

Sunday 17th December 2023

09.30 Café Praise

Cafe Praise will not be streamed to youtube, but will be available live on zoom from 9.20am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87652390261?pwd=OEVpNmt4K0JzekRMdzdLSHdiSE5VUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5239 0261

Passcode: 561515

18.30 The Christmas Carol Service at St John's

Also being live streamed & recorded

https://youtube.com/live/EDXIIHnt_d4?feature=share

Monday 18th

12.30 Connect Group in St John's Meeting Room

13.30 St John's School Carol Concert

18.00 St John's School Carol Concert for parents

Tuesday 19th

13.00 Funeral and burial of Vilma Ann Carden

Wednesday 20th

14.00 Mothers Union Carols & Tea – Meeting Room

Thursday 21st

11.15 Holy Communion at St John's

Friday 22nd

10.00 Flower arrangers in church Christmas floral arranging

20.00 Carols at The Cricketers Pub, Penny Royal Road

Please join with Jacqui in some rousing carols

Saturday 23rd

11.00 Crib Service: A Christmas service for young and old

Sunday 24th – Christmas Eve

08.00 Holy Communion

09.30 Parish Eucharist

17.00 Christingle

23.00 Midnight Mass



Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00 Parish Communion with Carols

Parish Church of
St John the Baptist, Danbury



Registered Charity no. 1130296

www.stjohnbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/churchofstjohnthebaptist

Sunday 17th December 2023

ADVENT 3

09.30 Café Praise

Readings: Luke 1:57-67

Hymns: 39 Hills of the north rejoice
72 Joy to the world
27 Colours of day
85 The angel Gabriel from heaven came (Basque carol)
82 See him lying on a bed of straw (Calypso carol)

18.30 The Christmas Carol Service at St John's

Alternative Collect for Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Advent 3

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. 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, Margaret Cockerill, Eileen Massow** 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, Marion 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

Prayers for forgiveness

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of the angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.

Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. Amen.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, we light this candle to recall that John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you. Amen



Reading

Luke: 1:57-67

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹ They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy.

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