

St John's Harpenden



Parish Eucharist with Confirmation

9.30am Sunday 19th June 2022

Bishop Stephen Venner

Welcome to St John's Church

St John's is the Church of England parish church that serves the people of Southdown, but people worship here from near and far. St John's is aiming to be an Inclusive Church, and welcomes God's people in all their diversity

Our style of worship reflects a commitment to worshipping God with joyful dignity using the richness of the Christian tradition. At the centre of our life together is the Eucharist, in which Christ speaks to us through the Scriptures and becomes present among us in bread and wine.

St John's is a child-friendly church. Feel free to walk around, nurse your child and come and go as is most helpful to you. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities in at the back of church.

There is a loop system in operation for those who need it.

A prayer to say before the service:

*Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your Holy Name,
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

Confirmation

Today is a special service within the life of the whole Church and for St John's as we rejoice with Gemma, Paul and Anna as they confirm the promises that were made when they were baptised, and commit their lives to following Jesus Christ.

Their baptism, and ours too, marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. Confirmation is an important step on that journey, where the bishop's hand is laid on the heads of those to be confirmed and ask God's Holy Spirit to give them strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of their lives.

Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity for all of us to remember and reflect on the progress made on that journey with God, and where God is calling us to go next.

As you pray for Gemma, Paul and Anna, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'
John 10.10

Those being confirmed this morning

Gemma Smith
Paul Ellison
Anna Chambers

WELCOME & NOTICES

Please stand when the procession enters

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

AM 362

1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
but all their joys are one.

2 'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'to be exalted thus';
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

3 Jesus is worthy to receive
honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, for ever thine.

4 Let all that dwell above the sky,
and air, and earth, and seas,
conspire to lift thy glories high,
and speak thine endless praise.

5 The whole creation joins in one
to bless the sacred name
of him that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.

GREETING

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one body and one Spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you
And also with you

The Bishop introduces the service

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Galatians 3.23 - end

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN *please stand*

AM 591

1 As pants the hart for cooling streams
when heated in the chase,
so longs my soul, O God, for thee,
and thy refreshing grace.

2 For thee, my God, the living God,
my thirsty soul doth pine:
O when shall I behold thy face,
thou majesty divine?

3 Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
the praise of him who is thy God,
thy health's eternal spring.

4 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Please remain standing for the Gospel **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me” — ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down

the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the SERMON

A short silence follows the Sermon.

THE LITURGY OF INITIATION

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

The candidates for confirmation are presented, and stand as their names are called. The Bishop asks them:

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

I have

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will

THE DECISION

The Bishop addresses the candidates:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way. **Amen**

The Bishop, clergy and all candidates may process to the Font and the congregation turns to face the Font.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

Brothers and Sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his son, Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
he ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The candidates for Confirmation sign themselves with the cross, using the water

The Bishop prays:

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Procession returns from the Font, congregation sprinkled with Holy Water as a reminder of our baptisms

THE CONFIRMATION

The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
Who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.
Amen.

The Bishop says to each candidate and then anoints with chrism:

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He lays his hand on their head

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When all have been confirmed and received we pray together:

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Congregation share the sign of the Peace with those immediately around them, saying 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERTORY HYMN

AM 663

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The president takes the bread and wine*

I How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

2 Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

3 Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

4 How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

*Please give generously to the ministry of your church.
If you are a visitor and a tax-payer, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes
provided. Regular worshippers are encouraged to join our stewardship
scheme - standing order forms and information leaflets may be found at
the back of church.
Thank you for your gift.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
Because by water and the Holy Spirit
You have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord
You raise us to new life in him
And renew in us the image of your glory

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the ✠ body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of
me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of our Lady Mary, St John, St Alban and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to say:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body, because we
all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Bishop invites the people to Communion saying:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

All Baptised Christians who normally receive Communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. If you would like to receive a Blessing, bow your head at the Altar rail. Please follow the direction of the wardens.

At the start of communion, the Choir may sing an ANTHEM

COMMUNION HYMN *Remain kneeling or seated.*

AM 452

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture —
in the body and the blood —
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

AM 421

All for Jesus – all for Jesus,
This our song shall ever be;
For we have not hope, nor Saviour,
If we have not hope in Thee.

All for Jesus – Thou wilt give us
Strength to serve Thee hour by hour;
None can move us from Thy presence
While we trust Thy love and power.

All for Jesus – at Thine altar
Thou wilt give us sweet content;
There, dear Lord, we shall receive Thee
In the solemn Sacrament.

All for Jesus – Thou hast love us;
All for Jesus Thou hast died;
All for Jesus Thou art with us;
All for Jesus Crucified.

All for Jesus – all for Jesus
This the Church's song must be
Till, at last, we all are gathered
One in love and one in Thee.

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The Bishop addresses the candidates:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The Congregation stands and the Bishop says:

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by praying for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Stand for the FINAL HYMN

AM 748

During the hymn the bishop leads the newly confirmed out of the church.

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

5 O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*Remain standing as an Organ Voluntary begins and the
RECESSION takes place.*

Please join us for refreshments in the Church Hall after the service.

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