

We pray for the Church and for all people on this day; that we do not neglect the true meaning of Christmas amid the sparkle of the season. We pray for all those who find Christmas a difficult time - for those who are lonely, bereaved or suffering. May they find comfort in Christ, who through his life on earth knows what it is like to feel alone and to suffer. We pray too for those who feel unwelcome in the world. As they encounter the Christmas story this year, may it speak afresh to them of Christ's love and that God truly understands.

Today, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we remember that God's only Son came to dwell on earth as a vulnerable baby who, when he became a man, would experience not only the joy of being human but all the trials and pains that we know. In our Christmas readings Isaiah's prophecy offers tidings of comfort and joy to all God's people, a foretelling of Christ's birth. God will defeat the Babylonian oppressors, restore ruined Jerusalem and bring the people back from exile. Our second reading from Hebrews explains how Christ is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's being. He was involved in creation and sustains all things. Our gospel is from John and is the prologue to his book introducing us to the idea of Jesus as the Word, an intrinsic part of all creation.

On the First Sunday of Christmas we pick up the Christmas story after the visit of the magi to the child in the manger. Joseph again has a dream that forces a decision- he is told that Jesus' life is in danger from a vengeful Herod and to flee with his young family to Egypt. A slaughter of innocent life in Bethlehem follows. In the midst of the bright lights and joy of Christmas, we have the darkness and sorrow of the story of the Holy Innocents and the account of the holy family fleeing as refugees. Both the joy of the season and sorrow attire here of the Gospel reading remind us that all lives are precious.

God with us - Have your healing hand upon those who suffer and we bring before you: Tessa, Philomena, Nicky, Nick, George, Sally, Doreen, Joy, Shirley, Chris, Margaret, Chris, Pete, Paul, Hannah and Jackie. We pray for all who have died, especially those close to us who have died this year. May they rejoice in the eternal presence of their Lord. We remember before you Jennifer Morshead who died recently praying for comfort and peace for her family and many friends. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Vicar: Rev Liz Richardson	01306 711260 Day off Friday vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
Curate: Rev Gillian Christie	01306 711917 Day off Monday curate@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
Pastoral Assistant	Sylvie Beckett 07711 849338
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Parish Safeguarding Officer	Leigh Smith 07732 825908
AND New diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns: 01483 790379 or email safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk	

Parish of Capel and Ockley

25th/28th December 2025

Christmas Day and First Sunday of Christmas



TODAY IS CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 Christmas Day Morning Worship - Ockley
10.30 Christmas Day Family Communion - Capel

Sunday 28th December - First Sunday of Christmas

9.30 Parish Morning Worship - Ockley

Sunday 4th January 2026 - The Epiphany

9.30 Matins - Ockley
10.30 Family Communion - Capel

Friday 9th January 2026 - Service of Thanksgiving

3pm Service of Thanksgiving for Jennifer Morshead - Okewood Hill

Every Wednesday 9 - 12 Pavilion Café in Ockley, Cricket Pavilion
with visit from Community Friday

**WE
WISH YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

John 1.14

In case of changes to events in these notes,
the latest information can be found on:
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/

