



9th January 2022: Baptism of Christ

Season: Epiphany, a season in the church year running until Candlemas (2nd February, but kept on 30th January this year) where we remember the many manifestations, or appearances, of Christ to all people.

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

8am Holy Communion (no hymns) in the Lady Chapel
President and preacher: Revd Tim

9.30 am All Age Parish Eucharist
President and preacher: Revd Tim Vickers
Deacon: Anne Edwards
Reading: Acts 8.14-17
Reader: Susannah Pyke
Intercessions: The Venner Family
Music Setting: Peruvian Gloria
Hymns: 108, 638, 358, 477

10.30am Parish Coffee in the Church Hall.

4pm Faith and Light

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 that we may be faithful to our baptism.

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

New Testament Reading: Acts 8.14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
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 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 Ampthill and Shefford

Sunday:	Parish of Battlesden with Pottesgrove
Monday:	Parish of Campton
Tuesday:	Parish of Clifton
Wednesday:	Parish of Clophill
Thursday:	Parish of Eversholt
Friday:	Parish of Flitton
Saturday:	Parish of Flitwick

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

Sheila Daykin, Doreen Atkin (10th); Gordon Tollworthy,
Diana Turner (11th); Winifred Allison (12th); John Cox (13th);
Eva Foster, Harold Slater (14th); Edna Carter, John Farr (15th).

For the homes and families in

Sunday	Burywick, Camberley Place
Monday	Chaucer Close, The Chowns
Tuesday	Churchfield, Coleswood Road
Wednesday	Collens Road, Cosne Mews
Thursday	Crabtree Lane, Cranbourne Drive
Friday	Cravells Road, Croftwell
Saturday	Cross Lane, Dark Lane

Please let Tim know if we can pray for you.

NOTICES

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.

COMING UP

Tell us what you think? Could you spare 5 minutes to tell us what you thought about Advent and Christmas at St John's last year? What did we do right? How could we improve? Either look in the newsletter or copies at the back of church. See link for the survey below.

Spiritual Well Being Survey. We know that the last 2 years have had a variety of effects on our lives and particularly our relationship with God. To help us as we move forward, it would be really useful if you could complete a short survey so that we can find out what the last few years have meant for you and your spiritual well being. It's completely anonymous, unless you want to talk directly to the Ministry Team or wardens.

Link for both surveys: <https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/surveys>

First Communion: I'm very much aware that we haven't as a church been able to admit any of our young people to First Communion. If there is someone in your household who you think is ready, and at least 7 years old, please get in touch with Revd Tim. We will be admitting people to First Communion during our 9.30am service on Sunday 30th January, and will need to arrange two preparation sessions in advance.

Next steps in faith...The last 18 months may have raised questions about faith and God. For some, you may be thinking would like to confirm, or even explore, for yourself the promises made on your behalf at baptism. For others, you maybe interested in going back to some of the essentials of the Christian Faith and have some question to ask!

Eco Church tip: At Christmas many of us get large plastic tubs of chocolates, sweets and biscuits. Greene King are running the 'Tub2Pub' recycling scheme for these tubs, and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support in the process. Simply take your (clean and empty) tub to a Greene King pub or restaurant, from Jan 1st-31st, for example, *The Inn on the Green*. See <http://www.tub2pub.co.uk/tub2pub/> for more details. This raises money for charity and recycles the plastic, saving it from going to landfill.

Do you have a calling for ministry to children and young people? As a Parish we are exploring how we might more effectively minister to the many young people who live in our midst. At the moment we are completely looking afresh at what this might look like. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in shaping this part of our parish life and getting involved in helping out, please let Revd Tim know.

Want to learn more about the Bible? The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) publishes a range of booklets to assist us in reading the bible: from 'New Daylight' giving daily bible passages with interpretation to 'Day by Day with God' rooting women's lives in the daily readings. Some of which are digitally available. I will put out a selection of booklets in the church porch for you to borrow and experience. Why not give them a try and if interested contact David Brown (via the Parish Office) to arrange a subscription.

Some worship changes at St John's: Having started some new things and had some time to reflect on it, we have decided to make a few adjustments to our pattern of worship during the week for 2022:

- Morning Prayer will continue in Church Mondays to Thursdays, but now will only be on Zoom as well on Tuesdays.
- Holy Communion on Wednesday will move to 10:30am (changing from 11am)

NEXT SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion and 9.30am Parish Eucharist, Epiphany II.
Readings: NT: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; Gospel: John 2.1-11

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer

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/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

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.