

St John's Harpenden



PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Birth of St John the Baptist

11am Sunday 26th June 2022

Welcome to St John's Church

St John's is the Church of England parish church that serves the people of Southdown, but people worship here from near and far. St John's is aiming to be an Inclusive Church, and welcomes God's people in all their diversity

Our style of worship reflects a commitment to worshipping God with joyful dignity using the richness of the Christian tradition. At the centre of our life together is the Eucharist, in which Christ speaks to us through the Scriptures and becomes present among us in bread and wine.

St John's is a child-friendly church. Feel free to walk around, nurse your child and come and go as is most helpful to you. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities in at the back of church.

There is a loop system in operation for those who need it.

A prayer to say before the service:

*Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your Holy Name,
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

WELCOME

Please stand when the Procession enters.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 46 On Jordan's Bank

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The president informally introduces the service.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

John the Baptist proclaimed,
'Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Let us turn to the Lord in penitence and faith
and humbly confess our sin.

Kneel

**Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in
all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand for the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.***

**Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
almighty God and Father.
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.***

**Lord, Jesus Christ,
only son of the Father.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand
of the Father, receive our prayer.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.***
**For you alone are the Holy one,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
in the Glory of God the father.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.***

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

Almighty God,
by whose providence your servant
John the Baptist was wonderfully born,
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour
by the preaching of repentance:
lead us to repent according to his preaching
and, after his example,
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40.1-11

Read by Brenda Cottle

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 13.14b-26

Read by Jane Donati, Churchwarden

¹⁴but Paul and his companions went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." ¹⁶So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: "You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of

Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance ²⁰for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. ²¹Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²²When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' ²³Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; ²⁴before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'" ²⁶"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 319 Sing we the praises of the great forerunner
please remain seated

Sing we the praises of the great forerunner,
tell forth the mighty wonders of his story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips and make them
fit to extol him.

Lo, God's high herald, swift from heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of marvels
that shall befall thee.

Oft had the prophets in the time before thee
spoken in vision of the Daystar's coming;
but when he came, 'twas thou that didst proclaim him
Saviour of all.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the SERMON

A short silence follows the Sermon.

Stand for THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was

made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will with have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Paul Bedding

The president introduces the prayers and the congregation kneels.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us
Lord, graciously hear us

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand for THE PEACE

The Lord God of Israel has come to his people to set them free
and to guide our feet into the way of peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The Congregation share the sign of the Peace with those immediately around them,
saying 'Peace be with you'.*

OFFERTORY HYMN 291 Christ is made the sure foundation
(v5–8, doxology)

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The president takes the bread and wine*

*Please give generously to the ministry of your church.
If you are a visitor and a tax-payer, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes provided.
Regular worshippers are encouraged to join our stewardship scheme - standing order
forms and information leaflets may be found at the back of church.
Thank you for your gift.*

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Doxology:
Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Remain standing

God of our salvation,
as we praise you for your servant John the Baptist,
accept all we bring to you this day,
and free us to worship you without fear,
in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Among those born of women
you marked out John the Baptist with your special favour
as the one who prepared the way before your Son.
His birth brought great rejoicing;
even in the womb he leapt for joy, so near was our salvation.
Alone of all the prophets,
John hailed the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.
He baptised Jesus, the author of baptism,
in waters made holy by the one baptized.
By shedding his blood
he gave his last and greatest witness to your Son.

And so with angels and archangels
and all the heavenly host
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the ✠ body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking
for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring
before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us
worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of our Lady Mary, St John, St Alban and all
the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to say:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president invites the people to Communion saying:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

All Baptised Christians who normally receive Communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. If you would like to receive a Blessing, bow your head at the Altar rail. Please follow the direction of the wardens.

At the start of Communion the Choir sing

'O come, ye servants of the Lord' - Christopher Tye

COMMUNION HYMN *Remain kneeling or seated.*

595 Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart;

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

299i Give us the wings of faith

1 Give us the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

2 Once they were mourning here below,
their couch was wet with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

3 We ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

4 They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.

5 Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

At the end of Communion Junior Music will sing

'Let all the World, in every corner sing, my God and King'

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray

Merciful Lord, whose prophet John the Baptist
proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the
sin of the world: grant that we who in this sacrament have known your
forgiveness and your life-giving love may ever tell of your mercy and
your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit for the NOTICES

Stand for the FINAL HYMN 754 O Worship the King, all glorious above.

1 O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

6 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Remain standing

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Through the tender compassion of our God
may the dawn from on high break upon you
and guide your feet into the way of peace.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

*Remain standing as an Organ Voluntary begins and the
RECESSION takes place.*

Please stay to continue celebrating with us.

12.30pm

Drinks and refreshments outside

12.50pm

**Opening of Exhibition 'The Story of St John's'
Relaunch of Project Phoenix.**

1pm

**BBQ Lunch in the Vicarage garden including
A bar
Children's trails and activities**

3pm

Rounders on the Common

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