

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**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/sCJvUmD43U4?feature=share>

*We wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year*

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**11.15 Holy Communion at St John's**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**12.00 Funeral and burial of Marion Best**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany**

**09.30 Parish Eucharist**



**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

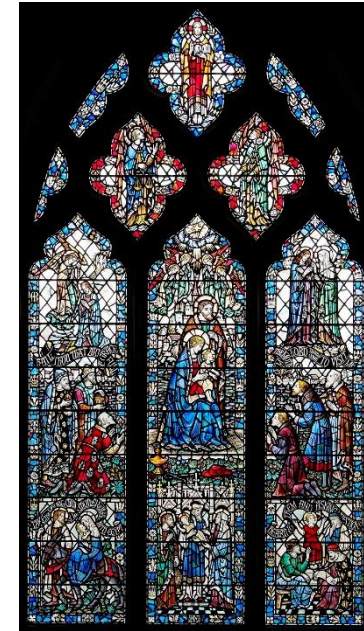
Email: [ebbafter@gmail.com](mailto:ebbafter@gmail.com) ***Jacqui's day off is Wednesday***

**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](http://www.stjohnbaptistchurch.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/churchofstjohnthebaptist](https://www.facebook.com/churchofstjohnthebaptist)

***Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023***

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**09.30 Parish Eucharist**

**Readings:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Luke 2:15-21

**Hymns:**

Introit Hymn 82 See him lying on a bed of straw

Gradual Hymn 89 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

Offertory Hymn 58 A great and mighty wonder

Communion Hymn 88 What child is this

Sending out Hymn 72 Joy to the world

*Closing voluntary:* Mr Mozart takes a sleigh ride – Nigel Ogden

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

## ***Collect***

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image and  
yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
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,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
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**

*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*



## **RECYCLE YOUR USED CHRISTMAS CARDS**

If you don't know what to do with your used Christmas Cards this year,  
Joan and others would be grateful if you could recycle them by bringing  
into church and placing in the plastic box in the porch. These will then be  
used by them for craft activities. Thank you

## ***Readings***

### **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me  
with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a  
garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth  
brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring  
up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for  
Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the  
dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your  
vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new  
name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of  
beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your  
God.

### **Luke 2:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds  
said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that  
has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went  
with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the  
manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told  
them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the  
shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and  
pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and  
praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.  
<sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he  
was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived  
in the womb.

