

Sunday 10th December 2023

08.00 Holy Communion at St John's

09.30 Parish Eucharist at St John's

Those who are not attending St John's can watch live (or later) on YouTube. The links are below and the church website.

<https://youtube.com/live/HbDFjAVOICo?feature=share>

11.00-16.00
Christmas Tree Festival



A display of Christmas trees decorated by the people and organisations of Danbury - visit Santa, join in some crafts and enjoy a mince pie!

Thursday 14th

11.15 Holy Communion at St John's

Sunday 17th

09.30 Café Praise

**18.30 The Christmas Carol Service –
A candlelit celebration of Christmas**

Sharing in Ministry at St John's

Priest in Charge (Danbury and Little Baddow)

The Revd Canon Jacqui Jones

St John's Rectory, 55 Main Road, Danbury CM3 4NG Tel: 01245 223140

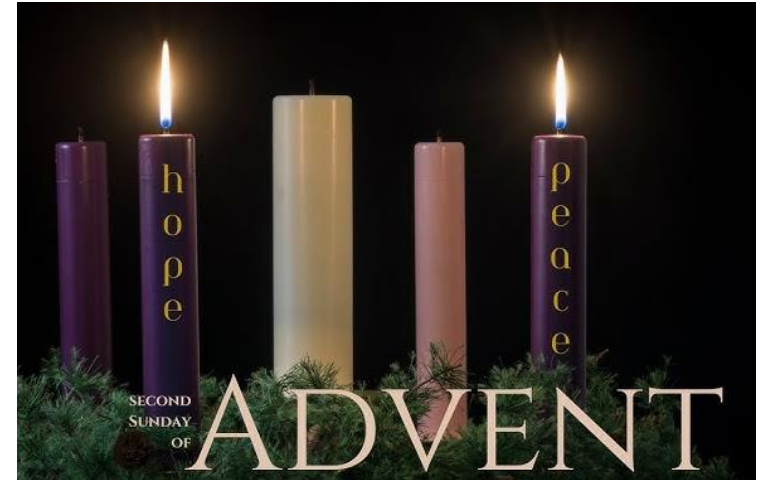
Email: ebbaafter@gmail.com ***Jacqui's day off is Wednesday***

Authorised Local Preachers Jenny Molyneux-Berry, Janet Arthurs

Treasurer: Alan Dixon 225208

Director of Music and Organist Paul Hagger

**Parish Church of
St John the Baptist, Danbury**



Registered Charity no. 1130296

www.stjohnbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/churchofstjohnthebaptist

Sunday 10th December 2023

ADVENT 2

08.00 Holy Communion

09.30 Parish Eucharist

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8

Hymns:

Introit Hymn 46 On Jordan's bank

Gradual Hymn 34 Earth was waiting

Offertory Hymn 379 God has spoken, by his prophets

Communion Hymn 114 Above the voices of the world around me

Sending out Hymn 75 Long ago, prophets knew

*Closing voluntary: Chorale prelude on "Nun komm der heidan heiland" –
JS Bach*

Refreshments will be available in the meeting room opposite the main Church door following the service this morning

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, And with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Intercessions

Please pray for one another during this difficult time and those who you know are unwell at present: **Pam Melville, Julie Barker, Catherine, Lisa Payne, Janet Bennet, Sylvia Beckett, Clive Willey, Christina and Michael Fitheridge** and please remember the faithful departed, commending them to God's love and mercy: **Brian Fix, Dr Donald King, Harry (Henry) Bone, Vilma Ann Carden, Marian Elen Best**

If anyone wants to add someone to St John's prayer list please contact Jacqui, Jenny Molyneux-Berry 01245 223231 or one of the Churchwardens

Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Advent Wreath Prayers - Advent 2

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen

