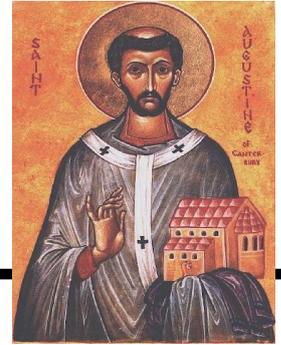




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine  
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU



# PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11 am Sung Mass + Week Days + Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm  
WELCOME  
This Sunday is  
St Stephen's Day**  
Comm: Octave &  
1st Sunday After Christmas  
**26th Dec 2021**

The Propers of the Mass today are to be found on page 346 of the Book of Common Prayer

## HYMNS

24

34

40

## Sheet

At the end of Mass we pray together  
**The Angelus**, facing the Lady Chapel.



Please  
**Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones**

Our Organ doesn't like them

*Thank you*

*Dear Friends*

At the end of Mass today we are to sing a well-known Christmas carol about a good king called Wenceslas walking barefoot through the snow to give alms to a poor peasant. The Hymn is printed over the page and not in our hymn books. The lyrics were written in 1853 by Blessed John Mason Neale for a 13th-century melody of "Tempus adest floridum" for Saint Stephen's Day. I confess it is mainly for this reason I have chosen it for today.

Who was "Good King Wenceslas"? Was there a real king Wenceslas? And if so, was his pious and selfless portrayal in the carol accurate? Wenceslas was indeed real but was not, during his lifetime, a king. He was a duke of Bohemia, a duchy in the modern-day Czech Republic. He was born between the years 907 and 911 and was a son of Vratislaus of the Přemyslid dynasty and his wife Drahomíra, a daughter of a pagan tribal chief. Although raised as a pagan, Drahomíra was baptised at the time of her wedding to Vratislav.

Wenceslas's paternal grandparents Bořivoj and Ludmila were converted to Christianity and baptised by St. Methodius in 874. Ludmila, who wanted Wenceslas to be a Christian, took her grandson's upbringing and education upon herself, as she did not believe her daughter-in-law to be a sincere Christian. Wenceslas was educated in Budeč near Prague, where he learned to read, write, and converse in Latin and Greek.

When Vratislaus died in 921, Drahomíra became Wenceslas's regent. Ludmila's concerns turned out to be correct as Drahomíra repressed Christian noblemen and persecuted priests. Ludmila fled to her castle Tetín, where she was assassinated by Drahomíra's companions on the 15th of September 921. It is believed she was strangled by her veil. Drahomíra was sent into exile by Wenceslas when he turned eighteen and became the Duke of Bohemia. He pardoned his mother shortly after, ended the persecutions, and had his grandmother Ludmila's remains taken to Prague.



"Good Duke" Wenceslas was loyal to his Christian faith. According to the legends, he spent long hours in prayer, vowed himself to virginity, and provided for the poor. Many of these claims come from tales that started circulating after his passing and might therefore need to be seen through the eyes of faith. What is true is that although beloved by the ordinary people, many nobles were not pleased by his religious endeavours and a monk-like style of reign. There were various plots made against him and when, on the 27th September 935, Wenceslas arrived in Stará Boleslav to celebrate the birth of his brother's son, the duke was attacked by his brother Boleslaus while on his way to attend Mass.

Unarmed, Wenceslas attempted to open the church door, only to realise it had been locked. Three of Boleslaus' accomplices came to help in the assassination. The final blow was struck by Boleslaus himself, who stabbed his brother with a lance. Wenceslas died on the church steps, holding the door knocker. Wenceslas was declared a saint and martyr soon after his death. He was also posthumously declared a king by Otto I, the son of Henry I.

**Good King  
Wenceslas, pray  
for us, on this  
feast of Stephen.**

*+ Damien*

## December

✕

Sunday 26th

*St Stephen's (Boxing) Day*

11am Sung Mass

✕

## January

✕

Sunday 2nd

*Christmas II (Comm Octave)*

11am Sung Mass

*Followed by our monthly  
Healing Service*

✕

Sunday 9th

*First Sunday After Epiphany*

*Comm: The Octave*

11am Sung Mass

*With blessing of Epiphany  
Chalk and inscribing the Magi  
blessing over the church door.*

✕

Sunday 16th

*Epiphany II*

*(Comm Bl. William Laud)*

11am Sung Mass

✕

Sunday 23rd

*Epiphany III*

11am Sung Mass

✕

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gathering winter fuel

Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou knowst it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?  
Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I shall see him dine  
When we bear them thither.  
Page and monarch, forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude winds wild lament  
And the bitter weather

Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how  
I can go no longer.  
Mark my footsteps, good my page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shall find the winters rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his masters step he trod  
Where the snow lay dented  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye, who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.

### Saying Goodbye ...

After 5 years we are saying goodbye to Andy, Sam, Jodie, Joshua and Neevee Hall as they move on to pastures new. We owe them a great deal, not least for all the work done to renovate th Church. God bless you all and may your future be filled with happiness.

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Fr Don and Di Walker, Chris Bosworth, Margaret and Laurence Mead, Paul and Sue Fletcher, Barbara Henderson, Todd, David and Sheila, Colin Rumens, Frederick Chadwick, Ann Chapman, Diane Young, Mike Smith, Megan Young, Pauline Allison, Harrison and Edward Eckert, Margaret and Peter Martin, Margaret Bendelow, Dorothy Hipkiss, Fr Miles Maylor, Elizabeth Bell, Vickie Wall, Pat Johnson, Fr Ed & Liz Bakker, Deb Stuck, Angela, Hazel, Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn, Robert and Kathleen Dunford, Br Botolph OSB, Deacon Jong, Bishop David Haines, Malcolm Munn, Barbara Bowers, Isabella Ighodaro, Jack Gibson, Dot Johnson, All those effected by the Coronavirus.

*For those who read these Parish Notes on the Notice Board outside and all who receive email or paper copies.*

- For our neighbours and the people of **Painters Forstal** and the surrounding countryside and villages, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Middle East and China.

*For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*

- Diocese of Christ the Redeemer, Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Solomzi Mentjies;
- St Cuthbert's House Group, Durham, Dr Peter Hurst, Convenor.
- The poor, homeless and destitute and those who seek to help them.

*And we remember the recently departed: specially, and those whose anniversaries falls at this time:*

**P:** ✕ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord **R:** And let light perpetual shine upon them



### CHURCH FLOWERS

*To make a  
donation for  
Flowers in  
Church—Please*

*see Mrs Margaret Mead*

#### Rector

Bishop Damien Mead

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Father Raymond Thompson

Tel: 07443 438465

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Parish Secretary: Mr Roy Hipkiss

Parish Treasurer: Mrs Kerry Scott

Organist: Mr Louis Collins

Cantor: Mr Barnabas Sharp

(Parish) [www.staugustineacc.uk](http://www.staugustineacc.uk)

(Diocese) [www.anglican catholic.org.uk](http://www.anglican catholic.org.uk)