Advent is a journey towards littleness. I’m sure you know Raymond Briggs story ‘The Snowman’ where the young boy built his snowman after a big snowfall and the next day it turned into a living snowman! The friendship of the boy and snowman reminds us of the littleness of God’s creation and a child; both we can take for granted, and yet, both lead us into a spiritual understanding of having nothing but God, seen in snow as he made it and in little children. Both have no worldly power, apart from disruptive snow and the art children have of bringing us into their current moment. The snowman by his mission to take the boy James to see Father Christmas melts on Christmas Day.

The snowman shows him the awe and wonder which is needed to understand the mighty works of the Lord, including death. Advent helps us to understand littleness. It is spoken of in Micah 5:1-4 “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little…”. In other words: you are so little, but you will be great, because your ruler will be born from you and he will be peace. He himself will be peace, because from that littleness comes peace. This is the meaning of Advent, the smallest compared to the other seasons. God, who chooses little things, the humble, to do His will. Advent strips us of our ego as the Lord is revealed to be the Great and we are the little ones, that’s why He tells us to be like little children to be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, whereas the great ones, the powerful, the arrogant, the proud, cannot enter. God, however, reconciles and makes peace in littleness. Littleness is the secret to confession and confession is the secret to a peaceful life as we accept the salvation brought to us by the Incarnation. Look at the Saints, Our Lady, St John the Baptist, the Little Flower, St Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed Carlo Acutis. They can help us on the path of nothingness as He is everything. Try and go to confession this Advent. There are two slots: Saturday 19th December 3.00pm - 5.00pm and Tuesday 22nd December 6.00pm - 8.00pm and after Masses. Also, as we can't have a reconciliation service with Priests, do look at St Dunstan's or Our Lady Help of Christians for their times; it is very understandable that a different Priest is needed. When preparing for confession set some time before it and examine your conscience. Don't hide any, there is no point and be thankful for His Gift of Mercy. The words of St Thérèse of the Child “Holiness consists simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be.” All we can do is offer him our hearts this Advent, that is the offering of littleness. On a different note, the reason why we have real flowers in Church is that as a created thing they sacrifice themselves after being picked, giving their beautiful bloom for the Glory of God and wither away just like the snow in honour of the Lord's saving passion. With thoughts to Christmas, may I ask if you could be generous with donations for flowers to decorate the Church for His Nativity. It has been my joy to contribute, along with other parishioners, flowers and greenery for Sundays since Easter. Why not donate a spiritual Carnation or Lily as a gift to someone living or dead and we will pray for them during the Christmas Season. Please send your contributions to the Parish Office with names and donations. Thank you in advance.

In Jesus and Mary........................................Fr Gerard
CHURCH OPENING: In line with the guidance, face coverings should be worn in Church covering both the nose and mouth.

The Church will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass and will close after Mass for cleaning ready for the next Mass. The following are open to the Public:

**Rorate Mass: Tuesdays 7.00am - No booking required**

Please note, as part of ‘Track and Trace’ you will be asked to provide your contact details.

**Masses on Fridays at 6.00pm and Sundays at 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm - Booking required**

To book your place, please email knaphill@abdiocese.org.uk or telephone the Parish Office on 01483 472404, stating your preferred time of Mass; you will receive an email confirming your place in due course. **Deadline for booking is 3.00pm on the Friday afternoon.** It is important to book as we do not want to turn anyone away if capacity is reached. We are unable to allow people to stand in the aisles, at the back or in the Narthex. Please note that the ‘Rule of Six’ will apply to one slot for booking a place at Mass, unless a single household contains more than six people.

Whilst full guidelines are on display in the Narthex, please remember:

- Use the sanitiser provided as you enter and leave the Church and remember social distancing
- You will be guided to your place by the Steward and they will also instruct you when to move forward for Holy Communion
- Access to the Sacristy and Narthex will not be allowed and toilets will not be available
- Straight after receiving the Sacred Host, please depart via the side door
- Please remember to wear an extra layer of clothing as windows in the Church will be open to aid ventilation

**Help Wanted:** In order for the Church to open to the public, we are obliged to clean the Church after every service and to record names and contact details of those attending. To enable us to do this we need Stewards and Cleaners, particularly as extra Masses have been scheduled over Christmas. Also needed are Ministers of the Word.

In line with the guidance, volunteers should NOT participate in the following circumstances:

- If they, or a member of their household is currently unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus, vulnerable due to age or underlying health issues or if they live with someone who is extremely vulnerable
- **People over 60 years with our without underlying health conditions**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME)**
- **People over 70 years with or without underlying health conditions (clinically vulnerable).**
- **People with specific health conditions (clinically extremely vulnerable)**

If you are happy to help on a rota basis, please contact the Parish Office or Anne: am.rushton@btopenworld.com asap.

**Christmas Shopping** - Have you started your online shopping yet? The Parish has just registered with [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Search St Hugh’s Church, Knaphill to create your FREE account. Your daily online shopping turns into free donations for our Parish. Just start your online shopping first at 'easyfundraising', then shop as normal; retailers will then make a small donation to say “thank you”.

**Christmas Mass Bookings** - From Tuesday 8th December, the Parish Office will be able to receive Christmas Mass Bookings via the following link Christmas_Masses. Please refer to the Advent Calendar for Mass times. We will acknowledge your request, but please bear with us while we look to accommodate as many requests as we can, whilst adhering to social distance guidelines. We will then email you to confirm your booking or, if oversubscribed, to offer an alternative time.
Giving Tree 2020
This year our Giving Tree is being done differently due to the Covid restrictions. However, we are still able to support those in need during these challenging times at this special time of year with gifts of money or (supermarket) gift cards/vouchers. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Donations can be made as follows:
- Cash/cheque/supermarket gift cards through the Presbytery door
- JustGiving page on the Parish website https://stughoflincoln.com
- Directly into the Parish bank account: HSBC / 40 05 20 / 01247611 / RCD Arundel & Brighton St Hugh of Lincoln Knaphill
  
  Remember to state which cause you would like your donation to go to or state ‘General’ if you have no preference

The recipients will be:
- Abraham Cowley Unit at St Peter’s - Elderly, mental health patients
- Woking Mind - Supporting those struggling to cope with mental health issues
- Ahotokurom, Ghana - Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre - Providing care and support for people who have leprosy and disability
- Families known to us
- Coldingley Prison - To enable the Prison to provide gifts of chocolate for the prisoners

Your donations will be distributed accordingly and each will buy according to their needs.

Closing date Friday 11th December.

CONFIRMATION 2021: Bishop Richard will officiate, as normal, at the Confirmation Mass next year. He has decided that with all the challenges of Covid he will wait until the Autumn. If you or a young person you know would like to start the preparation to pray and think about being Confirmed next year we will set the process in February and the forms will go out in January, so please watch this space.

Candidates for Confirmation should already be in Year 10 or above.

Financial Giving to the Parish
Please consider how you can support your Parish at this difficult time for all.

Here are some options for Giving:
- Via the Offertory basket after Mass for cash and your weekly envelopes
- Via our NEW contactless device after Mass - you just swipe your debit or credit card
- Via our JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/catholicparishknaphill
- Via standing order (non tax payer) as a regular payment or for a one off payment - details: HSBC / 40 05 20 / 01247611 / Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton St Hugh of Lincoln Knaphill General Account
- Via Gift Aid (tax payer) see parish website for full details contact Ian Dallas on 07966 183107 or iandallas47@gmail.com
- Via cash / cheque payable as above through the Presbytery door or post to the Parish Office at 95 Victoria Road, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2AA

Any donation that you make will be very gratefully received.

Woking Foodbank Warehouse has moved - They are now located at Unit 4C & 4F, Lansbury Estate, 102 Lower Guildford Road, Knaphill. Donations of foods can be made direct to them on Monday and Thursday mornings, 10.00am-12.00 noon and on Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm-8.30pm. Items can be put into a crate outside the warehouse or at the foyer. However, only items left during the opening hours can be accepted and anything left at any other times will have to be thrown away! See their website for details of foods currently needed and for further details: www.woking.foodbank.org.uk.
The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Hail Mary........

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to Thy Word.  
Hail Mary........

V. And the Word was made Flesh,  
R. And dwelt among us.  
Hail Mary........

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy Grace into our hearts; that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.