Jahans
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> St Nicholas Day	B. Stroud	T. Agin	G. Agin
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	P. Channer	S. Jahans	A. Davies
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	B. Scott	E. Crawley	T. Agin
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Midnight Mass	G. Agin	P. Alexander	B. Scott
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	D. Martin	R. Martin	Fr. Andrew
JANUARY			
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	R. Martin
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	G. Agin	E. Buhl	J. Jahans

**FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION**  
**DECEMBER General Intention:**

That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, may grow in harmony and peace.

**Missionary Intention:**

That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that their dignity may always be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

**FLOWERS IN MEMORY**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**THE DEPARTED**

Henry Alfred [Harry] Longbottom  
 Ernie Maty Doreen Fisher  
 Bryan Vickery Mark Jaynes  
 Joseph Moss Florence Clifford

**YEARS MIND**

27th Albert Bristow  
 27th Reginald Warrenner  
 31st Alice Lilian Mann  
 31st Geoffrey Buttolph

**THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED:**

*Sunday 9th October 2011:*  
 Tia-Amber Gardener

**THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM**

*Sunday 18th December 2011:*  
 Alexander Temitope Adeniji  
 Daniel Olamiposi Adeniji

**THOSE NEWLY MARRIED**

*Saturday 14th August 2010 at 3:00pm*  
 Ian Clive John Brooks & Tessa Amelia Hawkins

**THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY**

**BIRTHDAY**

25th Norman Draper  
 27th Olubunmi Akinlalu  
 31st Babs Scott

**Sunday Readings: Year B**  
**Divine Office Proper**

**DECEMBER 2011**

* 25	Su	W	<b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, Sol with Octave</b> DO2 Mass pr, Gl, according to the time of Mass LI 104 or LI 107 or LI 109 (ad lib: shorter form of Gospel), Cr (all kneel at Incarnatus), Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:18(117) EP:17(114)
26	M	R	<b>S STEPHEN, First Martyr, Fest</b> DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 125 or LII 1304, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:175(453)
		W	EP of the Christmas Octave	EP:17(113)
27	T	W	<b>S JOHN Ap Evang, Fest</b> DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 127 or LII 1306, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:175(455)
		W	EP of the Christmas Octave	EP:17(114)
28	W	R	<b>HOLY INNOCENTS Mrr, Fest</b> DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 129 or LII 1308, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:183(457)
		W	EP of the Christmas Octave	EP:17(113)
29	Th	R	<i>England:</i> <b>S THOMAS BECKET BMr, PATRON OF THE PARISH CLERGY, Fest</b> DO3(1) Mass pr from (new) National Propers, Gl, LII 1376 (ad lib: alternative Gospel), Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:180(321)
		W	EP of the Christmas Octave	EP:17(113)
		W	<i>Outside England:</i> <b>FIFTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE</b> (Ad lib: com of S Thomas Becket BMr – see note after Christmas Day) DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 131, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:18(117) EP:17(114)
30	F	W	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, Fest</b> DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 114: ad lib: shorter form of Gospel (alternative readings LI 119: ad lib: shorter form of Gospel) – two readings only: choice of first reading from OT or NT, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:18(120) EP:46(120)
31	S	W	<b>SEVENTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE</b> (Ad lib: com of S Sylvester I P – see note after Christmas Day) DO3(1) Mass pr, Gl, LI 136, Pref Christmas, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	MP:18(117) EP:17(114)
		W	EPI of foll DO2	EP:213(121)



**MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.*

*Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:1-7

**PSALM** 95

**RESPONSE:** *Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. **R.**
4. With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I bring you news of great joy:*

*today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-14

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.*

**MASS AT DAWN**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;*

*and he will be called Wondrous God,*

*Prince of peace, Father of future ages:*

*and his reign will be without end.*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 62:11-12

**PSALM** 96

**RESPONSE:** *This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.*

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
the many coastlands be glad.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory. **R.**
2. Light shines forth for the just  
and joy for the upright of heart.  
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord:  
give glory to his holy name. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Titus 3:4-7

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,*

*and peace to men who enjoy his favour.*

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:15-20

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:*

*Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.*

**MASS DURING THE DAY**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;*

*his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,*

*and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 52:7-10

**PSALM** 97

**RESPONSE:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R.**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 1:1-6

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A hallowed day has dawned upon us.*

*Come, you nations, worship the Lord,*

*for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.*

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** John 1:1-18

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

**SOLEMN BLESSING**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May the God of infinite goodness,  
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world  
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day),  
drive far from you the darkness of vice  
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy  
of his Son's saving Birth  
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,  
fill your minds with the gladness he gives  
and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation  
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,  
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour  
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**