



ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, Woking ST HUGH OF LINCOLN CHURCH, KNAPHILL

Canon Rob Esdaile, Parish Priest

Fr Hilary Elochukwu Anaelom, Fr Linus Chukwudi Onah

Deacon Russell Young, Deacon Rob Wellbelove

Second Sunday of Christmas, Sunday 4th January



The God Who Stays

The presents have been unwrapped and champagne corks have popped. I hope the festivities have brought each of you some measure of joy. As January's routines re-assert themselves, it can feel as though our Christmas celebrations are already slipping into irrelevance. Yet the Church, in her wisdom, remains within the heart of Christmastide, as we celebrate the Second Sunday of Christmas this weekend.

Our readings appear to anticipate the post-New Year's Eve comedown we may be feeling. While we rejoice that "the Word became flesh," this Sunday we focus on the radical reality of what followed: "...and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). A more literal translation of the Greek used here is that he "tabernacled" among us. Christmas is more than a singular point in history to be marked once a year; Christ has pitched his tent amid his people and, unlike the seasonal decorations, he is here to stay.

In our first reading, Divine Wisdom is described as finding a home within the confines of the Temple's Holy of Holies (Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12). As beautiful as this passage is, we now understand it in the light of God's ultimate plan, as moving beyond a restricted Temple setting in favour of a living, breathing infant Christ.

But there is more. Lest we ever mistake God's presence among us for that of a passive bystander, St Paul tells us that God "destined us for adoption to himself" (Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18). This is the heart of our comfort. God did not simply come to live near us, he came to make us his family. Adoption means you belong. It means that on the days you feel "unfestive", tired, or worried about the year ahead, your place at his table is still secure. You do not have to "perform" to keep God's interest; he has claimed you as his own. Through the Word made flesh, we have been brought into the inner life of the Trinity.

As our parish life returns to its familiar rhythm, let us remember that Christmas is not something we leave behind but a reality we live from. Whether you are carrying hopes or uncertainties this January, you do not face them alone. Christ dwells among us, draws us to himself with all the love of an adoptive parent and he is not going anywhere. We encounter this "God who stays" in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, in the silence of our hearts as we enter into prayer, and in the steady faithfulness of our community. Perhaps deepening our commitment to one or more of these things may be a good place to begin as we formulate our New Year's resolutions. With blessings, *Teresa*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF
THE SOULS OF

**Peggy Birch RIP, Bruna Moore RIP
and Tim Wright RIP.**

Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, may they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE
SICK especially for those whose names
are on our prayer board.

Fr Rob writes:

As this is the first newsletter since December 25, it is also the first opportunity to put into print my gratitude and that of the whole community to everyone who has made our celebrations of the Christmas season so beautiful - from church cleaners and flower-arrangers to musicians, readers and ministers of communion, not forgetting our welcomers and those who helped keep things moving smoothly in the car-park at our main services. Thank you also for your generosity in the Christmas collection for the upkeep of the clergy. And, of course, thank you to Father Hilary, Deacon Russell and Deacon Rob for all their ministry during these holy days.

Our big parish news is that **Fr Linus Chukwudi Onah**, a member, like Fr Hilary, of the Nigerian missionary congregation, The Fathers of the Holy Family & Brothers of the Youth, finally joined us this last Monday, after all the frustrations of visa delays. He will live, with Fr Hilary, in Knaphill. Please make him, like Fr Hilary, welcome and encourage them in their ministry in these early days, as they get to know us and we get to know them. Pray that their presence among us may allow a real 'exchange of gifts'. We are very blessed to have them with us.

Bishop Richard's departure: As we welcome our new priests we say goodbye to our old Bishop. As you probably know by now, Bishop Richard was appointed Archbishop of Westminster a week before Christmas and will be installed there on February 14. In the meantime, he remains our 'Apostolic Administrator' ('minding the diocesan shop' in his own absence!), which is why we still mention him in the Eucharistic Prayer. After his formal departure a new administrator will be appointed while we wait for Pope Leo to appoint a new bishop. Because of the change, the inauguration of our new (deanery-wide) 'parish of Woking & Surrey Heath' cannot go ahead. Let us use this pausing of things as a time of prayer for the future mission of the diocese and also as a time to focus on building up our own community's witness to the Gospel.

On Friday, January 30 at 6.30pm Bishop Richard will be celebrating a **Farewell Mass at Arundel Cathedral**, in thanksgiving for his ten years of ministry in our diocese. There will be a small number of places for each parish – probably involving travel by coach from St Dunstan's to and from the cathedral, because of the very limited parking available there. If you would like to represent our community, please contact the parish office so we can work out the details.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the 'showing' of the new-born Christ to the nations and the journey of the magi, is on Tuesday, with masses in both churches at 10am in the morning and evening masses at 7.30 pm at St Dunstan's, and at 7 pm at St Hugh of Lincoln. The Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas season. We particularly invite all families who have celebrated the baptism of one of their members (child or adult) to come and celebrate this momentous step and the gift and calling which baptism awakens in each of us: to be disciples of Christ and witnesses to the Gospel.

SJB Admissions Consultation St John The Baptist School is undertaking a consultation regarding its admissions policy for 2027-8. See www.sjb.surrey.sch.uk/join-us/admissions. This includes the proposal (note 4) that priority in allocation of places will depend in part on applicants obtaining a Certificate of Catholic Practice, indicating that the child (and at least one parent) has 'attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter)'. This is intended to replace asking parents to get the parish priest's signature on a Supplementary Information Form. If you have views on this or any other aspects of the consultation, please respond to the consultation before January 30, 2026 via: admission@sjb.surrey.sch.uk

WEEKDAY MASS AT ST HUGH'S

Now that Fr Linus and Fr Hilary are resident at St Hugh's, it should be possible to ensure that weekday mass is available more consistently there. In particular, there will now be a **10am Saturday morning mass** at St Hugh's each week, followed by the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The first 10 am Saturday morning mass will be on January 10th.

BAPTISM

Please pray for Jaxx who will be baptised at St Hugh of Lincoln Church this weekend. Please pray too for his parents and godparents.

LECTIO DIVINA AND ROSARY AT ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

The next meeting to pray Lectio Divina and a Rosary will be on Thursday 8th January in the library from 1.15 pm. Everyone is welcome.

JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE - PART 2

A reminder that the course will re-start on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm in St Dunstan's Parish Room and will run for a further 5 weeks.

- 12/01/2026 Session 6: The True Israel
- 19/01/2026 Session 7: The Truth About Jesus
- 26/01/2026 Session 8: The Road to Glory, The Path of Suffering
- 02/02/2026 Session 9: New Passover, New Exodus
- 09/02/2026 Session 10: Resurrection and Life

UPCOMING FUNERALS

Funeral Service for Lucy Bradley RIP, Woking Crematorium, Monday January 12th, 2pm.

CRIB COLLECTION FOR THE ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON CRISIS FUND

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) helps families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Through their A&B Crisis Fund they offer immediate practical support such as providing beds for children who have been found sleeping on the floor, or cookers for families who are unable to provide their children with a warm meal. There are many more families in need of help and we will be donating our Crib Offerings to support this important work. Every penny donated will be ring fenced and used to provide immediate support for local children and families in need. You can donate at the Crib in either St Dunstan's or St Hugh's Churches or via the CCS website cathchild.org.uk/crib. Gift aid envelopes are also available.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

St Dunstan's Church: Weekday Mass with Morning Prayer at 9.45am then the Rosary

Saturday 3rd January, Feria in Christmastide

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Una Gormley</i>
6.00 pm	St Dunstan	Vigil Mass	<i>Ricardo Regueiro RIP</i>
6.00 pm	St Hugh	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
7.15 pm	St Dunstan	Mass in Portuguese	

Sunday 4th January, Second Sunday of Christmas

9.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Louis Ngo Dinh Duy, Maria Tran Thi Nhung, Maria Goretti Ngo Thu Ba RIP</i>
9.30 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>Mary Higgins RIP</i>
10.30 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Sean Kealy RIP</i>
12.00 pm	St Dunstan	Mass in Italian	
5.30 pm	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>All Parishioners</i>

Monday 5th January, Feria in Christmastide

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Sheila Willmott RIP</i>
10.30 am	St Dunstan	Rosary and Adoration until 2pm	
8.00 pm	St Dunstan	Ukrainian Liturgy	

Tuesday 6th January, The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass with St Dunstan's School Years 4-6	<i>Hannah Daly RIP</i>
10.00 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>John Docherty RIP</i>
7.00 pm	St Hugh	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
7.30 pm	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>All Parishioners</i>

Wednesday 7th January, Feria after the Epiphany

7.00 pm	St Hugh	Mass with Holy Hour from 5.45 pm	<i>Tess Friel RIP</i>
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Thursday 8th January, Feria after the Epiphany

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Guiseppina Mandeo RIP</i>
10.00 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>Corinda & Pasquale Coppola, in thanksgiving</i>

Friday 9th January, Feria after the Epiphany

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Vera Behan's Intentions</i>
10.00 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>Giovanni & Luigi Coppola RIP</i>

Saturday 10th January, Feria after the Epiphany

10.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Fr Francis Maple ofm Cap Intentions</i>
10.00 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>Carolina & Luigi Natale RIP</i>
12.30 pm	St Dunstan	Baptisms	
6.00 pm	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Ian Bowen RIP</i>
6.00 pm	St Hugh	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
7.15 pm	St Dunstan	Mass in Portuguese	

Sunday 11th January, The Baptism of the Lord

9.00 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>All Parishioners</i>
9.30 am	St Hugh	Mass	<i>Mary Higgins RIP</i>
10.30 am	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Pat Lynam RIP</i>
12.00 pm	St Dunstan	Mass in Italian	
5.30 pm	St Dunstan	Mass	<i>Tim Wright RIP</i>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Dunstan's Church – After the Saturday 10.00 am Mass or by Appointment

St Hugh of Lincoln Church – After the Saturday 10.00 am Mass or before the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.15pm to 5.45pm

FOOD BANK

There will be a food bank collection at both St Dunstan's and St Hugh's over the weekend of the 3rd/4th January. The deadline for donations at St Hugh's is after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 5th. Thank you for your ongoing support.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST DUNSTAN'S

Children's Liturgy & Toddlers Prayers will resume this Sunday January 4th.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST HUGH'S

St Hugh's Children's Liturgy will return on Sunday January 11th.

TODDLER GROUP AT ST DUNSTAN'S

Toddler Group will return on Thursday January 8th, 9-11.30 am.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - RECEPTION 2026

We remind parents and carers with children due to start school, that the closing date for Reception applications for September 2026 entry is **15th January 2026**.

You must do an online application. Parents can also call 0300 200 1004 for impartial help in completing an application. Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

If applying to Catholic Primary Schools you will also need to submit a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for your child signed by the Parish Priest. The closing date for completed SIFs is also **15th January 2026**. Ones received after this date will not be considered until after formal offers have been given in April 2026.

RNIB STAMPS

There is a box in the narthex at St Hugh's to receive new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums. Please trim carefully around them, leaving approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge. RNIB raise £20 for every kilogram of stamps they receive. Stamps are sold by weight and they will turn them into much needed funds to help people living with sight loss. We will only be collecting stamps until 11 January during the Christmas season.

MILK BOTTLE TOP COLLECTION

Clear Milk bottle tops are still being collected at St Hugh's in aid of the Air Ambulance. There is a black box in the narthex to receive the tops, but please, only clear bottle tops are needed.

LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

Services from St Dunstan's Church are streamed by ChurchServicesTV

Services from St Hugh of Lincoln are streamed on YouTube

SUNDAY READINGS

Weekday Lectionary Cycle Year 1, Sunday Lectionary Cycle Year A

Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18; John 1:1-18



OVERSEAS PROJECT JACKPOT CLUB

The result of the November draw on 20th December 2025 is -:

1st Prize – Thereza MacNamara – £25.00

2nd Prize – M. O'Riordan – £12.50

Congratulations!

With £45.50 raised for the Ikutha Project this month!

The next monthly Jackpot Draw will be on the weekend of 17/18th January 2026. If you would like to join the Jackpot Club and help Sister Munanie support the struggling community of Ikutha, Kenya, with sustainable farming methods, please collect a registration form from the Narthex or contact Sarah email: livesimply@st-dunstans.org. You can join at any time to be included in the following 12 monthly draws. To qualify for the Annual Draw, you must have been contributing for 12 months.

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT AT ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH - POSTPONED

The LiveSimply Quiz & Curry Night planned for 31 January has been postponed. Please look out for the new date!

For more tips, blogs, resources, and links to local events, visit our LiveSimply Award website livesimplywoking.org. Please feel free to make suggestions or get involved, by contacting our team through the website or at livesimply@st-dunstans.org.



Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

Saturday 24th January 2026 11-4pm St Michael's church, Worthing, BN13 3AL

Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, Liturgy and Music Adviser. On the weekend of the Sunday of the Word of God, this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. To book a place visit abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events

Mental Health Awareness training

Saturday 7th February 2026 10-3pm St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions. Thanks to the support of the trainer, we are able to highly subsidise the event. Tickets are £40 per delegate (usual price £120). To register visit abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events

To sign up to the diocesan weekly E-Bulletin visit mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist – it's a great way to stay in touch!

ADORE

Mini-retreat for spiritual renewal 24th January on Zoom

Mass; Adoration; Prophecy; Praise; Prayer; Talk by Fr Chris Thomas. Register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJAN2026. More information at www.alton.renewal.com.

RETROUVAILLE

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. Thank you for your support!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for the St Dunstan's Sunday collection on 27th/28th December of £5,088.10. Please consider setting up a monthly standing order and adding a further 25% via GiftAid at no cost to you if you are a UK taxpayer. The forms to set up GiftAid to St Dunstan's Church are available on the GiftAid table in the narthex or the parish website.

Thank you for the St Hugh's Sunday collection on 27th/28th December of £1,022.31. To set up GiftAid for St Hugh of Lincoln Church visit sthughoflincoln.com/gift-aid-giving/ for the forms and more details.

MARRIAGES

Couples wishing to get married in a Catholic Church are reminded to give a year's notice of their intention to allow adequate time to prepare for the life-changing promises that they are making and so that the parish community can support you on your journey. To enquire about being married at either St Dunstan's or St Hugh's, please use the QR code. Thank you.



BAPTISMS

Parents wishing to apply for baptism for their infant or pre-school child to take place at St Dunstan's or St Hugh's, please submit an application using the QR code. Most celebrations of Baptism take place on the second Saturday of the month at St Dunstan's and the last Sunday of the month at St Hugh's.



St Dunstan's Catholic Church,
Shaftesbury Road, Woking, GU22 7DT; 01483 760652
Parish Office: woking@abdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding: sg1.woking@abdiocese.org.uk

St Hugh of Lincoln Church, 95 Victoria Road, Knaphill,
Woking, GU21 2AA; 01483 472404
Parish Office: knaphill@abdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding: sg1.knaphill@abdiocese.org.uk
For Hall Information: Helen Naughton 01483 475922

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