

Holy Communion

Collect for Sunday 18th December

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 7:10-16
(p676 in the OT of the Church Bibles)
Read by Alison Peyton

Matthew 1:18-25
(p4 in the NT of the Church Bibles)

Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Mark Laynesmith
Preaching by Richard Croft
Worship led by Rev. Gary Collins
Prayers led by Rachel Thake

Hymns for Today

Come now with Awe

Joy has dawn

From the squalor of a borrowed stable

I will sing forever of the mercy of God

Happy are those who abandon themselves to you

There's a wideness of God's mercy

*All are invited to come for communion and prayer.
If you do not wish to take communion, please come for prayer.
If you have any particular need, problem or prayer request
please speak to a member of the clergy after the service.*

Christmas Eve

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on
earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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.

Christmas Day

Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Merry Christmas!

**Wishing everyone at
St John's and St
Stephen's a very Happy
Christmas and a blessed
New Year!**

**Please note the Church Office is closed
from the 21st December until 5th January
2017**

Holy Communion

Collect for Sunday 1st January

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us through
your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Numbers 6:22-27
(p136 in the OT of the Church Bibles)
Read by Andrew Taylor

Luke 2:15-21
(p75 in the NT of the Church Bibles)

Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Christine
Bainbridge
Preaching by Rev. Christine Bainbridge
Prayers led by Donald Chambers

Hymns for Today

As with gladness, men of old

This Child

See amid the winters snow


Kindle the flame

Good news to you we bring



Remember to check the
pigeon holes for Christmas
Cards!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ewa Folta (20th)
Leslie Russell, Joanna Laynesmith & Judy Fisher (21st)
Chloe Gardner & Isobel Wharton (22nd)
Chris Bicknell (25th)
Norma Stevenson (27th)
Alice Ripley (28th)
Hilary May (30th)





The Church of
**St John &
 St Stephen**

*To know Christ and to
 make Him known*

Church Diary

Sun 18th	10.30 am	Holy Communion (sung)
	6.30pm	Carol by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun 1st	10.30 am	Holy Communion (sung)

- Prayers for Hugh, Judy & their family
- Prayers for Spence and the family
- Prayers for Jean Skusse
- Give thanks for a clear biopsy result for Mike Kennedy
- Prayers for Don and Ruth Mason
- Prayers for Jenny Sullivan who used to worship at St John's. She has finished her treatment and waiting for the results of her PET scan.

Small Groups

Oasis (Bridget Barwick).....	966 9735	Wed 1.30pm
Richard and Rosemary Croft.....	926 0672	Thurs 8 pm
Jeremy and Rachel Thake ..	987 1288	Thurs 8.30 pm
Judith Lawrence	954 1332	Thurs 7.30 pm

You are welcome to join with any group - please speak to contact/leader

Vicar:	Vincent Gardner 07901 737649
Church Office:	Tanya Penn (0118) 926 3633

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 0118 926 3633
 e-mail: stjohms@readingchurches.org.uk

Items for prayer and notices
 Please give any items for prayer or notices to Rev Vincent Gardner *before* 9 am on Wednesday by pigeon hole, e-mail or phone.



Advent & Christmas



Don't rush away! Please feel free to join us after the morning service for a cup of coffee or tea. We look forward to your company.

18th December—Oasis Group
 1st January—Croft Homegroup

The link person from the Welcome Team is Marion Harwood (18th) & Ian Maynard (1st)