

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, TIMBERHILL with ST JULIAN, NORWICH

DECEMBER 2019



Kindle a light
to lighten the darkness

PARISH PEOPLE

Parish Priest

Fr Richard Stanton
The Rectory, 8 Kilderkin Way, Norwich NR1 1RD
01603 626104
richard_stanton@btinternet.com

Fr Richard's rest day is Monday.

Churchwardens

Simon Owers
Farthingale Hall, Tibenham NR16 1PB
07507681908

Shirley Buxton
32 Mansel Drive, Old Catton, Norwich NR6 7NB
01603 404438

PCC Secretary

Liz Kilshaw

PCC Treasurer

Chris Bushnell

Gift Aid Secretary

Michael Watson

Organist

Keith Buxton

Head Server

John Foottit

Electoral Roll Secretary

Elizabeth Sutherland

Deanery Synod representatives

Shirley Buxton, Liz Kilshaw

Parochial Church Council

Mary Barnes-Clay, Fr Peter Barnes-Clay, Garret Cronin, Frank Feehan, John Hunt, Michael Rayner, Susan Snasdell, Elizabeth Sutherland, Brenda Taylor, Nigel Waller

Sidespeople

Garret Cronin, Barbara Donnelly, Andrew Knights (*Senior Sidesman*), Lynda Morrissey, Michael Rayner, Wendy Rayner, Nichola Rose, Diane Sheen, Susan Snasdell, Dorothy Tinkler, Stuart Tinkler, John Woodrow

The Julian Centre

Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1QT • 01603 767380 • www.juliancentre.org
Library and bookshop open 10.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Saturday

Journey to Bethlehem

Dear friends,

The other day I heard someone in a shop say, on her phone, 'To be honest I'm nearly on my knees.' Perhaps this time of year, more than any other, brings people to their knees – maybe because they are exhausted, drained, arms aching from bags of shopping carted through the drizzle, worried about how to choose between competing wings of the family for Christmas; on their knees with cold, hunger, debt or addiction, because they seem to have fallen through the gaps in the net with which we try to gather polite society together; on their knees with the pain of memory, the stab of loneliness, the dim feeling that everyone else, more worthy somehow, is enjoying themselves somewhere.

Mary, that peasant girl from an obscure village whom now millions upon millions call the Queen of Heaven, was on her knees that night which God made 'to shine with the brightness of his one true light.' She was on her knees to cradle her new-born, who though recognised by simple shepherds and astrologers from the East was destined, the old man in the Temple said, to be rejected, misunderstood, derided, pushed aside. 'The world,' says St John, 'knew him not,' and so on his knees in the garden he would wrestle with the Father and ask him, if possible, to take the dreadful cup away.

You and I, who by sharing the life of this Jesus are also born again 'not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God', find ourselves on our knees as we crouch down to look into the Crib this Christmas to gaze on the face of Christ, God Incarnate, in whom 'we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of God we cannot see.' Knowing and loving this God, who loves us so much that in Jesus he reached out to us at Bethlehem and embraced us, invites us to live lives shaped by his generosity, courage and boundless hope. These days of Advent are given to us so that with prayer and penitence we can prepare ourselves, as best as we can, to receive the gift of Christ. Use them well. Advent was designed to bring us to Christmas on our knees.

I wish you and yours a holy Advent and, when it comes, a truly joyful Christmas.

R. Richard

Advent 2019

Sunday 1 December • First Sunday of Advent

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am High Mass (*St John's*) followed by Advent produce stalls

Preacher: The Parish Priest

3.30pm World AIDS Day Service (with the 'Sing with Pride' choir)

Preacher: The Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich

followed by refreshments

Thursdays in Advent • 5, 12 and 19 December

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour's silent prayer

12 noon Low Mass

Sunday 8 December • The Second Sunday of Advent

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am High Mass (*St John's*)

Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Frank Nichols, a week ahead of the celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood

Monday 9 December • Feast of the Immaculate Conception

10am Low Mass (*St Julian's*) followed by the Rosary, then coffee

12 noon Low Mass (*St John's*)

Friday 13 December

1.30 for 2pm Church Family pre-Christmas lunch
at The Oak Tree, Ipswich Road

Saturday 14 December

9.30am onwards: Big pre-Christmas clean of St John's, until Mass at noon

Sunday 15 December • The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am High Mass (*St John's*) followed by the Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Preacher: Fr John Fellows

Monday 16 December

7.30pm LGBT+ Carol Service

Preacher: Fr Darren Thornton CA, Rural Dean of Norwich East and Anglican Chaplain to the University of East Anglia followed by festive refreshments

Saturday 21 December

8am 'Rorate' Mass: a Mass of our Lady by candlelight at dawn on the shortest day of the year (12 noon Mass of the day as usual)

Sunday 22 December • The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am High Mass (*St John's*)

Preacher: The Parish Priest

6pm Parish Carol Service and Benediction (*St John's – n.b.!*)

Confessions before Christmas

'Let us each our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there'

A Priest will be available in St John's to hear Confessions before Christmas on
Tuesday 17 December at 11.30am,
Saturday 21 December at 11am,
Christmas Eve at 11am or by appointment.

Christmas flowers

We warmly welcome your contributions towards the cost of the Christmas flowers. Gifts may be given to Lynton Johnson, Janet Henderson-Long or Fr Richard. We also welcome help with the flower-arranging and decoration of the churches: don't be shy – we'd love you to be involved!

Home Communions

It's always a privilege for the clergy to bring the Holy Sacrament to people who can't get to church. Let Fr Richard know if you, or someone you know, would like Holy Communion brought to your home this Christmas.

Christmas 2019



Tuesday 24 December • Christmas Eve

12 noon Low Mass: Last Mass of Advent (*St John's*)

4pm Crib Service with carols (*St Julian's*)

11.30pm Midnight Mass, Procession and Blessing of the Crib (*St John's*)

Wednesday 25 December • Christmas Day

10am High Mass of the Day with carols (*St Julian's*)

6pm Evening Prayer at the Crib (*St Julian's*)

Thursday 26 December • St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

12 noon Low Mass (*St John's*)

Friday 27 December • St John, Apostle & Evangelist

12 noon Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

Saturday 28 December • Holy Innocents' Day

12 noon Low Mass (*St John's*)

Sunday 29 December • The Holy Family

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am Procession and High Mass with carols (*St John's*)

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 December • in the Octave

Mass as normal: Monday 10am (*St Julian's*); Tuesday 12 noon (*St John's*)

Wednesday 1 January • Mary, Mother of God

11am Mass for New Year's Day (*St Julian's*)

followed by drinks at the Rectory

Sunday 5 January • Solemnity of the Epiphany

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am Procession, Blessing of Chalk and High Mass (*St John's*)

Christmas notes

Service changes

There are one or two changes to the Christmas services this year. On Christmas Eve we are having a simple **Crib Service at St Julian's at 4pm** – we'll assemble the Crib at the front of the church, sing a few favourite carols and hear the Christmas story. This will be particularly suitable for children so do bring your children or grandchildren along as dusk falls.



The wonderful, mystery-laden **Midnight Mass** begins slightly later than in recent years – it starts at 11.30pm at St John's. After Holy Communion the Crib is unveiled and blessed.

On **Christmas Day** both churches will be open as usual, and the popular High Mass of the Day – suitable for all ages, with well-loved carols – takes place at St Julian's at 10am. There will also be Evening Prayer at the Crib in St Julian's at 6pm.

During the **Octave of Christmas** Mass is celebrated every day, but with some slight changes to the times, as shown opposite. These quiet days of Christmastide are a beautiful time to come to Mass.

On **New Year's Day** Mass is at 11am at St Julian's followed by drinks at the Rectory.

A simple invitation

Please make the effort to invite your friends, family and neighbours along to our Advent and Christmas services. Let's be a welcoming Church Family and share this wonderful time of celebration with as many people as possible.

We'll have lots of posters, social media posts and so on – but nothing will be as effective as a simple word from you, and the promise to drop round and collect someone who might be uncertain about coming on their own. Over to you!

Our Christmas charities

The PCC has agreed that this year the cash collection at our principal Christmas services will be divided between three charities. Christmas is a season for giving and it is good for us, who have received so freely, to have this opportunity to look outward and share the blessings for which we are thankful. The charities we will be supporting are:

John Aves Education Project

Founded in memory of Fr John Aves, former Parish Priest of St Giles and Rector of Attleborough, who died in Bethlehem in 2004, JAEP offers undergraduate grants to disadvantaged young people from Dheisheh Palestinian Refugee Camp and its vicinity in Bethlehem who demonstrate academic potential but whose financial and social situation hinders them before pursuing studies within Palestinian universities. Between 2007 and October 2019 JAEP has raised £319,000 and funded 41 young people, enabling them to achieve an undergraduate degree.



John Aves
Education Project

The Children's Society

The Children's Society, with a long history and strong links to the Church of England, works to improve the lives of children and young people for whom it provides services, and seeks to create positive shifts in social attitudes to improve the situations facing all children and young people. It works with children who have been sexually exploited, campaigns to end child poverty, helps children to access mental health support, tackles criminal exploitation and drug running, supports young carers, refugees and migrants.



Sightsavers

Sightsavers works in more than thirty countries worldwide to prevent avoidable blindness, support equality for people with disabilities and advocate for change. They treat and prevent eye conditions such as cataracts, trachoma and refractive error and help to fight and treat neglected tropical diseases which affect over a billion people worldwide.



Sightsavers

Christ the King

At the end of November we had a joyful celebration of the great Feast of Christ the King with High Mass, Procession of the Host and Benediction. It was a wonderful occasion with so many people in church that the front of the procession ended up meeting the back as we wound our way round the aisles! We enjoyed welcoming Fr Darren Smith, Chairman of the Church Union and General Secretary of the Additional Curates Society, as our guest preacher, and took a retiring collection from which we have sent £105 to support their work: thank you for your gifts.



December 2019

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | Sun | First Sunday of Advent. 3.30pm World AIDS Day Service. |
| 2 | Mon | <i>Advent Feria</i> |
| 3 | Tue | St Francis Xavier |
| 4 | Wed | St John Damascene |
| 5 | Thu | <i>Advent Feria.</i> 11am Exposition. |
| 6 | Fri | St Nicholas |
| 7 | Sat | St Ambrose |
| 8 | Sun | Second Sunday of Advent |
| 9 | Mon | THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM 10am and 12 noon LM |
| 10 | Tue | <i>Advent Feria (of Requiem)</i> |
| 11 | Wed | <i>Advent Feria (commem. St Damasus)</i> |
| 12 | Thu | Our Lady of Guadalupe. 11am Exposition. |
| 13 | Fri | St Lucy |
| 14 | Sat | St John of the Cross |
| 15 | Sun | Third Sunday of Advent |
| 16 | Mon | <i>Advent Feria.</i> 7.30pm LGBT+ Carol Service. |
| 17 | Tue | O Sapientia |
| 18 | Wed | O Adonai |
| 19 | Thu | O Radix Jesse. 11am Exposition. |
| 20 | Fri | O Clavis David |
| 21 | Sat | O Oriens. 8am 'Rorate' Mass of our Lady. 12 noon LM. |
| 22 | Sun | Fourth Sunday of Advent. 6pm Parish Carol Service. |
| 23 | Mon | O Emmanuel (commem. St John of Kanty) |
| 24 | Tue | Christmas Eve. 12 noon LM. 4pm Crib Service. 11.30pm HM |
| 25 | Wed | THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY. 10am HM |
| 26 | Thu | St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr. 12 noon LM |
| 27 | Fri | St John, Apostle & Evangelist. 12 noon LM |
| 28 | Sat | The Holy Innocents. 12 noon LM |
| 29 | Sun | Sunday in the Octave of Christmas: The Holy Family 11am Procession & HM. |
| 30 | Mon | in the Octave of Christmas |
| 31 | Tue | in the Octave of Christmas |

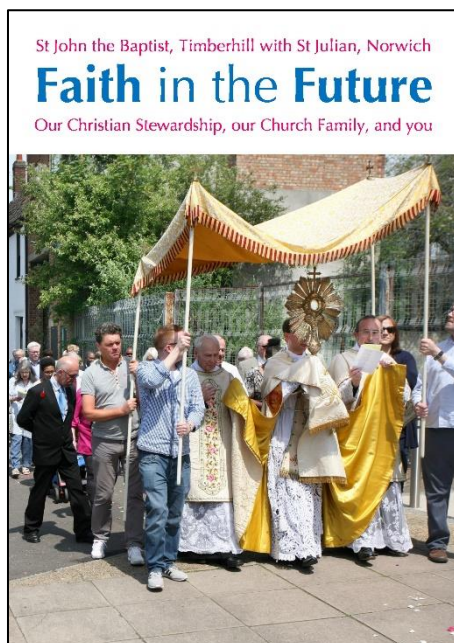
We pray for...

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Our Parish and People | 1 |
| Those who have lapsed from the Faith | 2 |
| Migrants and refugees | 3 |
| Preachers and teachers of the Faith | 4 |
| Our mission to this parish | 5 |
| Our bishops, Norman and Graham | 6 |
| Theologians | 7 |
| Our Parish and People | 8 |
| The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham | 9 |
| Year's Minds for December | 10 |
| A wider reading of Holy Scripture | 11 |
| Our country: General Election today | 12 |
| The blind and partially sighted | 13 |
| Mystical theologians and poets | 14 |
| Our Parish and People | 15 |
| Visitors to the Julian Shrine | 16 |
| Those travelling at Christmas | 17 |
| Those who work in the media | 18 |
| Our self-offering to the Lord | 19 |
| The hungry and homeless | 20 |
| Members of the Society of Jesus | 21 |
| Our Parish and People | 22 |
| The people of Poland | 23 |
| A devout keeping of the feast | 24 |
| Our Parish and People | 25 |
| Those persecuted for their faith | 26 |
| Thanksgiving for the Incarnation | 27 |
| Abused and suffering children | 28 |
| Our Parish and People | 29 |
| Refugees | 30 |
| Those who are lonely at this time | 31 |

Faith in the Future: Stewardship thanks

This autumn we undertook a major Christian Stewardship Campaign in the Church Family, to encourage ourselves to think afresh about the responsibility which we share for the support of Christ's Church of which we are members. We reflected on our giving of financial resources to enable the Church's mission and ministry in this parish, and we also considered the ways in which we can give of our time, talents and energy to build up the Body of Christ and share the work of ministry and service.

Everyone on the Electoral Roll received a Stewardship pack explaining our needs and opportunities, and further packs in unaddressed envelopes were made available for anybody else who wanted one. In total just over ninety packs were distributed. The response cards were returned by the Dedication Festival, Sunday 27 October, and the responses were presented at the altar at the offertory and our resolutions blessed.



The results of the Campaign have now been analysed and we are delighted with the response made. It is hugely encouraging. It's not an end in itself – it's a beginning, a new way of trying to think about our Stewardship, a 'new normal'.

Your generous and sacrificial responses, if the pledges made are kept, will enable us to go a long way towards putting our Church Family finances on a more secure footing. 13 new standing orders have been created, and a further 16 people or households have increased their existing standing orders. Several people have requested weekly envelopes, and these will be issued in the New Year.

We've also been pleased that more people have signed forms to 'Gift Aid' their giving to the church, which means that at no extra cost to you we can reclaim the tax you've already paid on it. And we received back many offers of help and involvement in the 'time and talents' forms, so you will start to see new people appearing on various rotas and in new ministries in the coming weeks. If you think you made an offer and haven't been contacted yet, please know that we haven't forgotten you!

Fr Richard will be writing individually to everyone who responded to the Campaign, but we want to say a huge thank you now to everyone who had 'faith in the future' and made a response of any kind. It's your commitment and hope which means we can go forward confidently and it gives us a solid foundation on which to build and continue to develop our worship, witness, welcome, ministry and mission. **Thank you and God bless you.**

If you didn't get a Stewardship pack, or didn't get round to responding, it's not too late – forms to set up regular giving are available in church and can be returned to the Treasurer (in person or care of the Rectory) at any time. We encourage everyone who considers themselves a member of our Church Family to support the life of our church through regular giving – it's not the amount that's important, but the Christian commitment represented by a regular and planned gift. AND we continue to encourage involvement in all aspects of Church Family life: we want you and need you to take part wherever you can!

Save the date!

Saturday 1 February

A Parish Vision Day

St John's Timberhill • 10am to 2pm
including Mass and lunch

An opportunity for members of the Church Family to gather to think, pray and talk about who we are and where we're going; our priorities and opportunities; our potential for growth and areas we need to work on. This is open to anybody who'd like to come. More details in the New Year.

Fabric matters

We are currently engaged in a number of projects connected with our buildings and fabric. As so often, like buses, these tend to come along together even when we haven't quite planned for it! Here's an update on what's happened and what we're doing.

Lighting at St John's

The lighting system at St John's, a state-of-the-art installation which was much admired when completed in 1997, has been showing signs of age for some time, with many lights not working and others not responding to the computerised controls which dim and raise the lights at different points in the liturgy and different times of the day. Nearly the whole of the south aisle has been unlit, for instance. We have engaged Kings & Barnhams of Fakenham to carry out remedial work, fitting new lamps, adapting the defunct computer panel which controls some of the lights, and at least giving sufficient light in the church for the winter. After a series of site visits it appears that the problems are more extensive than initially realised. This work is ongoing.

Heating at St Julian's

The heating in the main church at St Julian's, which was repaired last winter, broke again on All Saints' Day, so the High Mass that night was rather chilly! The heating system was installed in the early 1990s. It consists of a gas-fired air heater mounted on the roof of the tower, which then blows warm air into the church from the west end. The problems with the system are compounded by its inaccessibility: because it is mounted on the roof of the tower, it can only be accessed by external scaffolding which has to be booked and erected before the system can be analysed. We are hopeful at the time of writing that we will have heat back in the church for Christmas.

Vandalism

An act of vandalism in St John's on Monday 18 November caused significant damage to the image of Our Lady of Walsingham and minor damage to the statue of St Joseph. Pray for the person responsible. We thank those who restored order the following day; Mass was celebrated again at the Lady Altar the following Thursday, the Feast of Our Lady's Presentation. The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is currently away from the church being assessed for restoration. This sort of event, though happily infrequent, seems to be a sad consequence of our clear policy of keeping the church open all

day, every day, for prayer, quiet and visiting. We are now reviewing the CCTV coverage of the church, and we also appeal to members of the congregation to 'pop in' to either church whenever they are passing, to increase the presence of people 'coming and going'. It would also be good for your prayer life and devotion: is that what they call 'win-win'?!

Drainage at St Julian's

Damp, and consequent peeling plaster and other unpleasantness, has long been a problem at St Julian's, and our architect is investigating the drainage in the churchyard to ensure that water is taken away from the building rather than towards it. An exploratory trench was dug at the foot of the south walls (around the back of the sacristy) during the autumn, which has now been filled in for safety reasons. The architect and contractor are in the process of preparing potential solutions.

Painting at St Julian's

It has been our ambition for some time to redecorate Lady Julian's Cell (with the same colour scheme), and we now hope this work will be undertaken in January, subject to the necessary permissions being obtained. The Mass schedule will continue uninterrupted wherever possible, with Mass being celebrated at the high altar in the church. The Friends of Julian of Norwich have kindly agreed to pay for this project.

Thanks and a caution

These major projects have the potential to be heavily draining of both time and energy, so we must be careful not to allow them to distract us from the real work of the Church. Well-maintained buildings are not an end in themselves: they are signs of our love for God whom we meet there in Word and Sacrament, and also springboards to the mission of witness and service to which all Christians are called.

That being said, we are deeply conscious of how many people contribute their time and energy to keeping our two churches open, clean and tidy, beautifying them with flowers, tending to linens and altars, undertaking DIY jobs (such as the recent pressure-washing of the steps at St John's, or the extensive replacement of lights at St Julian's) and other signs of your care. Thank you!! We are always delighted to welcome more volunteers who can take any share in this much-needed work!

R.O.S.

People who need an Advent

A Sermon preached by Fr Richard Stanton, Parish Priest,
in St John the Baptist, Timberhill, at the High Mass on
the First Sunday of Advent: 1 December 2019

Lections Isaiah 2.1-5: *Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord*
Romans 13.11-14: *Our salvation is even nearer*
St Matthew 24.37-44: *Stand ready: the Son of Man is coming*

'You know the time has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is near.'
(Romans 13.11)

The bells of waiting Advent ring' – and do they find an echo in us? Because Advent is for you and me, who are in need of a Saviour, who stand on the heights and draw ourselves tall and peer into the distance and long for our liberation to be at hand.

When Jesus, this one who is coming again at an hour which we do not expect, saw great crowds, he went up the mountain, sat down and taught his disciples, and he began with those words we call the 'Beatitudes', in which he pronounces blessings on those normally assumed to be unfortunate. The first of all, in the translation we're used to, is: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Another translation puts it like this: 'How blest are those who know their need of God.'

And Advent is for them. Advent is for those who know their need of God, because Advent is where they are living – yearning in hope, expectant, eager, waiting for their salvation to be revealed, waiting for one who is going to change everything, waiting for justice and restitution and forgiveness and renewal, waiting for peace, waiting.

Those are waiting are those who know their need of God. They know their need for him to come into their lives and fill them, complete them, perfect them. Those who know their need of God have an open ache in their hearts, arms stretched out, eyes strained, muscle and sinew taut and tensed. They are like the deer who yearns for flowing streams, and in the same way their souls are yearning for God, the living God, to come to us to heal us and to be with us. The waters which were sprinkled on us at the beginning of this Mass recalled for us, at the start of this Advent season, the gracious act of the

Lord in coming to us in our baptism to make us children of God and heirs of everlasting life. And yet, our experience in our Christian journey through this world is that our God plants in our hearts a desire for him which is never fully quenched, never entirely satisfied, so that we might know him as our soul's true happiness, and recognise with St Augustine that he has made us for himself, and our hearts will be restless until they find their rest in him.

I think Advent can sometimes feel to us slightly like play-acting, going through Act One of a performance even though we know what will happen in Acts Two and Three. Quickly, scarcely noticed, the weeks of Advent will pass, and we will sing the familiar hymns and listen to the familiar scriptures, and in the world outside the Church we will already have set off on the Christmas merry-go-round, riding its well-worn paths through family parties and school nativities and pushy advertising and long queues in fluorescent shops. But each of us, from time to time, is brought up short by life, and we discover again the reality of Advent. Perhaps when our plans hadn't worked out again, or when our heart was broken, or when sickness or sadness stopped us in our tracks, or when God seemed far away, or when cancer or homelessness or war or our fickle friends or bereavement or our shock at something we never thought we would do stole our security from us – perhaps *then* we found ourselves plunged into Advent, an Advent like the centuries-long Advent kept by the children of Israel, who really were waiting for someone who would come and change everything. Perhaps Advent can only be real for us if we are numbered among those whom Jesus called blessed because they know their need of God.

The rich and sober worship of the Church in these opening days of Advent reminds us that the kingdom of God will be apprehended first of all by those who are yearning especially for it because of their adversity. Nobody who thinks they have it made, who thinks the world has supplied them with all they need, who thinks they are superior to others – none of those people need an Advent, because it hasn't sunk through their flesh and into their bones. The Church's Advent is the Advent of those who *must* trust, *must* hope and watch and pray, because this world's promises or possibilities have worn thin and cheap for them. You know who they are: they will be looking at you, in the coming weeks, out of dozens of Christmas charity appeals, out of doorways and bus windows, out of the pews around you in church – those vessels which know that they are empty, and are waiting, wanting, needing to be filled.

So St Paul rightly calls us to attention, this Advent Sunday morning, and demands that we wake up because night is almost over and the day is close at hand. He calls us to advance courageously to meet the Lord, like those in our first reading who streamed up the mountain of the Lord to seek the peace which is the gift of the promised Messiah. These days of Advent demand of us an attentiveness to the comings of Christ – his coming in history at the end of Israel's long Advent when for us and for our salvation he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man; his coming in the mystery of the Church, when in word and sacrament and in the life of his baptised people his face is seen and his mercy received; his coming in majesty at the end of time, when there will be nothing to choose between his mercy and his justice.

It is now time for us to wake and to learn, or to re-learn, our appalling, fundamental poverty and our need of God, in the humility of a faith which believes that he really is coming to us, really *does* come to us, really *has* come to us. We know, of course, that this God, our God, the God and Father of Jesus Christ, has already come to us, 'not in power but in weakness', when he declared himself fully and totally in Jesus in the manger, Jesus Crucified. But that Event, that fact of Jesus incarnate, dead and risen, which is God's own NOW because for him it's a permanent reality, a constant truth, is taking us time to comprehend, and it's still making its effects known, patiently, quietly – as one hymn says, 'soul by soul and silently' – and so you and I are always on the threshold of God's coming, always waiting by the door looking hopefully into the night, both knowing and not knowing what exactly he will be like when he comes.

So I challenge you, as I challenge myself, to use this Advent to open wide the doors for Christ and not so much to *make* room for him as to *admit* that there is room for him, rooms you may even have shut up long ago because the house seemed too big and you were content with the small space you had. Open wide the doors for Christ, and allow him to count you among those who are blessed because they know their need of him whose light pierces our darkness and whose hope inflates our despondency, so that as we stream together up the mountain of the Lord, our cry will be the song of the children of Israel when their God took away the shroud cast over all nations: 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

Amen.

From the Parish Registers

Communicants and collections

| | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Weekday</i> | <i>Collection</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Week beginning</i> 27 October | 77 | 113 | £519.44 |
| 3 November | 68 | 55 | £276.45 |
| 10 November | 69 | 28 | £310.82 |
| 17 November | 60 | 43 | £248.03 |
| 24 November | 82 | 40 | £258.34 |

The collection figure above does not include the amount given by standing order, which averages £1,300 a month

Coming up in January and February

Sunday 12 January • Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

11am High Mass

Tuesday 28 January

7.30pm Parochial Church Council meeting (following 7pm Low Mass)

Saturday 1 February

10am to 2pm Parish Vision Day (see page 13)

Sunday 2 February • Candlemas Day: The Presentation of Our Lord

11am Candlemas Procession and High Mass

Saturday 22 February

12 noon High Mass, Baptism and Confirmation celebrated by the Bishop of Richborough

Sunday 23 February • Quinquagesima

Preacher at 11am High Mass: Fr Adrian Ling, Rector of South and West Lynn.

Wednesday 26 February • Ash Wednesday

10am and 12 noon Low Mass. 7.30pm High Mass.

WORSHIP WITH US

We warmly welcome you.

Services are at St John's unless otherwise stated.

Sundays

9am Low Mass (*St Julian's*)

11am High Mass and Sermon
followed by refreshments

Weekdays

The Mass

Monday 10am (*St Julian's*)

Tuesday 12 noon

Wednesday 10am (*St Julian's*)

Thursday 12 noon

Friday 5pm (*St Julian's*)

Saturday 12 noon

The Rosary

Monday 10.30am (*St Julian's*)

Morning Prayer

Every day (except Monday), 8.30am

Evening Prayer

Every day (except Monday), 6pm (*St Julian's*)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 11am to 12 noon,
or by appointment with one of the Priests

St John's and St Julian's are both **open all day, every day** for prayer, quiet and visiting. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved on the High Altar in both churches for the Communion of the Sick and the devotion of the faithful.

We warmly welcome enquiries about **baptisms and weddings**.
We will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

www.stjohnstimberhill.org

Find us on Facebook: fb.com/stjohnthebaptisttimberhill