

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon. 5 Jan.	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Wed. 7 Jan.	19.30	Sing for Joy 'Choir' resume
Thurs. 8 Jan.	9.30	Holy Communion/prayers
Mon. 12 Jan.	8.00	MONDAY MARKET 'OPEN CHURCH'

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of
God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the
night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the
lone East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

We wish everybody a blessed and Happy New Year.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

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

Sunday 4 January 2026

Welcome, and happy Epiphany!

Today we celebrate the light of Christ revealed to the world—a light that guided the Magi and continues to guide us today.

Whether you are a longtime member or joining us for the first time, we are glad you are here.

As we worship together, may we be renewed by God's light and inspired to carry that light into our homes, our community, and our world. Welcome to worship.

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

Music

Offertory Communion

In the darkness we were waiting

God sent His son

Jesus we enthroned you

As with gladness men of old

49

What child is this

729

Jesus, Name above all names

355

Be still, for the presence of the Lord

67

Lord, the light of your love is shining

419



The First Reading

Psalm 72:1-8

Of Solomon.

- ¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- ² May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he endure^[a] as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.
- ⁸ May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River^[b] to the ends of the earth.

Bishop Mike's New Year Prayer for 2025

Lord Jesus we ask in this New Year that; by your grace flowing

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to the Flower Team for the beautiful Christmas flowers, which added so much joy to the season. Please note that these flowers are funded entirely through the generous donations of the congregation. We are very grateful for everyone's support.

Our grateful thanks expressed to Herring Stores for kindly donating our Christingle Oranges.



Gospel Reading

Mark 6:34-44

- ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.
- ³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. 'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late.³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.'
- ³⁷ But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'That would take more than half a year's wages^[a]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?'
- ³⁸ 'How many loaves do you have?' he asked. 'Go and see.' When they found out, they said, 'Five – and two fish.'
- ³⁹ Then Jesus told them to make all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

God of light,
you led the Magi by a star
to the child Christ.
Lead us in your light,
open our eyes to see him among us,
and make us bearers of his love.

As You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did.

Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.