

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun. 21 Dec.	18.00	CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Mon. 22 Dec.	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Tues. 23 Dec.	10.00	Please come along and help to make our beautiful Christingle oranges
Christmas Eve	16.00	The Children's Society CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Christmas Eve	23.30	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
Christmas Day	10.00	The JOY of Christmas is here! Come & share in worship, word, and the true joy of the season!
Sun. 28 Dec.	10.00	Sunday Morning worship

Suggestions for your prayers/praise

For the Christingle service and for the large crowd who will be there. Pray that they will see the light of Jesus.

We remember the great love and humility you displayed in coming down to earth in the form of a baby, to make your dwelling among us: 'They will call him Immanuel, which means "God with us".'

For all who gather to worship here over the Christmas season and that the Holy Spirit will stir up again with the awe and wonder of God becoming Man. Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest.

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. Please pray for all those, worldwide, that are in need of the touch of God's healing hand and that God's peace will prevail in all areas of conflict around the globe. **Amen.**



Christmas Greetings

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards and your kindness—they are truly appreciated. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead. Gordon.

Revd Paul, The Ministers, the Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council of Shiphay wish every one of you a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

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

Sunday 21 December 2025

Grace and peace to you all.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we gather with grateful hearts as we draw very near to the celebration of Christ's birth.

Today we light the fourth Advent candle—the candle of Love—a reminder of God's perfect love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

As this candle shines among us, may it fill our hearts with compassion, hope, and joy, and prepare us to receive anew the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

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

In the bleak mid-winter 326

Jesus, King of Kings

Jesus, You are the radiance

Offertory Once in Royal David's city 521

Communion Thou didst leave thy throne 683

Jesus, Name above all names 355

O come, all ye faithful 479



On the fourth Sunday in Advent

As four candles are lit someone says:

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for

John the Baptist, the third for Mary,
and the fourth for us, as we join with them in
looking for the coming of Jesus.

Someone reads:

God will give you a sign, a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name
him Immanuel, which means;
God is with us; (Isaiah 7:14)

ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, AS YOU CAME TO THOSE
WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US,
YOU COME TO US NOW IN JESUS.

HELP US TO
RECOGNISE YOU IN THOSE AROUND US
AND TO CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS AS WE DO
FOR OURSELVES. AMEN



The First Reading

Romans 1:1-7

I Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life ^[a] was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power ^[b] by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from ^[c] faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love
always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.**



Gospel Reading

Matt. 1.18-end

Joseph accepts Jesus as his son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[d]: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[e] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[f] because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' ^[g] (which means 'God with us').

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



**TONIGHT
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
BY CANDLELIGHT
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 warmly welcome.



**O Holy
Night**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
11.30 P.M**

**We share in the anticipation
of the joy of Christmas and
celebrating its
message of good news.**

Everyone is warmly invited.