

## WHAT'S ON AT ST JOHN'S /DATES FOR DIARIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon. 9 Dec.	8.00 a.m	<b>SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MONDAY MARKET WITH GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!</b>
Mon. 9 Dec.	7.00 p.m	Monday Night Housegroup 
Wed. 11 Dec.	7.30 p.m	'Sing for Joy' Choir 
Fri. 13 Dec.	7.00 p.m	3rd Torbay (Shiphay) Scout Group <i>Christmas Carol Service</i>
Sun. 15 Dec.	8.00 a.m	Holy Communion
Sun. 15 Dec.	10.00 a.m	<b>NATIVITY PRESENTATION</b> <i>The Family Business.</i> <b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b>
Mon. 16 Dec.	10.00 a.m	<b>FESTIVE MINCE PIE MONDAY</b> 

### Suggestions for your prayers/praise

Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities.

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance and for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.

For St John's and all our forthcoming Christmas events and services, pray for all who gather to worship here over the Christmas season and that they feel welcome, and know your love and peace.

We pray for all churches across Devon—that they may be a place of support and hope this Christmas.

Finally, please pray for all those, worldwide, that are in need of the touch of God's healing hand.

### Contact details:-

**Revd Paul Ireton (Rest day Tuesday) Tel: 01803 394808**

**Email: paulireton@hotmail.com**

Facebook: St John the Baptist Church-Shiphay-Anglican

**Church Office: Sonia Collings**

9.00 a.m—11.30 a.m daily **except** Wednesday

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**Olivia Downes (Churchwarden) oliviahockridge@hotmail.com**

**Jon Harper (Churchwarden) jonathanharper123@btinternet.com**

## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

*'A caring fellowship seeking to share the life and love of God'*

**Sunday 8 December 2024**

**Advent greetings!**

**As we prepare for Christmas there is plenty to do.**

**We warmly welcome you to our Sunday Morning Worship -**

**The Second Sunday of Advent.**

*We are glad you have chosen to come along to this service especially if this is your first visit to St. John's.*

*We really hope you will stay and join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after the service this morning.*

*Every blessing to you all.*

### Music

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry	<b>527</b>
Purify my heart	<b>574</b>
Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise	<b>248</b>
<b>Offertory</b> Make way, make way	<b>438</b>
<b>Communion</b> Restore, O Lord	<b>582</b>
Give thanks with a grateful heart	<b>202</b>
How lovely on the mountains	<b>295</b>



### On the second Sunday in Advent

**As two candles are lit someone says:**

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, who called people to change their way of living to prepare for the coming of Christ.

*Someone reads:* The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. (John 1:5-7)

**ALL: DISTURBING GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. HELP US TO BE OPEN TO THE CHANGING POWER OF YOUR LOVE, AND TO BE TRUE WITNESSES TO THE POWER OF JESUS IN OUR LIVES. AMEN.**

### **The First Reading**

Philippians 1:3-11

#### **Thanksgiving and prayer**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

## A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

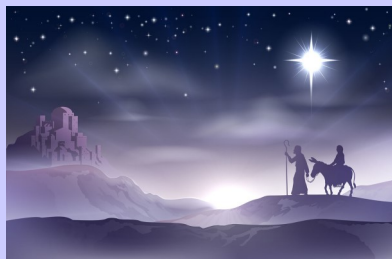
***Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.***

***As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious.***

***Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.***

Advent

*A time of waiting and expectation,  
of stillness amid a frantic world.*



### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:1-6

New International Version - UK

#### **John the Baptist prepares the way**

<sup>3</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracónitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup>And all people will see God's salvation.”<sup>[a]</sup>



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
FESTIVE MINCE PIE MONDAY  
16th DECEMBER  
10.00 a.m—1.00 p.m**

*Please come along and join us and see  
our beautifully decorated festive church.  
Mince pies, Tea, Coffee & a friendly chat.  
There will be a Christmas Hamper Raffle!*

**All welcome.**



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY  
CANDLELIGHT  
SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER  
6.00 P.M**

A wonderful evening with a chance  
for all to sing a festive feast of  
traditional carols.  
Refreshments will be available/  
mulled wine.  
Everyone is welcome.

