

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

If anyone has questions, or concerns, about any safeguarding issues, Brigid can be contacted at

harpdensg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk, mobile phone number is 07915 499 120

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET

This weekend the details of everything that is taking place in Church leading up to, and over Christmas, are available on the Christmas leaflet. So, do please collect a copy for yourself/family.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Celebrating Reconciliation, going to Confession, is an indispensable part of our life of faith. As Christmas approaches life can be very busy, but it is still important that we include Reconciliation in the list of what we need to do. Next Wednesday evening, at 7.30pm, we have our Parish Reconciliation Service, which gives us the opportunity, together, to seek God's forgiveness, and to celebrate his mercy. Please do think about coming along to celebrate this important sacrament.



ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers will be needed for the various celebrations over Christmas. Those who are available to serve should indicate their availability on the lists in the sacristy.



ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS

26th December is the feast of St Stephen and Mass will be celebrated at 10am. St Stephen, was the first Martyr and is the Patron Saint of Altar Servers. During this

Mass some of our more recent servers will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen and more longer serving servers will receive their medals. We hope that many of our servers will be present to celebrate their patron.



PRAYER REQUESTS

We are always happy to pray for the sick and the faithful departed in the Prayers of the Faithful. If you would like someone to be included please send their name into the parish office. If it is too late to do this then please have a word with the celebrant first, do not just add names in without referring to anyone.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2019

The Westminster Year book is now on sale in the porch. A very useful directory priced at £4.50.

PLANNED GIVING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES RENEWAL

Please pop in to the Parish Office if you still need to collect your envelopes.



SVP CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

This year's charities are St Albans and Hertsmere Womens' Refuge and Open Door, St Albans. A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported us you were all very generous as always.



PARISH CHILDREN'S CAROL NATIVITY SERVICE

The service this year, called "The Night the Stars danced for Joy". We need a few actors (i.e. Stars, Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds and the Kings).

There are no speaking parts, the story is read and the children mime their parts. If you would like to take part, you need to attend the one rehearsal on **Saturday 22nd December from 11.00am to 1.00pm**. Any child of school age is very welcome to join us. Please let Ginny (620322) know as soon as possible if your children will be taking part. We do hope lots of you will be able to come to our **Service on Christmas Eve at 5pm**, as it is always such a lovely occasion at a very busy time.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN OUR PARISH

NEXT SUNDAY, 23RD DECEMBER 6.00PM PARISH CAROL SERVICE

Our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight is a wonderful way to start Christmas. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the undercroft. Come and join us for this popular service.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas concert on 6th December featuring the St Dominic School choir, The Bella Mamas, and our Church choir. The evening raised £787.70 which will go towards funds that are being raised via the Developing World Group to provide musical instruments for children in a youth string orchestra in the Brazilian favelas.



ST DOMINIC SCHOOL

The closing date for applications for places in the Reception Class 2019-20 is 15th January 2019. We are aware that some parents may not have had the opportunity to see the school as

yet and therefore a further visit date has been arranged for the **9 January 2019 at 9.15am**. If you would like to make an appointment for this visit, please telephone the school office on 01582 760047 to make a booking. Due to the nature of the visit, we kindly request that you do not bring children with you on this occasion.

TASTE OF BRAZIL ON 10th FEBRUARY:

On February 10th there will be Taste of Brazil afternoon led by Katie Metcalfe and friends at St Dominic School. The afternoon will comprise of two workshops, one to learn renowned South American songs and the second one to practice Brazilian drumming along with a quiz and light Brazilian snacks with a finale concert. Cost of the event will be £5 a child or adult or £10 a family with all proceeds going towards the same musical fundraising project in Brazil. Book your tickets by emailing Julia at juliaandnige1057@gmail.com

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Parishioners have already funded three projects this year - a major water project in Uganda (the 100,00 litre rainwater tank has now been completed), a drowning prevention/water safety programme in Thailand, and business training plus micro-finance in Kenya. Please see the December Update in the Parish Newsletters section of the church website for details of them and the projects we are now working on in Peru (health focused) and Nepal (education). The DWG recently received a Gift Aid rebate for 2017/8 from HMRC of £1835, double the amount received only two years ago. The Finance part of DWG entry on the website explains how to make a Gift Aid declaration if you would like to. Thank you for your generosity.

