



Pews News

Sunday 31st December
10am Parish Communion, St Peter's

Zoom
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201774610?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201774610?pwd=RmVNY2k1aVoxd1pNcVdockl1dUlqUT09)
[pwd=RmVNY2k1aVoxd1pNcVdockl1dUlqUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201774610?pwd=RmVNY2k1aVoxd1pNcVdockl1dUlqUT09)

Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers

The sick: Sandra Baxter-Brown, Dennis Evans, Christine Miles, Doreen Nunney and Jacky Williams



Our Advent sessions came to an end last Tuesday and it was a pleasure to thank our leader David Rivett for his efforts.

As ever, David was knowledgeable and informative as he led us through the season of Advent and helped us prepare for Christmas. Our final meeting came on the eve of David's birthday so what could be better than to finish the last meeting than with a celebratory birthday cake.

We'll be back in the New Year with more information about future courses and here's the birthday boy savouring his first slice of lemon drizzle cake.



Clarification note

Martin Breadmore, the archdeacon of Dorking and acting archdeacon of Surrey, visited the Winn Hall recently to update the parish on the timetable for appointing our next priest.

At the time one issue did remain unresolved. The precise nature of how many days the priest would work in relation to it being 0.5FTE plus Sunday. To be precise, did 0.5 reflect two and a half days or three days? Mathematicians among you will spot three days is actually 0.6 of a working week. The archdeacon explained that he was due to meet the Bishop of Guildford to clarify the situation.

Archdeacon Martin has now informed us: "I am pleased to be able to tell you that 0.5FTE has been agreed as 3 days plus a Sunday."



Sending you our love and best wishes for a Happy New Year...



Mark's Musing

Rutton is taking a well deserved break this week following a hectic Christmas schedule. So here goes...

Checking our bags into the Etihad desk at Male International Airport was mind blowingly frustrating. The women checking in our bags was (in our view) incompetent, slow, and useless. Customers in adjacent queues were waltzing passed. In our queue we had to wait much longer than necessary, much to everyone's annoyance. When Catherine and I finally presented our bags, the Etihad representative was frustratingly slow, useless and didn't even attempt to meet our requests. Three security checks later, and I was splitting infinitives with my annoyance. But I will return to this later.

The theme of this edition is Gratitude.

On holiday I read a novel which documents the trials and tribulations of a 40 'something' year old. The central character in the novel decides to combat the negativity and adversity in her life by using mindfulness and focusing on positivity. Her strategy is straightforward.

The secret to happiness is writing a daily gratitude list. By writing down all the things you're grateful for, you will feel more positive and stop negative thought patterns.

There is significant research that over time this technique can be transformative. So no matter what problems and headwinds you are facing into, and how impossible life has become, everyday list 5 things that you can be thankful for. Even in horrific circumstances just be grateful for a little ray of sunshine or that you are breathing.

So over dinner one evening, Catherine and I documented what we are grateful for. I won't disclose what was a private conversation, but our dog Milly did dominate our respective top spots.

As we come towards a pivotal period for our church, perhaps we should consider and reflect upon what we should be grateful for at St Mary's. Please note this isn't an exhaustive and comprehensive list:

1. For Rutton : for his support, service and commitment.
2. Our Army of volunteers : we are blessed to have fantastic volunteers who give their time, energy and passion.
3. Our wonderful 12th century church : How lucky are we to worship in such a beautiful and historic building.
4. Freedom of expression : We are blessed to live in a society where we can express a faith.
5. Catalyst for bringing people together : Give gratitude that our church is part of the community, and brings people together (the Harvest Supper and concerts etc).

We are so blessed in our beautiful village, and we must not lose sight of our mission and purpose, and we must stay mindful and grateful.

'Sometimes things might seem dead, but they always come back to life . . . When life buries us under all its heartache and disappointment, think about a seed. It needs to be buried in order for it to grow. That's how the magic happens. But you have to have faith. Remember that. Patience and faith.'

Alexandra Potter

Do you remember I described the useless woman that checked us in for our flight home. Slight confession. Although she didn't meet our request for a window seat - Unbeknown to us, we were amazed to discover that she had upgraded us the whole way home. What she did was wonderful. I have learned another valuable lesson - not to be so impatient and judgmental.

I am so grateful to that member of staff who recognised that I was tall, and helped us. I am so grateful for our comfortable flight home, and that we arrived safely.

I have added that dedicated, professional member of staff to my gratitude list.

