



## NEWS & RESOURCES

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – First Sunday of Advent**

#### **Today's Hymns**

30 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

39 Hills Of The North Rejoice

45 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

41 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

#### **Collects**

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

or

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns,

turn us from the darkness of sin

to the light of holiness,

that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **Today's Readings**

*1 Corinthians 1.3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Mark 13.24 – end*

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

### *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*

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need**

Jenny Shales, Audrey Purser

**The Departed**

Diana Butcher

## **This week**

TODAY	8am Holy Communion BCP - Church 10am All Age Service – Church 6pm Sing a New Song - Church
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am St John's Baby & Toddler Group – Centre
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.15am Coffee Club – Centre 10.30am Holy Communion CW – Centre 5pm Youth Café – Centre
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> 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. We are now able to tell you that Diana Butcher's funeral will be 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 next couple of weeks and as the funeral date approaches.

## **New Youth Worker**

The Rector and Churchwardens have invited Georgie Gregson to become our next full time Youth Worker.

Georgie is an experienced youth worker with great energy and enthusiasm. She has proven skills in helping young people thrive and grow in their relationship with Christ.

Georgie will start in January 2024 and she will also come to church this Sunday, for the 10am Advent All Age Worship. If you are able to join us on Sunday please do say hello to Georgie during coffee after the service.

Originally from Cranleigh, Georgie is married to Chris and they live in Artington.

Please hold Georgie in your prayers as she prepares for this new chapter in her life with Christ.

## **Open the Book**

The Open the Book Team are enacting another Bible story to the children at Merrow CoE School on Wednesday and would welcome your spiritual support.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> December please speak to Micky Clare.

Rehearsals will be in the church centre on:

8<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

15<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

17<sup>th</sup> December – a rehearsal in church before the Carol Service.

**LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS** from St John's: small luxury items are needed to enable us to give Christmas presents to various parishioners each of whom has a particular need and to local schools. A box will be placed in the back of church today for donations of luxury biscuits, preserves, chutneys and other small sweet/savoury seasonal items. **Donations needed by noon this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** but I can collect items from you. Thank you. Rosanne 579462

## **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/u7COKlwgdG>

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Baby Basics**

Baby basics is now open again for donations by appointment only. Please contact Lisa at [babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics)

### **Thank you from Compassion UK**

Dear St Johns, Merrow

Thank you to you and your church family on behalf of the children you are supporting, from their families, and from their local churches and communities.

We acknowledge safe receipt of the latest donation, of £2000, Child Survival HA0806, received on 23rd November 2023. We are so grateful for you all, as you continue making Christ known to those in extreme poverty. Praying success for all the work you and your church family continue to do for our Lord and His Kingdom.

I will be in touch in early 2024 and in the meantime, every blessing for this coming season. May His Love, Joy and Peace be yours.

With warm regards and in Christ,

Ian

Compassion UK.

### **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](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk) by Wednesday 6th 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](http://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**  
4pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

**25th December Christmas Day**  
8am BCP Communion  
10am All Age Communion.

**31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **4th February 2024 Candlemas**

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

Christingle Service (time TBA )

## **17<sup>th</sup> March 6pm - Choral Evensong**

6pm with Guildford Cathedral choir at St John's

## **CONTACTS**

Rev. Tim Clifford Hill <i>Rector</i> Day off: Friday	<a href="mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk">rector@saintjohns.org.uk</a>	01483 951649
Harry Talboys <i>Parish Administrator</i> (Mon 10am – 4.30pm Tues– Thurs 9.30 - 4pm)	<a href="mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk">office@saintjohns.org.uk</a>	01483 454621
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