



28th November 2021 Advent Sunday

Season: Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

Liturgical Colour: Blue **Why?** This originates from the Sarum Rite where blue was used for the color of Advent. It was to represent the darkness before the birth. Decorated blue robes and shades of blue symbolize royalty, the coming of the King, hope, the night sky before the dawn, the sea before creation, and Mary.

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

President and preacher: Revd Tim Vickers

Deacon: Anne Edwards

Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16

Reader: Andrew Harbord

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 45, 264, 30, 75

10.30am Parish Coffee in the Parish Hall

11.30am Baptism of Edward Ellison

5pm Advent Carol Service, in-person only. Followed by festive refreshments 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

SUNDAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

The Collect

Let us pray

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.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 33:14-16

14The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 21.25 - 36

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

IMPORTANT PARISH CONTACTS

Revd Tim Vickers, Vicar of St John’s (usual day off Friday)
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk 01582 469343

Churchwardens, Jane Donati and James Hillman
wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Parish Office, Julie Birkett parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk
01582 712776

Safeguarding, Jane Donati safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/daily-prayers

Deanery of Watford

Sunday:	Parish of Oxhey, All Saints
Monday:	Parish of Oxhey, St Matthew
Tuesday:	Parish of Watford
Wednesday:	Canons of the Cathedral
Thursday:	Parish of Watford, Christ Church
Friday:	Parish of Watford, St Andrew
Saturday:	Parish of Watford, St John

For those to be baptised

For the Parents, God parents, family and friends of Edward Ellison

In our Parish for the sick

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

In their year's mind

Stuart Chalk 26th; Geoffrey Chalk, Emily Herbert-Scott, Charles Troward (28th); Heather Jarvis (29th); Edna Ward, Eileen Barnard (30th); Raymond Lange, Gwendoline Gatehouse, Roger Udell, Joyce Marris (1st Dec); Dorothy Bonner (2nd); George Eva (3rd).

For the homes and families in

Sunday	Heath Close, High Elms
Monday	High Firs Crescent, Highfield Avenue
Tuesday	Kingcroft Road, Kings Court
Wednesday	Knowle Drive, Leycroft Way
Thursday	Lilac Way, Limbrick Road
Friday	Linwood Road, Loire Mews
Saturday	Long Butlers, Longfield Road

Please let Tim know if we can pray for you.

NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Advent and Christmas Services. Advent begins TODAY and a leaflet is available of all our Advent and Christmas services at St John's. Please do pick up a copy from the back of church, or visit www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/christmas

Advent Study Course begins 8pm, 29th November on zoom. Do please sign up at church or let Tim know. This exciting course gives us time to hear words of wisdom and reflect on how we might welcome God into all areas of our lives this Christmas. This week we look at Finding God at Work.

Advent Book Group: this Advent we are going to be reflecting on Steven Crofts book '*Comfortable Words: a call to restoration*'. There will

be two opportunities to join us for discussion, each lasting about 1hr. 10.30am Thursday 2nd December and 8pm Thursday 16th December. You'll need to purchase your own copy. For further details contact Lauryn on lauryn.awbrey@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk or call the Parish Office.

Cubs Christmas Card Delivery Returns! Many thanks to our local cub groups who will be offering free delivery service for Christmas cards in Harpenden. You have from 9th November to 6th December, with delivery taking place on 12th December. This is specifically aimed at the elderly. If you would like to make a donation, please pass them to Julie in the Office.

Are you able to help us with our worship? We are in need of more people to help with various aspects of our worship, especially as we approach Advent and Christmas. We had a few people sign up last week, but could always have more, especially younger people. Let Jane know (wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk). All are welcome and encouraged!

We will NOT remain silent. Join the Mother's Union in praying for an end to gender based violence, from 25th Nov to 10th December. For more information speak to Carol Cooke.

Flower Guild. The Flower Guild would gratefully welcome donations for flowers to help offset the increased prices at Christmas when we aim to make the church look especially beautiful. Boxes are at the back of the Church.

LOOKING AHEAD

Southdown Lights Switch on. This is taking place on Friday 3rd December from 5.30-7.30pm. A slight change of plan, we are working together with the Methodists. If you are able to help out for an hour or two with craft, leaflets and more? Speak with Revd Tim.

Food Bank - Christmas Hamper. This year the Kings Pantry are planning on blessing those household who have used the Food Bank with a Christmas Hamper of goodies and treats. Donations can be left at the Co-op in Southdown or in the Church Porch and are needed by 10th December. A list of suggested items can be found here: www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/kingspantry

HELP NEEDED

Parish Magazine Distributors. Help is needed with counting, distributing and delivering the Parish Magazine. Please get in touch with Steve Whiting (via the Parish Office) if you can help.

Hospitality during Advent and Christmas. Help is needed providing refreshments on the following occasions. If you can help, let Revd Tim know:

- 5pm 12th December – hot chocolate after Carols on the Common
- 5pm 19th December – mulled wine and mince pies after Nine Lesson and Carols

PARISH DIARY

Monday	8pm	Advent Course: Finding God at work On zoom.
Tuesday	10.00am	Little Acorns in the Parish Hall
Wednesday	7.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting in the Lady Chapel
Thursday	10.30am All Day	Advent Book Group Grove Junior School Year 6 visit to St John's.
Friday	5.30pm	Southdown Lights Switch on

NEXT SUNDAY

9.30am Parish Eucharist Advent Sunday
Readings: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 3.1-6

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer

Morning Prayer: 9.30 am, Monday to Thursday and

Evening Prayer: 5 pm, Monday to Thursday

Eucharist, I am 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/about-us/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



StJohnsAL5

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk