



Notices for 15th of December 2024

A warm welcome to everyone

We welcome Mat Ineson (Guildford Mission Enabler Lead)
who will lead our worship at 09:30

The Third Sunday of Advent

Please come into the hall for refreshments after the 09:30 service.

Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Advent 3 – John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important
than John the Baptist has ever been born;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third candle is lit:

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,

‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day
John the Baptist,
by his preaching and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.’

Hymns:

- 2** Christ whose glory fills the skies
424 Fill thou my life O Lord my God
34 On Jordan’s bank
496 Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
430 Forth in thy name

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary’s either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post-communion prayer:

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.

Gift Day : So far we have received at least £15,000 (inc gift Aid) towards the £20k costs of our roof repair. Its not too late to make a contribution – enquiries David Eames / Peter / Colin **Thankyou !**

Christingle Prep Help Needed! If anyone would be able to please help Jacqui and Colin with the Christingle prep it would be very much appreciated, on **Monday 23rd December at 10am in the hall.**

'Thank you to all who attended the Epsom and Ewell Silver Band Christmas Concert and over £800 was raised for St. Mary's. A special thanks to Jacqui, Martin and Peter for their help. Season's greetings, Wendy J

Dates for your diary

Saturday 14th December 10am-12pm Family Christmas Craft Workshop

This event is for children up to the age of 12yrs. All are welcome! Contact Daphne for any further info.

Sunday 15th Dec @6:30pm, Carol Service

Service of Readings and Carols. Come and hear the familiar Christmas story, some choir anthems and join in some popular carols. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies. *Karl as guest conductor for the choir.*

Thursday, 19th December 2:30pm THURSDAYCLUB: We meet this Thursday, in the church hall. Our favourite guitarist is coming to entertain us with Christmas music and there will be seasonal refreshments. Any queries contact Judith via the Parish Office.

Saturday 21st December is the next meeting of the **Women's Group**. We will be having our annual Christmas Coffee Morning with mince pies, Christmas readings and perhaps a game or two! Please come along and join us – we meet at 10am and finish by 12 noon.

Christmas Eve @4pm, Christingle Crib Service

Christingle and Blessing of the Crib. This service is particularly suitable for children. We tell the story of Christmas, sing favourite carols and learn the meaning of the Christingle

Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm Midnight Service of Holy Communion

Christmas Day at 10 am

Family Communion Service with many favourite carols. Children are invited to bring their favourite present. **Breaking News: Bishop Paul** will lead our 10:00am worship on Christmas Day

1st January 2025 The Walking Group are organising a New Years Day walk.

We will meet at Church at 11.00am and car share to the riverside car park at the end of Ham Street. Alternatively meet at the car park.

Bring your own lunch or use the facilities at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. Martin Whitemgwhite99@gmail.com