

# THROUGH THE CHURCH GATE

*YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, IBSTONE*



# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021

*YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER*



# NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH...

## Remembrance Sunday

14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10:45 am at St Nicholas' Church

A lay led service of Remembrance in St Nicholas' Church

Everyone is welcome to join us



## Ibstone Village Carol Service

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
at 5:00 pm  
St Nicholas' Church

Followed by mulled wine  
& mince pies

11:00 am  
25<sup>th</sup> December

A family  
eucharist service  
with carols to  
celebrate the  
birth of Jesus

## Christmas Day Holy Communion



## MESSAGE FROM REVD PHILIP SMITH...

It's always a delight to meet on a Sunday whenever we are able and it's never the same without you. But there are many reasons why we are not all able to join together and so we know deep down that church is never just about this gathering, or a building.

I am often asked how many are in your church and I would always say about 17,000, they just don't all come at the same time. Similarly, I would be asked where my church was and I would say, well some are at home, at school, at work, some shopping, some out playing and some asleep. The simple concept of 'whole life worship' is the simple understanding that our lives are a worship to God wherever we are, whatever we are doing, for though it may be good to come to church. It's much better to be church, for church is who we are, not where or when we go or log on.

Here at St Nicholas' Church, we can engage with our local community and our wandering community, walkers etc. in many ways. One of these is massive for we are blessed with a wonderful Church school. Never let it be said that no children come to us on a Sunday, for we go to them Mondays to Fridays.

It has been a delight to share with Mark our Rector going into Ibstone School to take the Collective Act of Worship on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am and we take alternative weeks. It is also a delight for me to share this with Lucy. The children have got to know us. We play on the fact that Mark and I are delightfully different, so that the children can also be who they are. Some love to answer all the questions and do the action songs whilst others may be more reserved, and that's ok too.

Recently we met a newcomer to the Reception Class who has the most amazing gift of the gab. Lucy and I were invited to join the Family Walk before half-term, which has been the first since before Lockdown. Here we met this child's parents and were able to walk and talk. The children were walking in their Family Groups that go across the ages giving the older children responsibilities. Here in informal ways bonds are built. The walk finished at the church where the children who wanted to pray out loud, growing in confidence each time.

Lucy and I have also been able to introduce the school to Fischy Music, a Scottish based group that have an amazing repertoire of songs that build emotional intelligence. The children love these songs instantly and at the last assembly our newest recruit put their hand up and said, "can we sing that again please?".

There were 71 in church for our Harvest Service, another opportunity to show that church, school, and community are one.

All of these activities may never put the proverbial 'bums on seats', but we are all in God's business as Jesus called it of building a kingdom and not filling in a census statistics form.

The photograph shows children from Ibstone CofE School during part of their Worship on a Walk through the village doing the 'prayer in the air' to avoid the nettles.



# Regular Services

## St Nicholas' Church

Check our website for updates:  
<https://www.ibstonechurch.uk/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month  
9:30 am

Holy Communion Service

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month  
11:00 am

Prayer and Praise Service

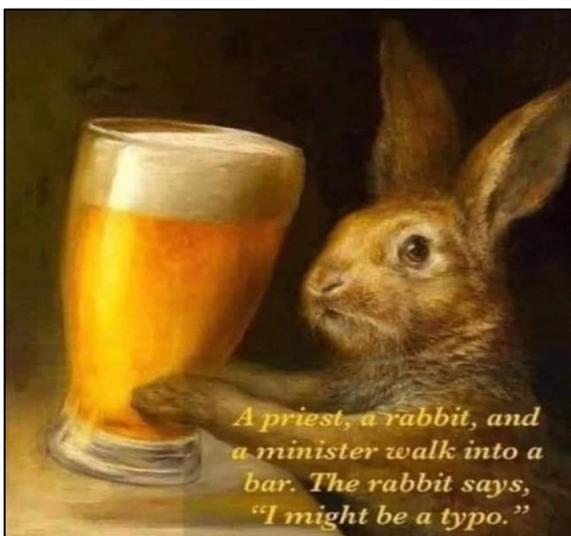
### Other services...

In addition to the services at St Nicholas' Church, you can also find details of services at Stokenchurch, Lane End and Cadmore End (the other three churches in our South Chiltern Benefice) on our church website:

<https://www.ibstonechurch.uk/services>

St Nicholas' Church is open 24/7 for private prayer, peace and reflection.

You are always welcome in God's house!



*A priest, a rabbit, and  
a minister walk into a  
bar. The rabbit says,  
"I might be a typo."*

Should you wish to find out more about your local church please contact one of the following:

#### Team Rector:

Revd Mark Ackford – 01494 266 891  
[revdmackford@outlook.com](mailto:revdmackford@outlook.com)

#### Team Vicar:

Revd Philip Smith - 07879 456 840  
[philip@thevonsmiths.co.uk](mailto:philip@thevonsmiths.co.uk)

Information about baptism, weddings and funerals contact:

#### Team Parish Administrator

Clare Bantick - 01494 854 045  
[parishoffice.sctc@gmail.com](mailto:parishoffice.sctc@gmail.com)

<https://southchilternsteamministry.wordpress.com/>

#### Churchwarden:

Toby Long – 01491 638 909  
[stnicholasibstone@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasibstone@gmail.com)

#### Churchwarden Emeritus:

Veronica Murray – 01491 638 268

#### Deputy Churchwarden:

Jenny Davis – 01491 638 245

**Twitter:** @StIbstone

**Facebook:** St Nicholas Church Ibstone



We need volunteers to help clear the leaves from the Churchyard. If you can spare an hour to rake, blow or gather leaves, then your support will be much appreciated. You can do this anytime that suits you. Please place the gathered leaves on the bonfire pile in the corner of the Churchyard. **Thank you in advance!**

# NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGE CHURCH SCHOOL

The first half term of the new academic year has been as eventful as ever at Ibstone School. We were delighted to fill St Nicholas' Church at the Harvest Festival in October. The whole school enjoyed being back together to make the traditional Ibstone School Harvest Loaf for the service. It was lovely to hear the older children talking to the younger children about what they had to do and why we make the loaf for the Harvest service. Thank you to all the families and villagers who joined us in Church. We were delighted to collect over 20 bags of produce for the Community Matters Food Bank, which has become a local cause close to our hearts at Ibstone CE Primary School.

Thank you to all those in the village and Church community who have supported the new school library building in way of financial and practical donations. Thank you to Lunnon & Tilbury who have done an amazing job reconfiguring the buildings and for making time to come and make the steps, they look superb! The books are now in situ and we have been very lucky to have a librarian come into school and arrange the library for us. *Photo below.*

*Louise Long*  
Headteacher

📧 [office@ibstone.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@ibstone.bucks.sch.uk) ☎ 01491 638281 🌐 <http://www.ibstoneschool.org.uk/>



## Ibstone Church of England School Vision

Our vision is to nurture our community enabling everyone to grow through our Christian values. We inspire our children to be resilient, confident and courageous whilst developing a lasting love of learning.

'Whatever I have, wherever I am,  
I can make it through anything in the One  
who makes me who I am.'

*Philippians 4:13*

Many of you will have seen Zog the dog out and about in the village. Zog is Mrs Long's dog, he is a Fox Red Labrador and was bred by one of Mrs Long's friends. He was specially chosen to be our school dog and he is already having a positive impact on school life. He greets everyone in the morning during Rolling Drop Off, wanders around the classrooms to say hello to everyone and is there to have a chat to if needed. As he gets older, he will spend more time in the classrooms. He already has a love of books. When he is not in the classrooms he can be found chilling out in the office!



# God of the Bathroom Floor

"God isn't just the God of steeples, Prayer meetings, Well-paying jobs, Mission trips,  
Intact families, Worship songs, Sunday school...

All those visible spaces.

The ones we show to the world.

The ones that look like we have our act together.

The ones where we will be praised.

He's bigger than that. Much, much bigger.

His heart is bigger.

His presence is bigger.

His well-worn, tenderness is bigger.

BECAUSE

He's also and especially the God of

Oncology visits

Broken hearts

Empty checking accounts

Funeral parlours

Rehab rooms

Sleepless and fitful nights

Bathroom floors

Messy selves and messy lives

The places where it's just us and Him.

The ones only He can really see.

Hear.

Understand.

Guide.

Comfort.

Heal.

The places of Loss, Despair, Loneliness, Doubt, Fear...

That are also the places of Growth, Hope, Belonging, Grace, Peace...

The places that nothing and no one else can touch.

Except for this big, big, 'very present help in time of trouble,' tender-hearted God.

Those are the most sacred places of all.

And some of the most beautiful.

*Author Anonymous*



# COMMUNITY MATTERS FOOD BANK

Based at Lane End, this is not just a food bank, as they also offer pastoral care and have a small fund where we can help those that really need it to buy essential things like a new washing machine or cooker, help with school uniform or children going on a school trip. We also help with getting to hospital appointments and help some of the families who are really struggling. Currently the programme supports 20 families that regularly receive help each week.

## Food Items:

- Pasta sauces
- Tinned tomatoes
- Baked Beans
- Tinned hot dogs
- Tinned meatballs in tomato sa
- Coffee/tea
- Squash – any flavour
- Tins/cartons of custard
- Microwaveable rice
- Jams/marmalade
- Peanut butter

## Household Items:

- Laundry powder/capsules
- Washing up liquid
- Shower Gel
- Toilet rolls
- Kitchen rolls
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Fabric conditioner
- Cleaning products
- Toothpaste

Sadly, in the light of the current restrictions, we cannot accept fresh produce. At present we do not need any pasta or cereals, but we are particularly in need of the household items. Any support you can give is much appreciated.

Ibstone's collection box is outside Blue Hills, the home of Jenny and David Davis. This is the second house on the left when you enter the village travelling from the Stokenchurch direction.

*Thank you*

Community Matters Food Bank Team





COP26 is the Conference of the Parties on climate change to be hosted in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. It is a crucial meeting for taking forward the pledges made in the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

#### **Advocate for climate justice**

The main faith groups' asks for COP26 are around climate finance justice. They are to:

- Prioritise a new and additional finance mechanism for climate-related loss and damage (money to help people who are already losing homes, loved ones and livelihoods as a direct result of climate impacts).
- Put an end to all use of public money to subsidise fossil fuels.

#### **A Prayer for the COP26 climate summit**

Loving God,

*We praise your name with all you have created.*

*You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures.*

*We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation.*

*May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.*

*Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.*

*We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.*

**Amen**

Find more on the role our Diocese is playing in support the COP26 Summit on the Oxford Diocese website: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/>

# Christmas Collection for Community Matters

St Nicholas' Church are collecting items Christmas for our local Community Matters Food Bank:

- ✓ Tins/boxes of chocolates/biscuits
- ✓ Savoury snacks such as bags of crunchy party mix, crisps, nuts...
- ✓ Chocolate Santas, reindeer & treats



Please deliver you donations to '**Bluehills**'  
or **Ibstone Church of England Primary School**

by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** so the team can be prepared  
for Christmas distribution in our local community

**Thank you for your generosity!**

*Regular collections for Community Matters will continue  
as normal, shopping list is on the Church website*