

Sunday 24th December 2023

- 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Eucharist



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/2wnVLdWZVzc?feature=share>

- 17.00 Christingle
23.00 Midnight Mass Also being live streamed & recorded
<https://youtube.com/live/J3AZsltEPhk?feature=share>

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

- 10.00 Parish Communion with Carols
Also being live streamed & recorded
<https://youtube.com/live/5fiyxqeeEOk?feature=share>

There is no Holy Communion on Thursday 28th December

Sunday 31st December

- 09.30 Parish Eucharist

*Many thanks to everyone for all their
hard work
over the Christmas period*



We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

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 24th December 2023

ADVENT 4

- 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Eucharist
Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:26-38
Hymns:
Introit Hymn 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel
Gradual Hymn 30 Come thou long expected Jesus
Offertory Hymn 315 Sing we of the blessed mother
Communion Hymn 316 The God whom earth and sea and sky
Sending out Hymn 394 Tell out, my soul
Closing voluntary: Chorale prelude on "Veni, veni Emmanuel" – Flor Peeters
- 17.00 Christingle
23.00 Midnight Mass

Collect for Advent 4

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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, Margaret Cockerill, Eileen Massow**

and please remember the faithful departed, commending them to God's love and mercy: **Vilma Carden, Marion Best, Clive Willey**

CLIVE WILLEY

It is with immense sadness that we add Clive's name to the list of those who have died within this parish this week. Clive died around midnight on 21st/22nd in Broomfield Hospital. He was held in high regard and huge affection in the village as he cared for the churchyard and the many who would regularly make their visits there, whether tending graves or working their allotment or walking through with or without their dogs. For more than twenty years Clive would get to know them and engage them in friendly banter and often tease the life out of us with false solemnity and fake horror at some of our antics or opinions!

Eventually, he was persuaded by creaking limbs to share with Paul Walton some of his immense knowledge and experience and accepted a churchyard gang to coalesce around him, though Clive was always 'the boss'. We send our prayers and love to David and Alan, his sons, and his family, who closely supported him every painful step of the way. We also convey our sadness and sympathy to the Churchyard Gang, who included Clive in their work and social activities when he no longer could ride on the mower. Jacqui

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

Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him

Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Advent Wreath Prayer - Advent 4

God our Father,
The angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary
That she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
She responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
To share like her in your great work
Of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
The light who is coming into the world.

Amen.



Advent Wreath Prayer – Christmas Day

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

