

The Church of the Good Shepherd is now open each day for **individual private prayer**,

We would ask **all our visitors** to follow the government's guidance for social distancing, hygiene and isolation. Remember to stay safe.

God bless

Rev. Chris Turner (01732) 882447

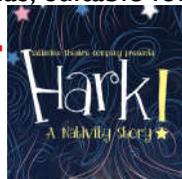


Christmas Cards

Please drop Christmas cards for CoGS family members off at the **Vicarage** instead of the church. They will then be sorted and delivered to people's homes.

This year we will be using a retelling of the nativity by the Saltmine Theatre Company. Filmed live with a full cast and band, it's a 90-minute long, funny, musical re-imagining of the first Christmas, suitable for all ages.


Happy Birthday
Linda Valance



Friday 18th at 7:30pm Quiz Night, via Zoom

Sunday 20th at 6pm a service of Readings, music and images to reflect on the Christmas story

Wednesday 23rd at 11am a service using Hark! A Nativity Story

Wednesday 23rd at 6pm a service using Hark! A Nativity Story

Christmas Eve at 4pm a service using Hark! A Nativity Story

Christmas Eve at 11:30 pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day at 10 am - Christmas Holy Communion

IN OUR PRAYERS Please remember those who are ill or in special need at this time:

Judi Couldrey, Pat Head, Victoria Sharp, Jackie Billitch, Shirley Bowman, Celia Smith, Alan Soames, Phyllis Hodge, Gillian Aitkenhead, Barry Corbishley, Gill Russell, Pam Jones, Gary Sullivan, Brenda Hewson, Linda Valance

RIP: Rosina Petrucci

For changes or additions to the pew sheet please email: vicar.cogs@gmail.com



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD BOROUGH GREEN 1906—2020



Vicar Revd. Chris Turner 882447 vicar.cogs@gmail.com (Not available Tuesdays)

Church Wardens: Dominick Pearce 490116; Julie Sweeting 885437

Lay Minister Elaine Almond 886440 **Reader** Chris Almond 886440

PCC Secretary Sally Metcalf 845549 **Treasurer** Mark Sweeting 885437

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Carole Simpson 883073, Chris Atkins 366615

3rd Sunday of Advent — 13th December 2020

Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd

Holy Communion - 13th December 2020 10:00am in church
Spaces are limited due to COVID-19 restrictions so please book

This service can also be joined via Zoom
See our Church Near You page for details

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16920/>

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer after communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen

If you would like to support our work in the community you can now donate by text
Text COGSGIVING 5 to 70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text COGSGIVINGNOINFO 5 to 70085.

FIRST READING **Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11**

The servant of the Lord said:
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the

LORD has blessed. 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.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.
Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.
Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with

shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

SECOND READING **I Thessalonians 5.16-24**

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL READING **John 1.6-8,19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of

