

Sunday 11th January 2025

Baptism of Christ

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

Collect for Today

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Service Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9 (*p.680*), Acts 10:34-43 (*p.126*) and Matthew 3:13-end (*p.3*)

Please pray for

... Mark & Jan Knott, Jenny Powell and Mike Woodcock.

... Jo Garrick and the friends and family of David Garrick who died on 28th December.

... the family and friends of Brian Phillips, Joseph Parke, Lilian Bottomley, Jim Harris and Graham Sparks whose anniversary of death is at this.

... those who live and work in Sandalwood, St Johns Close and St Johns Road.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

Today we'll be focussing our thoughts on Jesus' baptism, as recorded for us in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 3:13-end). Jesus goes out to see John the Baptist, who is baptising in the river Jordan, and asks to be baptised. John is taken aback, realising that this is 'One' who he has foretold would come. How could he – John – baptise one so much greater than himself? But John agrees; and as Jesus comes up out of the water the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily form like a dove. And Jesus hears those extraordinary words of God the Father, 'This is my Son whom I love; with him I am well pleased'.

It's a pivotal moment in Jesus' life, just as each of our baptisms are for us. It's the moment we 'begin' our journey in faith; the moment we start to 'belong' to the body of Christ, the Church; the time we start to 'believe' in Jesus Christ, as Lord and Saviour. These three 'Bs' – beginning, belonging, believing – summarise the central aspects of baptism.

As the new year begins this is a good moment to reflect on baptism, and what it means for us. It's also a good moment to look beyond ourselves and consider who we know who might value an invitation to begin this process of belonging and believing in Jesus our Lord. As John the Baptist called people to be baptised, so we are entrusted with the task of inviting others to come and find a living faith; to make sure than no-one is overlooked; that none are left out in the cold.

Today I would encourage each of us to consider who the Lord is calling us to invite into his presence in the months ahead. We are a missionary church, and we need to keep that focus of invitation as we begin the year together.

Wishing you every blessing for this new year,.

Beverly

Mission Focus for January: ReSkilled

Reskilled works with people who have been unemployed for at least 1 year (the average of participants is almost 7 years unemployed) to learn to make things out of wood, while also learning the general skills they will need to continue on to volunteering roles or paid employment. Most of the wood they use is recycled wood (so if you are getting rid of a table or other good wood, do contact them to see if they can use it). For further information see their website at reskilled.org/ or contact piers@reskilled.org.

Notices

Tea Time Church today: We'll be thinking about Jesus' baptism, our baptisms, and who we could invite to be baptised in the year ahead. Do come along to this interactive service, which is suitable for all ages and stages of life. Beverly.

Congratulations to Anne Bradbeer: Anne has celebrated her 90th birthday this week, and we give thanks to the Lord for this milestone in her life. Well done Anne!

David Garrick: The funeral of David Garrick will be held on Thursday 5th February at 11.30am here at All Saints, with the committal at Guildford Crematorium at 12.45pm. Please pray for Jo and her family.

Lent Course 2026: This year we will be studying a book called, *'The Hard Sayings of Jesus'*, by F.F. Bruce. Dr Bruce was Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at Manchester University, an outstanding teacher and communicator, and a prolific author. We'll be meeting on five consecutive Wednesday evenings, from 25th February through to 25th March, 7.30-9pm at the Vicarage. Please let Beverly know if you would like to come (or complete the sign-up sheet in the foyer).

Deanery Synod this Tuesday, 13th January will be here at All Saints. We'll be serving coffee from 7pm for a 7.30pm meeting start. Inigo Churchill, Diocesan Director of Finance, will be leading a discussion about Parish Share. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Youth Group: Our first meeting of the new year is on Sunday 18th January at 5.30pm. Our Youth Group is open to anyone of secondary school age. Please let Jeanette know if you'd like your young one to attend.

Songs of Praise 25th January at 4pm. We'll be sharing our favourite hymns and talking about what they mean to us. If you'd like to choose a hymn or song then please Jo Dwyer know on 07794 477456 or jo.dwyer19@sky.com.

Queen Eleanor's Junior School the governing body is now looking for new members and would value members from All Saints. As a Church of England school, input from practicing Christians is particularly valuable. If you have a couple of spare hours a week, please speak to Beverly.

Andy and Linda Wells: As Andy prepares for his ordination on 28th June at Guildford Cathedral, he will be embarking on a three-month placement at St Martin's, East Horsley. During this time, Andy and Linda will be worshipping at St Martin's; and we'll be welcoming them back on Easter Day. Please pray for Andy at this very significant time of his life. (Andy will continue his work as our Treasurer during this period).

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

- Mon 12th Pastoral Team Meeting, 5 Elmside, 10.00am
Women's Bible Study Group, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm
Barnabas Group, 26 Manor Way, 4.00pm
- Tues 13th Deanery Synod Meeting, Church, 7.30pm
- Weds 14th Central Team Meeting, Vicarage, 10.00am
Mission Vision Group, The Hopwood's, 5.30pm
PCC Meeting, Vicarage, 7.15pm
- Thurs 15th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Magazine Team Meeting, 43 Poltimore Road, 12.30pm
Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
Men's Group 'Exploring the Way', 21 West Meads, 8.00pm
- Fri 16th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am
- Sat 17th Prayer Breakfast, The Hopwood's, 9.00am
- Sun 18th BCP Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am
Morning Worship with Children's Church, 10.00am
Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm
Youth Group, Church Hall, 5.30pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

- Mon 12th Ps. 2, Genesis 1:1-19, Matthew 21:1-17
- Tues 13th Ps. 9, Genesis 1:20-2:3, Matthew 21:18-32
- Weds 14th Ps. 20, Genesis 2:4-end, Matthew 21:33-end
- Thurs 15th Ps. 21, Genesis 3, Matthew 22:1-14
- Fri 16th Ps. 67, Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26, Matthew 22:15-33
- Sat 17th Ps. 33, Genesis 6:1-10, Matthew 22:34-end

Service Readings for Sunday 18th January: Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and John 1:29-42

Contacts

Revd Beverly Watson, Vicar
vicar@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk
Tel: 07547 416721



Office: administrator@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk Tel: 01483 563173
Safeguarding Officer: safeguarding@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk Tel: 01483 568857



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