

## WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

| DATE         | TIME  | EVENT                              |
|--------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Mon. 15 Dec. | 10.00 | FESTIVE MINCE PIE MONDAY           |
| Mon. 15 Dec. | 19.00 | Monday Night House Group           |
| Wed. 17 Dec. | 19.30 | 'Sing for Joy' Choir               |
| Sun. 21 Dec. | 10.00 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent 'LOVE' |
| Sun. 21 Dec. | 18.00 | CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT    |

Please do join us for Taizé Candlelit Holy Communion this afternoon at 4.00 p.m. All are warmly invited.

### For your prayers/praise

Loving God, in this joyful Christmas season, we thank You for the children, teachers, and staff from Shiphay Learning Academy who visited our church this week. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, fill their hearts with wonder, peace, and hope. Bless their school community with kindness and joy, and may the light of Christ guide and protect them each day.

Lord Jesus, as churches across Devon gather this Christmas season, fill every service with Your light and love. May all who attend—whether familiar or new—experience the wonder of Your presence and the comfort of Your unfailing grace. Let hearts be opened, hope be renewed, and Your love be made known in every community.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who gather at St. John's for the Christmas services and celebrations - to come into Your presence, fill their hearts with Your peace and surround them with the warmth of Your love.

As we approach Christmas we seek God's care and comfort for those for whom, whatever reason, Christmas is a time of loneliness or unhappiness.

Love coming down at Christmas is for all. Pray that people will hear the message and choose to receive this precious gift.

For so many in our church having tests in hospital, unwell in their home and for the housebound. For those bereaved and having funerals.

Pray that God's peace will prevail in all areas of conflict around the globe.

That during this advent season people would experience Your peace. That in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, take time to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life. And most importantly, remember the reason for the season – Your wonderful Son, Jesus. Pray that people would come to know Him as their personal Saviour and have eternal life in Your kingdom. *Amen.*



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

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

Sunday 14 December 2025

Advent greetings!

We warmly welcome you to our Sunday Morning Worship - The Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday' and when we hear the Christmas story with our Nativity presentation 'Angel HQ'.

*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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Hark, the herald-angels sing            | 266 |
| God's Spirit is in my heart             | 231 |
| O, heaven is in my heart                | 499 |
| All over the world the Spirit is moving | 20  |
| While shepherds watched their flocks    | 745 |
| Silent Night                            | 597 |
| This little light of mine               |     |

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...'



The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news the angel declared to the shepherds - the news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God With Us).

*On the third Sunday in Advent*

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

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, and the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.

Someone reads: 'I am the Lord's servant,' said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.' (Luke 1:38)

**ALL: STARTLING GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE JOYFUL OBEDIENCE OF MARY. WE ASK YOU TO FILL US WITH YOUR GRACE, SO THAT WE, TOO, MAY ACCEPT YOUR CALL, AND REJOICE IN YOUR SALVATION. AMEN**

The holly bears a blossom  
as white as lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
to be our sweet saviour

Oh, the rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry  
as red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
to do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickly  
as sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
on Christmas Day in the morn.



**Alone this Christmas Day?**

Then you are invited to a **FREE** Christmas Day Lunch at St Mary The Virgin Church Hall, St Marychurch. Please call 07356 231796 and leave a message. Free transport can be provided for residents in Torquay & Paignton.

Christmas help please! We gather **Tuesday 23 December at 10.00 a.m** in church to prepare our beautiful Christingle oranges. There will be a festive atmosphere and Refreshments. Please come along and help.



Heavenly Father,

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we pause in the glow of the *Joy Candle*, grateful for the promise of Your Son. As we wait for the celebration of His birth, fill our hearts with a joy that is deeper than circumstance — a joy rooted in Your unchanging love.

Teach us to anticipate not only the manger in Bethlehem, but also the day when Christ will come again in glory. May our waiting be active, our hope steadfast, and our joy contagious, so that others may see Your light through us.

Lord, in this season of preparation, help us to carry joy into places of sorrow, hope into moments of doubt, and peace into hearts that are restless. We rejoice in You, for You are faithful, and Your promises never fail.

In Jesus' precious name we pray,

*Amen.*



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
FESTIVE MINCE PIE MONDAY  
TOMORROW 15th DECEMBER!  
10.00 a.m — 2.00 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 Raffle and Tombola:  
table top sale which will include homemade gifts.

**All welcome.**

**Food Bank**

During Advent we invite you to add an extra non-perishable item to your shopping each week to bring to our collection for Christmas distribution.  
Thank you so much.