



## **25<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Christmas Day**

**Season:** Christmas is a twelve day festival celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, which runs until 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Liturgical Colour:** White **Why?** White symbolizes purity, light, glory, and joy.

**8am Holy Communion** (spoken) in the Nave.

**9.30am Christmas Day All Age Eucharist**

President and Preacher: Revd Tim Vickers

Deacon: Lauryn Awbrey

Reading: 'The First Christmas' The Story Tellers Bible.

Reader: Michael Readman

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 78, 72, 89i, 81, 60, 66.

**10.30am Coffee and festive treats** in the Hall, served by the Vicar and family.

## **26<sup>th</sup> December 2021: First Sunday of Christmas**

**9.30 am Parish Eucharist**

President: Revd Tim Vickers

Deacon and Preacher: David Nye

Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

Reader: Heather Nye

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 589, 80, 84, 704

**No Parish Coffee** in the Parish Hall

## GIVING AT ST JOHN'S

At St John's we rely on the enormous generosity of our congregation to support our ministry, so that we might live God's love to our Parish. If you are in a position to support us, there are a number of ways you can give, either as a one-off or on a regular basis:

- Collection plate – both cash and contactless either before or after the service
- Set up a direct debit
- Join our Parish Giving Scheme

Envelopes to donate for the collection where gift aid can be claimed are available. For more information contact Andrew Poppleton on [andrew.poppleton@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:andrew.poppleton@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

## CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

### The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

**'The First Christmas'** *The Story Tellers Bible*

### Gospel Reading: John 1.1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,\* and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.\* <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being

through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,\* and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,\* full of grace and truth.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words  
and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SUNDAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.  
<sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord\* has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ\* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all

wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.\* 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 2.41-52**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## IMPORTANT PARISH CONTACTS

Revd Tim Vickers, Vicar of St John's (usual day off Friday)  
[vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) 01582 469343

Churchwardens, Jane Donati and James Hillman  
[wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Parish Office, Julie Birkett [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
01582 712776

Safeguarding, Jane Donati [safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

### IN OUR PRAYERS

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer  
[www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/daily-prayers](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/daily-prayers)

#### *Deanery of Wheathampstead*

Sunday: Parish of Harpenden, St John  
Monday: Parish of Kimpton  
Tuesday: Parish of Markyate Street, St John The Baptist  
Wednesday: Parish of Redbourn  
Thursday: Parish of Sandridge  
Friday: Parish of Wheathampstead  
Saturday: Bishop of St Albans

In our Parish for the sick

Claire, Sue, Christine, Hermione, Karen, Chris, Paul, Pat, Tamsin,  
Mike, Miriam, Daniel, Pat, Barbara and all whose names are  
entered on our St Luke's Cell Prayer List

In their year's mind

Lilian Jones (27<sup>th</sup>); Patricia Quin (28<sup>th</sup>); Thomas Wright (1<sup>st</sup> Jan).

For the homes and families in

Sunday The Warren, Welbeck Rise  
Monday Wensley Close, West Common  
Tuesday West Common Close, West Common Grove  
Wednesday West Common Way, Westminster Court  
Thursday Wheatfield Avenue, Wheatfield Road  
Friday Wheathampstead Road, Willow Court  
Saturday All those living outside the Parish

Please let Tim know if we can pray for you.

## NOTICES

**Christmas Collection.** As has been traditional at Christmas we have collected money to donate to those who are in need. This year we are supporting the Christian Aid Appeal for Afghanistan. The severe crisis in Afghanistan is pushing 8 million people to the brink of famine. All retiring collections from our service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day All Age will be directed towards this cause. Please don't forget to bring cash with you if you are joining us this Christmas

**Happy Christmas.** On behalf of Revd Tim, Sophy, Jem and Laurie. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

**Thank you!** Thank you to everyone who helped during Advent and Christmas. All things considered it has been a very special first Christmas for us at St John's. Lots of new people welcomed and most importantly, the birth of Jesus celebrated with joy.

**A message from the Vicar.** 2021 has certainly been a tough year. We dared to hope that perhaps this Christmas the situation would be different. I want you to know that I appreciate all that you have done for St John's and our community this year. Thank you for your faithfulness, determination and witness. Despite the challenges ahead, I believe that St John's is in good shape, and has much promise for what we can do together, for Christ's sake, as his church here in Harpenden. As we approach 2022 I encourage you all to do what is necessary to nurture your own well being and relationship with God, be it time for rest or something else. I am here for you if you would like to chat more.

**Positive Covid Cases.** At the time of printing, we are aware that two people present in Church on Sunday morning have since tested positive. Please be alert to any systems and speak to one of the wardens or ministry team if you need any help.

## COMING UP

**Parish Office closed over Christmas.** The Parish Office will be closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January inclusive.

**Midweek Eucharist.** Our last midweek Eucharist at I lam was on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We will then return on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at the new time of 10.30am.

**Daily Office.** There will be no Morning and Evening Prayer from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December through to 3<sup>rd</sup> January inclusive, but the church will be open every day, so please come in and pray at a time that suits you!

**Special Choral Eucharist of the Epiphany.** Please join us at 8pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January for a special Choral Eucharist of the Epiphany. Revd Charles Burch is preaching, and Amici voices will be leading us in some sublime music. Followed by Sparkling refreshments and a bar.

### N E X T   S U N D A Y

9.30am Parish Eucharist Second Sunday of Christmas (2<sup>nd</sup> January)  
Readings: NT: Ephesians 1.3-14; Gospel: John 1.10-18

### **Normal Pattern of weekday services for 2022**

Morning Prayer: 9.30 am, Monday to Thursday and

Evening Prayer: 5 pm, Monday to Thursday

Eucharist, 10.30am every Wednesday in the Lady Chapel.

### **Sign up to our Newsletter:**

We also send out a weekly newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please get in touch: <https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/newsletter/>

For arrangement of baptisms, weddings & funerals contact the Parish Office or talk to the vicar after the service

St John's Church, 5 St John's Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1DJ

Parish office 01582 712 776

# Want updates on Covid exposures?



We report these in our newsletters.

Want to know quicker?  
Don't get our newsletters?

Register your details:



[stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/trace](https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/trace)

(or speak to a Church Warden at the back of Church)

We won't use the data you provide for any other purposes and will delete it soon after the exposure risk has passed.