

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

## WORSHIP

17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**David is taking our service  
and Vicky is preaching today.**

*Everyone is very welcome at this service.*

*If you have very young children there are busy bags with activities in you can pick up near the welcome table to use during the service if needed. If your child gets restless you are welcome to take them to the children's quiet area where there is a bit more space for them and books and paper and crayons for them to use.*

### HYMNS

**Opening:** 78 Christ is the world's true light

**Gradual:** Longing for a hope filled morning (words on this sheet)

**Offertory Hymn:** 193 Hail to the Lord's anointed

**Final Hymn:** 87 Colours of day

*During this hymn a collection is taken. If you are a UK tax payer you can donate by Gift Aid and for every £1 you give, St John's gets an extra 25p. Please put your donation in one of the Gift Aid envelopes in the back of the seats, adding your name and address. If you would like to give regularly by Gift Aid please see Jo Need. Thank you very much for your support.*

### LIGHTING OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
For you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
Help us to be ready to welcome you now.  
Amen.**

### THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### THE READINGS are on the back page

**COMMUNION:** *Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing. We gather in a circle around the altar. Please join the end of the line in a clockwise direction. The sidepeople will guide you.*

### POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Please pray for those who are ill  
and those in particular need of prayer**

Among them Ann Cooper, Lorna Pearce, Phyllis Keates, Caroline Hellicar, The Higgins Family, Graeme Benson, Cyd, Percy Wraight and Florence Hicks



### And for those who have died

Among them Thomas Preston

There is a special prayer area at the high altar chapel where you can light a candle. Do write any requests for prayers for situations or people on a slip of paper and pin it to the board there. All requests will be remembered at our weekday evening services.

**Readings for next Sunday:** 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16.  
Romans 16.25-end, Luke 1.26-38

### CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN CHURCH

We are always pleased to welcome children into our church. We wish their experience to be enjoyable and safe but our buildings and grounds contain obvious and hidden hazards. Parents and carers remain responsible for the safety of their children or wards at all times whilst on our premises. Please ensure they are safe.

**DO STAY FOR REFRESHMENTS  
AFTER THE SERVICE**



**AND HELP DECORATE THE CHRISMAS TREE!**

### SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:** 10am Family Communion

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month:**

10am Parish Communion with children's church

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:** 9am Holy Communion

10am Sacred Space with children's church

**Weekday Services:** Morning Prayer is said at 9am on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## St JOHN'S NOTICES AND NEWS

[www.stjohnskingston.co.uk](http://www.stjohnskingston.co.uk)

St John's is a member of Inclusive Church.  
[www.inclusive-church.org.uk](http://www.inclusive-church.org.uk)

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### December

Mon 18 10am Bedelsford School Christmas Service  
2pm St John's School Christmas service

#### January

Sat 20 Book Fair and Church Café 10.00-2.30pm  
Sat 27 10.00-12.00noon Vision Day follow up

### CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

#### TODAY

6.00pm Candlelight Carol Service

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

10am Said Parish Communion  
*In the High Altar Chapel*  
*No children's church at this service.*

4.00pm Children's Crib service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Family Communion

**LITTLE GROOVERS** our friendly parents/carers and toddlers/babies group will be meeting in church this Tuesday from 9.45-11.15am, £1.50 per family.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS GROUP

Would you like to be part of a group of people who pray at home for people and situations for which prayer is requested. Luanne Higgins, our warden for pastoral care, will coordinate the group. Please contact her for more information.

[luanehiggins@tesco.net](mailto:luanehiggins@tesco.net)

#### THE LATEST NEWSLETTER FROM THE

**FOODBANK** is on the Charities notice board. It includes a request for the following items they specially need at present. These are tinned meat, jam and spreads, instant noodles and pot noodles, instant mashed potato, small jars of instant coffee, and fruit juice or fruit squash. If you can help with any of these it will be much appreciated.

### AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE JOEL COMMUNITY PROJECT – THE HOMELESS CENTRE IN ST PETER'S NORBITON.

They are in need of new warm men's socks, boxer shorts (medium and large) and men's belts (these don't need to be new). They would also be pleased to receive Oyster Cards with a £5.00 top up and Asda food vouchers to help with their weekly grocery shop. If you are able to help with any of the above but are unable to take your items to St Peter's, please leave them in the food bank box on the charity table and we will make sure they are delivered weekly.

#### VISION DAY

At the end of September we had a really good Vision Day at the Church to talk about our church life. We did two written exercises to give us a snap shot of where we are now and to build up a parish profile of our strengths and areas we'd like to develop. It was great to discover how positively people feel about our church life. Our inclusiveness, community spirit and outward looking focus were especially valued. Areas to develop were providing more opportunities for spiritual reflection and nurture.

You are warmly invited to **a follow up meeting to continue the conversation and agree actions on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 10am to 12 noon in the church** with lunch afterwards for those able to stay. This is for everyone at the church who would like to come. You don't need to have attended the Vision Day. Do come and share your views.

In response to the Vision Day a Quiet Day has now been arranged to offer space for spiritual reflection during lent and some other dates for next year have been agreed. Do put them in your diary.

**Team Quiet Day** – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at the House of Prayer, East Molesey. This will be led by Sister Melanie of the House on a Lenten theme. 25 places available. £15 donation.

**Team Pilgrimage** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. We've decided to attend the St Alban's pilgrimage next year which is a glorious occasion bringing huge numbers of people together to walk in the steps of St Alban to the cathedral where he is buried to attend a Festival Eucharist. The procession is led by huge puppets of St Alban and the soldiers. See the link for more information about this year's pilgrimage.  
<https://stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/the-alban-pilgrimage/>

**'Exploring Faith'** discussion group for those from All Saints, the United Reformed Church and St John's. This will run monthly at the URC on Eden Street starting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm and is for those on any part of their faith journey.

Team Conference - open to everyone from our congregations – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June evening **A Christian Response to the Environmental Crisis** –The speaker is Ian Christie, Kingston Area Environmental Adviser and a senior lecturer at the Centre for Environmental Strategy at Surrey University.

#### **Kids activities 2018:**

Good Friday Workshop – 30<sup>th</sup> March. We plan to hold this at the earlier time of 10.30am with the all age Good Friday service at 12. We will then have a more formal Good Friday service at 2pm with readings and reflections.

Summer Activity Days – 30 July, 31 July and 1 August. We plan to have 3 days again to help our children reflect on their faith through drama, activities, games and crafts. 10am to 3pm. This time Monday to Wednesday.

All Saints Children's Party on 4<sup>th</sup> November from 11.30am to 1.30. This will be at St John's after the team service at All Saints and include lunch.

**Are you on the church mailing list?** There are new member's forms at the back of the church you can fill in with your contact details to pass on to Vicky.

#### **CONTACTS FOR ST JOHN'S**

**Vicar:** Revd Vicky Maunder  
[vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk) or 020 8546 9882.  
Vicky works part time and is available on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sunday mornings.

**Administrator:** Frances Hazelgrove  
Tel: 07952085661 [admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk)

**ST JOHN'S IS PART OF THE KINGSTON TEAM MINISTRY WITH ALL SAINTS IN KINGSTON TOWN CENTRE AND ST JOHN THE BAPTIST KINGSTON VALE.**

#### **NOTICES from our SISTER CHURCHES**

##### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KINGSTON**

[www.allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://www.allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Burns Night! 27 January 2018 - a date for your diary:** Dance away the post-Christmas blues with a Scottish Ceilidh here in the church. Sign up to book a table or a space by the south door.

##### **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST KINGSTON & PUTNEY VALE**

Church Office: [stjohns@inthevale.org.uk](mailto:stjohns@inthevale.org.uk) 02085462590  
Vicar: Rev'd Mandy Beck [mandybeck@alty.org](mailto:mandybeck@alty.org)  
02085464079

#### **HYMN**

**Longing for a hope-filled morning,  
Kingdom of the Son, draw near!  
Waiting for the day soon dawning,  
Light of love that casts out fear.  
Dayspring, come from heav'n, in lowly birth,  
Come to warm this cold, dark earth.**

**Sorrow through the world is sweeping,  
Bitter conflict rages still,  
Heaven hears its children weeping:  
cost of humankind's freewill.  
Come, O Prince of Peace, in lowly birth,  
Come to mend this broken earth.**

**Pattern of the world's salvation,  
God and human side by side.  
Colour, language, creed or nation,  
No more should the world divide:  
Come, Emmanuel, in lowly birth,  
Show how heav'n embraces earth.**

*Rev Ally Barrett*

CCLI number: 1352220

## BIBLE READINGS

### ISAIAH 61.1-4,8-end

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Thanks be to God

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Thanks be to God

### THE GOSPEL – JOHN 1.6-8,19-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**