

December 2022



A family of Churches, centred on Jesus, serving the community, and sharing our Faith

GOOD NEWS FOR WILLESBOROUGH & SEVINGTON

Find us at: www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk

Contact us at the Parish Office

01233 620433(Libby & Jacquie)

Dear readers, we're not quite there yet but we wish you a Christmas of inner peace, love and joy as you encounter the newly born Jesus once again this year.

Please put one Christmas card to all the Church family on the board in Church rather than sending individual cards which wastes resources and is expensive. Do donate either to the Church or to a charity of your choice if you would like to.

News

Three candidates were interviewed for the position of Team Vicar based at Willesborough & Sevington and with a specific responsibility for enabling mission in the deprived areas of Ashford. The appointment process continues and we expect an announcement to be made soon.

Our local leadership team has reviewed the change in Sunday service time and has decided to revert back to a 10am start from Christmas day onwards. This will enable us to have coffee and fellowship after the service and it will take the pressure off Rev Geoff who has been rushing from Christ Church to get to us for an 11am start. Geoff will still be with us to lead some 10am Sunday. We will be introducing a less formal Family Communion service on each third Sunday and we will follow our 'green book' worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Our worship group is working on a non-Eucharistic all age worship format with more modern music which we aim to introduce next year.

What a wonderful morning we had at our Christmas Fayre: lots of friends and families meeting, greeting, laughing and smiling. Santa came, presents were handed out, games were played and oh those bacon rolls – truly scrumptious. Thank you all so much for your efforts in making the Fayre a great success and raising £2,800 towards running the Church and paying for our priests.

Meet, Eat and Heat continues in Willesborough church on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm through the winter for people needing a warm place, some free soup, a roll and a natter.

Just a reminder of our **Mission objectives for 2023:**

- New worship formats in place and reviewed after 6 months
- Projects to address loneliness identified and started particularly in Newtown and S Willesborough
- Worship support recommenced in Willesborough Infants and Juniors with schools using the church again and Messy Church restarted once a month.
- Apply for grants and fund raising for Sevington Church Reordering

Of course, we won't be able to complete all these plans unless people come forward to help so we will be holding a special service in January when there will be an opportunity to commit to supporting one of these areas if you feel called to do so. Please pray about this over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile we need the following (training provided):

- A sides person once a month at the Sunday morning service.
- Two people to operate the sound system once a month.
- Someone to become part of the Local Leadership Team
- Experienced bell ringers to join the team.
- Someone to help serve in the cafe one morning a week
- Someone to help on the social committee
- Someone to be our local safeguarding officer
- People to form a team to help with written and visual communications particularly producing a welcome leaflet and preparing power point slides for services using the overhead projector and screen.

Do you feel called to help with or find out more about one of these? If so, please have a word with Libby or Jerry. Thankyou.

EVENTS (all in Willesborough Church)

(Please contact the office for any further information and to buy tickets)

Beetle Drive Saturday 10th December 10am Café open for drinks & snacks.

Christmas Lunch Friday 23rd December. Soup, roll, mince pies and chit chat. Ticketed event

Abba Chique tribute group Friday 20th January. Ticketed event, back by very popular demand.

Christmas Services in December

Willesborough:

Christingle - Sunday 18th 11am

Carols and readings – Wednesday 21st 7pm

Nativity and crib service – Saturday 24th 3pm

Midnight Mass – Saturday 24th 11.30pm

Christmas Day Eucharist – Sunday 25th 10am

Sevington:

Holy Communion – Sunday 18th 11am

Morning Service – Sunday 25th 11am and January 1st 11am

Regular Services times are listed on the Parish website

Bible readings for January services are

Ja n	1st	Naming and Circumcision of Christ OT NT Gospel	Numbers 6:22-end Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21
Ja n	8th	Epiphany OT NT Gospel	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesian 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
Ja n	15th	Second Sunday of Epiphany OT NT Gospel	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
Ja n	22nd	Third Sunday of Epiphany OT NT Gospel	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
Ja n	29th	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany OT NT Gospel	1 Kings 17:8-16 1 Corinthians 1:18-end John 2:1-11

If you have any short items of news that you would like us to consider for the next (February 2023) Good News edition, then please contact Jerry - jerrykfoxy@gmail.com - before the end of January.

If you know anyone in our communities who might like to receive this bimonthly bulletin, then please suggest that they contact the office with their email address. This will be retained confidentially.