



NEWS & RESOURCES

Sunday 10th December – Second Sunday of Advent

Today's Hymns

36 Hark! The Glad Sound the Saviour Comes
51 The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow
38 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding
75 Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Collects

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

or
Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Today's Readings

2 Peter 3.8 - 15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also, our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him

Mark 1.1 - 8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild

honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Invitation to Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Introduction to the Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Extended Preface

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so, we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing . . .

Post communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and
purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Diocesan calendar of prayer

Monday – Parish of Rowledge & Diocese of Bathurst (Australia)

Tuesday – Parish of All Saints, Tilford & Diocese of Bauchi
(Nigeria)

Wednesday – Parish of St Peter's, Wrecclesha & Diocese of Belize
(Central America)

Thursday – The Anglican Church of Australia & Diocese of Bendigo
(Australia)

Sick or in need

Jenny Shales, Audrey Purser, Dick Pyper, Toni Gardner

The Departed

Diana Butcher

This week

TODAY	8am Holy Communion BCP - Church 10am Holy Communion CW - Church
Monday 11 th December	9.30am St John's Baby & Toddler Group – Centre
Wednesday 13 th December	10.15am Coffee Club – Centre 10.30am Holy Communion CW – Centre 5pm Youth Café – Centre
Friday 15 th December	6pm St John's Choir Practice – Centre

Morning & Evening Prayer

Morning prayer is at 9am in Church Monday – Thursday.

Evening prayer is at 5pm on Fridays. All are welcome.

Church open daily 9.30am – 4pm.

The Centre foyer is open 9.30 – 4pm Monday – Thursday as a warm space during these winter months.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Funeral of Diana Butcher RIP

Thank you very much for keeping Mark Butcher and Ross in your thoughts and prayers over the last few days. Diana's funeral will be held on 11th December 2023 at 11am in the Church, followed by a reception in the Centre.

Please continue to hold Mark and Ross in your prayers as they navigate through the coming days and as the funeral date approaches.

St John's Christmas cards

We have two beautiful designs for our Christmas cards this year for you to send to family and friends; one of the east window showing the Christmas scene and one of the church in snow, These are on sale in the office, on Sundays and at church events, priced at £5.00 for a pack of ten.

Servers

Would you like to join our serving team for the 10am communion? Full training given. From age 8 upwards. Wearing of robes is optional.

Christmas Choir

If you would like to sing in the choir for our Carol Service on 17th December please speak to Micky Clare.

Rehearsals will be in the church centre on:

8th December 6pm

15th December 6pm

17th December – a rehearsal in church before the Carol Service.

Christmas Gifts

THANK YOU to everyone who provided donations for the Christmas gifts scheme. As usual you have been so generous and you will definitely have helped to ease Christmas for many people. Most of the donations and cards will have been distributed by today (Sunday) but your offer of help after the service to deliver the remainder would be very welcome. A total of 62 families/individuals/local schools etc will have been remembered by St John's.

Online Shopping

We would be grateful for your help in raising money for St. John's when you shop online. Follow this link to sign up and join many others at St. John's who already kindly contribute.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

Men's Fellowship - Christmas Lunch on Saturday 16th December

St. John's Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship are having a pre-Christmas lunch at St. John's Centre on Saturday 16th December, from 12.30. Your partner/friend are invited. For everyone's entertainment, we may well offer a few sedentary activities and games after lunch.

In addition, there is an optional guided walk starting at 10.30am as we make our way over Merrow Downs and circle back via a scenic route, returning to the Centre in time for lunch.

To reserve your place (plus a partner/friend) please sign up via the Church website <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/u7COKIwgdG>

Merrow Pages

When the December copy of Merrow Pages drops through your letterbox do take a look at the front cover and you will be greeted by a rather beautiful and familiar site...St John's!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Baby Basics

Baby basics is now open again for donations by appointment only. Please contact Lisa at babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk or leave a message on 01483 458128.

We are always in need of any financial donations to keep this vital charity running. If you are able to consider donating to this work please visit www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics

Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of pasta, honey, laundry detergent, tinned veg, treats/biscuits, toilet rolls, sugar, packet noodles, vegetable oil, flour (plain/self-raising) All donations gratefully received in the boxes in the Church porch.

Newsletter Content

If you have anything to advertise or news from the Church family or community that you would like to add to this newsletter please email office@saintjohns.org.uk by Wednesday 13th December.

The Friends of St John the Evangelist (FOSTJ)



The Registered Charity 'Friends of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Merrow' (known as Friends of St. John's (FoStJ)) was formed by members of the community to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church, for the benefit of the local Community as a whole.

If you would like to help our endeavours in any way and keep up with our news, please visit www.fostj.org. We would love you to become a member.

SERVICES COMING UP

17th December

6pm Carol Service.

21st December

7pm Longest Night Service.

24th December Christmas Eve

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Holy Communion CW

4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass.

25th December Christmas Day

8am BCP Communion

10am All Age Communion.

31st December - Please note no 8am service on this day.

10am Holy Communion CW

7th January 2024 Epiphany

10am All Age Worship with Blessing of Chalk.

28th January 2024 Candlemas

10am All Age Communion. Bring a candle to be blessed

4pm Christingle Service

10th March Mothering Sunday

10am All Age Communion

6pm - Choral Evensong Guildford Cathedral choir at St John's

CONTACTS

Rev. Tim Clifford Hill <i>Rector</i> Day off: Friday	rector@saintjohns.org.uk	01483 951649
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