

# NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Christmas Tree Festival "Christmas Traditions"	9 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> December	St. John's Church
<b>"Christmas with G &amp; T"</b> A Christmas Concert featuring Gary Bland and Tom Wakeley (alias Gavin Mole). Tickets £10 (£5 children) – includes light refreshments.	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Annual Toy Service (During the Main Parish Eucharist Service)	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
<b>"With Christmas in Mind"</b> . A scratch choir event for anyone who wants to join with rehearsal of popular secular and religious Christmas songs, followed by a concert. To raise fund for the church. Details from Gavin Mole.	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (2:00 pm for Rehearsal) (7:00 pm for Concert)	St. John's Church To rehearse and sing £15. £10 to just attend the concert.
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (6:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Crib Service	Christmas Eve (3:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Midnight Mass of the Nativity	Christmas Eve (11:15 pm)	St. John's Church
Parish Communion with Carols	Christmas Day (10:00 am)	St. John's Church

## ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome. Sources of protein e.g., tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils etc. In addition, items such as tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces will enable people can where possible prepare meals of their choice. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. Any offerings that you can donate will be welcomed (we have a donations box outside the Church Porch). Thank you.

### Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor.

## WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. Please continue to maintain social distancing where possible and sanitise your hands. We are continuing to offer, for those who wish it, hosts intincted by the Celebrant at all Communion Services. Reintroduction of the Common Cup will be considered again at a later time. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others and where masks will be worn. Please respect this. Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have now received the card reader so we will shortly be able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



### Weekly Services:

#### SUNDAY

8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

#### TUESDAY

9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service
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## FOCUS ON... SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist was active in the area of the River Jordan in the early part of the First Century and he is a major religious figure in Christianity as well as Islam in which he is known as the Prophet Yahya, the Bahâi faith, the Druze faith, and Mandaism. All of these faiths consider John to be Prophet of God. In the Christian tradition, John the Baptist is honoured as a Saint. He is mentioned in the writings of the First Century Romano-Jewish historian Josephus. According to the New Testament testimony, in his preaching, John anticipated a Messianic figure greater than himself; and the Gospels portray John as the forerunner to Jesus. Jesus himself identifies John the Baptist as "Elijah which is to come" which is a reference to an Old Testament text in Malachi Chapter 4 Verse 5, as well as being predicted in the angelic message of John's birth to his Father Zechariah in Luke Chapter 1. Some Bible scholars associate John the Baptist with the Essenes who were a semi-ascetic mystic Jewish sect who looked for the coming of the Messiah and practised ritual Baptism. The Essenes flourished from the Second Century BC to the First Century AD. They are identified with the Qumran caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were deposited. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in a series of 12 caves in the West Bank (then part of Jordan) between 1946 and 1956 by Bedouin shepherds and a team of archaeologists; with further discoveries being made in 2017 and 2021. Most Bible scholars agree that John did Baptise Jesus and several New Testament texts report that some of the followers of Jesus had previously been followers of John. According to the New Testament, John was beheaded by Herod Antipas around AD30 after John had rebuked him for divorcing his wife Phasaelis and unlawfully marrying Herodias, wife of his brother, with the historian Josephus recording that this execution took place at the fortress at Machaerus. In modern times, followers of John the Baptist are the Mandaeans who believe that he is their greatest and final Prophet.

*Canon Tony Bundock*

## COLLECT FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.



## READINGS FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah Ch. 35 V. 1 – 10  
James Ch. 5 VV. 7 – 10

Matthew Ch. 11 VV. 2 – 11

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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, Amen.

## *This Week you are Asked to Pray for:*

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Sally Zeybek, Marcus Barthropp, Gary Webb, Lila King, Rita Probert, Rev Nancy Wallace, Roger Hussey and Dick Field. Also, Margaret Karstens of Kuruman.
- The recently departed including Gordon Gray and George Locke. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Margaret and her family and the family of George together with their friends at this difficult time.
- Kelly Safaris Silva and her family who are currently in need at this time.
- We pray for our Government that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its People.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

## ANNUAL TOY SERVICE

During the 10:00 Service on 11<sup>th</sup> December, we will be holding our Annual Toy Service. Any donated toys should be (1) new and (2) unwrapped, please. These will be collected by the Salvation Army and will support the valuable work they do. Thank you.

