

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon. 12 Jan.	8.00	Monday Market 'Open Church'
Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00	Monday Night House Group

Suggestions for your prayers/praise

Loving and faithful God, We bring Gordon before you with gratitude for his life and ministry. Thank you for being with him through surgery.

Now grant him patience, strength, and steady healing as he recovers.
Ease his pain, lift his spirits, and reassure him of your nearness.
Bless those who care for him, and surround him with love and prayer.
May he know your peace holding him fast each day.

We pray for all those who have just had operations or procedures, those waiting, those with other unpleasant situations and pressures in their lives.

We uplift Revd. Paul who has had a time of illness.
Please restore his strength, renew his energy.

We pray for all our members, family and friends who are in poor health.

We pray for a fruitful term for our Sunday School— and that many will be drawn to hear about the love of Jesus.

Please uphold our church hall, for group leaders and for all who attend the classes and events.

May God draw close to every heart touched by the **tragic** fire in Crans-Montana, holding grieving parents and families with deep compassion, comfort, and strength in their unbearable loss. Amen.

Contact details:-

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

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

Sunday 11 January 2026

Welcome to worship on this First Sunday of Epiphany.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Christ—when Jesus steps into the waters, the Spirit descends, and God declares love and delight.

As we gather, may we remember that we are also God's beloved, called to live in the light revealed in Christ.

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.

Music

Offertory Communion

Will you come and follow me **752**

Sing to the Lord (Awaken the dawn)

Let Your living water

Take my life, and let it be **625**

O worship the Lord **552**

O let the Son of God enfold you **506**

I, the Lord of sea and sky **332**



Bishop Encourages Us to Shine Our Lights in 2026 *A message from Bishop Mike for the New Year:*

"From Herod to Scrooge to the Grinch there have always been symbolic characters looking to extinguish the light.

The Good News of the Christmas season is that the light shines in the darkness, the darkness has not overcome it and we are called, we are invited, we are beckoned to this light, to catch alight ourselves and radiate light.

So let's shine as lights in the world in 2026.
Happy New Year!"

The First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Prayer for the Baptism of Christ

Eternal and Loving God,

On the day your Son was baptised in the Jordan,
the heavens opened, and your Spirit descended like a dove,
declaring him your beloved.

Wash us anew in your grace,
that we may rise from the waters of life
renewed in faith, strengthened in hope,
and ready to walk in the way of Christ.

May your Spirit rest upon us,
guiding our words, shaping our deeds,
and drawing us ever closer to your heart.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matt 3.13-end

The baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'

¹⁵ Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'



...suddenly the heavens were opened to him
and he saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove...

Matthew 3:16, NRSV

**DRAW NEAR
TO GOD,**
and He will draw
NEAR TO YOU
James 4:8