

## Holy Communion

### Collect for Sunday

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour we might be ready  
to receive him, who is our Lord and God.

Amen

**Reading - Malachi 3:1-4**  
(page 927 of OT in bibles)  
Read by Andrew Taylor

**Gospel - Luke 3:1-6**  
(page 71 of NT in bibles)

**Eucharist** presided by Revd Christine Bainbridge  
**Preaching** by Richard Croft  
**Worship** led by Revd Gary Collins

### Hymns for Today

Hail to the Lord's anointed  
Overwhelmed by love  
Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus  
*Take, O take me as I am*  
Creator God  
May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

*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.*

## Prayers of wholeness

Prayers of wholeness, with anointing of oil, will be part of the communion service today.

## Learn4life

Andrea Smith, from Scripture union's learn4life is looking for volunteers to help with Thursday afternoons, enrichment activities for years 7-9 at John Madjewski Academy in Whitley eg sports, arts and crafts, sewing, baking, cake decorating, photography, knitting and crochet, video editing skills, or graphic design, Bike maintenance, Car maintenance? 1 adult with 2 young people.

Contact [andrea4schools@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrea4schools@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.learn4lifeuk.org](http://www.learn4lifeuk.org)

## Christmas Choir

Choir practice for the carol service will be on Saturday 15th December 9.30am and after the service on Sunday 16th December.

## Trauma Informed Communities

**9th January 2019 at 5.30pm**  
**St John's primary School RG1 3JN**

Come and see the film 'Resilience. The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope' and discuss what can be done to prevent childhood trauma and improve quality of life for those affected by childhood trauma by creating trauma informed communities.

**advent**  
**the meaning is in the waiting**

You are warmly invited to celebrate with us through Advent and Christmas this December.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Advent Sunday. All-age Service
16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Patronal Festival with Bishop Andrew
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Celebration

St John & St Stephen's

## Future Dates for the Diary

<b>Evening Carol Service</b>	16th December—6.30pm
<b>Patronal Festival with Bishop Andrew</b>	23rd December—10.30am
<b>Midnight Mass</b>	24th December—11.30pm
<b>Christmas Service</b>	25th December—10.30am

## Birthdays

Mary Langshaw (9th)

Freya Revilla Bennis (11th)

Ben Harwood (13th)

## Prayers

- Please pray for Bill Gothard and his worsening Parkinson's Disease. Please pray too, for their daughter, Alice, who has MS, for Chris's sister who has advanced cancer and for the impact of all this on Chris.
- Prayers for John Lawrence, son of Judith, as he continues his treatment
- Prayers for Leslie & June Russell.

Please give any items for prayer or notices to The Office *before* 9am on Wednesday by pigeon hole, e-mail or phone.



**Called to be Christ-like**  
CONTEMPLATIVE • COMPASSIONATE • COURAGEOUS

## Church Diary

<b>Sun 9th</b>	10.30am 2-5pm	Holy Communion (sung) Contact Centre
<b>Mon 10th</b>	9am 10-12pm 1-3pm	Morning Prayer English Class Monday Monsters
<b>Tues 11th</b>	9.45am 12-2pm	Fireside Coffee Morning Jacket Potato Club
<b>Weds 12th</b>	1.30-3.30pm 6-9pm	Oasis Cubs & Scouts
<b>Thurs 13th</b>	10.45am 11.15am	Holy Communion (Café) Coffee morning
<b>Fri 14th</b>	9am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sat 15th</b>	9.30am	Choir practice
<b>Sun 16th</b>	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (sung) Carol Service

## Small Groups

Oasis (Bridget Barwick)	966 9735	Wed 1.30pm
Richard & Rosemary Croft	926 0672	Thurs 8.00 pm
Jeremy & Rachel Thake	987 1288	Thurs 8.00 pm
Judith Lawrence	954 1332	Thurs 7.30 pm

*You are welcome to join - please speak to contact/leader*

Vicar: **Rev'd Vincent Gardner**  
On extended leave

Curate: **Rev'd Gary Collins**  
07986 901879

Associate Priest: **Rev'd Christine Bainbridge**  
07939 662980

Church Office: **Tanya Penn**  
(0118) 926 3633

121-147 Orts Road Reading RG1 3JN. Tel. 0118 926 3633  
e-mail: [office@stjohnandststephen.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnandststephen.org.uk)  
website: [stjohnandststephen.org.uk](http://stjohnandststephen.org.uk)



## Second Sunday in Advent

9th December 2018



### WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH.

**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.**

9th December—Judith Lawrence & Homegroup  
16th December—Peter & Nancy Crooks

Welcome Team leader **Maureen Stevens**  
On-duty Warden today is **Ian Maynard**

**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.**

Image: 'Prophet Isaiah' by Marc Chagall, 1968