



# NEWSLETTER

## Christmas 1

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

NO 8am Holy Communion - Church  
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)

## Epiphany

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

8am Holy Communion - Church  
10am All Age Communion - Church (Livestreamed)  
4pm Christingle Service - Church

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

9.15am Glow Toddlers

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre  
10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre  
5pm Youth Café - Centre

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

8.30am Women in Fellowship Breakfast - Centre

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

8am Holy Communion - Church  
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)  
Sparks 5-11s Group

*(Please take this news sheet home with you)*

### **Regular Calendar Events**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

Sundays	8am Holy Communion - Church 10am Parish Communion - Church
Mondays	9.15am Glow Toddlers (returns on the 5 <sup>th</sup> January)
Tuesdays	7.30-9pm Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesdays	10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club (returns on the 7 <sup>th</sup> January) 10.30am Holy Communion Service 5pm Youth Café (term time only-returns on the 7 <sup>th</sup> January)
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice

### **Other Calendar Events**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

#### **January**

Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christingle Service 4pm - Church
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Women in Fellowship Breakfast 8.30am – Guest - Georgie Gregson telling us all about Wintershall
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Green Team 4pm
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inter Church 4pm - Church
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Men in Fellowship Breakfast 8.30am Guest - Venerable Stuart Beake
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Green Team 4pm

#### **February**

Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Barn Dance 7pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Green Team 4pm
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inter Church 4pm - Church
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friends of St. Johns Quiz 7pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Green Team 4pm
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Melissa James Concert

## 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas

### Hymns

79 O little town of Bethlehem  
68 In the bleak midwinter  
70 It came upon the midnight clear  
66 Hark! The herald angels sing

### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Reading

### Hebrews 2.10-end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 2.13-end**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

## **Readings next week:**

**Isaiah 60.1–6**

**Matthew 2.1–12**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need** - Ben, Michael Stoughton, Amelia Butler

**Departed** - All whom we have known and loved but see no longer.

## 4<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany

### Hymns

- 94 As with gladness men of old  
98 From the eastern mountains (omit \*) (tune 1 of Hymn 593)  
103 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
105 We Three Kings of orient are

### Collect

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
or  
Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Reading

#### Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 2.1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Readings next week:**

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 3.13-end

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God,

the bright splendour whom the nations seek:

may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light

discern the glory of your presence in your Son,

the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need** - Ben, Michael Stoughton, Amelia Butler

**Departed** - All whom we have known and loved but see no longer.

# NEWS

## **Parish Office opening hours**

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

The Parish Office will only be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-1pm.

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - normal hours resume**

Barry: Tues, Thur, Fri (9am to 1pm) Wed (9am to 12noon)

Sandra: Mon, Wed, Fri (9am to 1pm)

## **Wednesday Morning Coffee Club**

Thank you everyone for helping at the Christmas party on Wednesday it was full of good cheer and to me the highlight was the office choir singing descant to the carols at the end of the party.

We return after the Christmas Break on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January and hope to see you there. Wishing you **all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.** Gerald Hunt.

Should you have any queries, please contact me by e-mail  
[merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com) or call on 07545256114

## **Children's Society House Boxes**

Could those of you that have Children's Society house boxes please bring them to the office where I can collect them or contact me on 01483 571847 to arrange for collection from your home. Please do not leave the boxes in church or in the centre foyer. Many thanks, Judith

## **Home Visiting Team**

In January 2026 we hope to start a 'home visiting team' - a team of people trained by Tim to occasionally visit members of our congregation who can't get to church. If you would like to know more about this, please ask Tim.

### **Christingle at 4pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

Before everyone heads back to school and work after the Christmas break join us for our Christingle service- if you have never been before, this one is a must! This fun service raises money for the good work of the Children's Society and if you have a Candle Collection Box you can bring it along to the service. We hope to see you there and if you might be free to help during the service please get in touch with Georgie 07974 494504



### **Sewing Group - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am**

Thank you so much to everyone who came to help with making our herd of camels last week! We are well on our way to telling the story of Abraham in the local primary schools. Our next session will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January .... where we will be continuing the "herd" theme with cows!



The dates are:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### **Choir during Communion - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 10am**

On one Sunday in each month, we ask members of our congregation to gather in a choir of singers, to sing a hymn during communion. This choir consists of members of our church choir and anyone else who wishes to join in! If you wish to sing, please arrive at church at 9.30am on Sunday for a run-through before the 10am service if you can. Contact Micky or Tim for more information. 18<sup>th</sup> January: 448 I come with joy a child of God (tune 1)



## Barn Dance – Saturday 7th February at 7pm

Due to the success of last year's Barn Dance, we have organised another one for Saturday February 7th at 7pm. Tickets are now available! Please buy as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!



- 7pm Arrive
- 8pm Ploughman's Supper
- Bring your own drinks (no bar)
- Tickets are £20 (children 12 and under £8) and can be bought from our website or in the church office

## IT Team

We have recently formed a new IT Team and are looking for people with an IT/ Software /Hardware background who might be interested in joining and supporting this work in our Church. Please speak to Martin Thompson or email him at [martin.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:martin.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk), many thanks.



## Christmas Giving QR Code

If you would like to make a donation via your phone to St John's church this Christmas, please scan the QR code. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



## Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care in a church should be something we all share, even if some people take a lead on it through training and their personal gifts. We have a vision of Christ-centred pastoral care as a major element of the life of any church, along with worship and teaching. At St. John's, the whole church family aims to care for each other. If you know anyone who would like to be visited (at home or in hospital) or receive communion at home, please let Tim know.

## **Food Bank**

The food bank will take a short break over Christmas. They re-open on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. During that time you can still leave donations in the centre but they won't be taken to the food bank until 5<sup>th</sup> January.



You can make monetary donations via this QR code.

## **Baby Basics**

**The donation point is closed until further notice.**

## **This Newsletter - content**

If you have anything to advertise, or news from the Church family or community for this newsletter, please email [office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk) by Tuesday each week. Please be aware that anything you ask to be advertised in the newsletter may also appear on Facebook and our website. If you do not wish to have personal details advertised, then please make it clear when asking to have items advertised in the newsletter. Many Thanks, Sandra.

# CONTACTS

## Parish Office

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January

The Parish Office will only be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-1pm.

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - normal hours resume

Please note the following Parish Office opening times:

Barry: Tues, Thur, Fri (9am to 1pm) Wed (9am to 12noon)

Sandra: Mon, Wed, Fri (9am to 1pm)

**Rector:** Rev. Tim Clifford Hill  
(days off: whole Fri, & Sat am)

[rector@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 951649

**Youth & Families Minister:**  
Georgie Gregson (days off: Fri & Sat)

[youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07974 494504

**Parish Administrator:**  
Sandra Rayner

[office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Centre Manager:**  
Barry Dickinson

[centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Churchwarden:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07765 620017

**Churchwarden:**  
Cathy Thompson

[cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07518 202920

**Deputy Churchwarden:**  
Michael Eagle

[michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07850 000224

**Treasurer:**  
Lindsay Dobson

[treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07809 836896

**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Rosanne Bond

[safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 579462

**Organist & Choir Director:**  
Micky Clare

[mickyclare2@icloud.com](mailto:mickyclare2@icloud.com)  
01483 538306

**Coffee Club:**  
Gerald Hunt

[merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com)  
07545 256114

**Bell Ringing:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07765 620017