



## Midnight Mass

### Holy Communion

*Collect for Midnight Mass*

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of  
salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 52:7-10  
*(p718 in the OT of the Church Bibles)*

John 1:1-14  
*(p116 in the NT of the Church Bibles)*

Eucharist celebrated by Revd. Gary Collins  
Preaching by Revd. Peter Crooks  
Worship led Revd Gary Collins  
Prayers led by Clergy

### Hymns for Today

Once in Royal David's city

In the bleak mid-winter

Silent night

Hark the herald angels sing

*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 Day

### Christmas Day

*Collect*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Isaiah 9:2-7  
*(p678 in the OT of the Church Bibles)*

Luke 2:1-10  
*(p75 in the NT of the Church Bibles)*

### Hymns for Today

Joy to the world

A great and mighty wonder

What child is this

*Away in a manger*

O come all ye faithful

## Happy 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 24th  
December until 8th January 2019**

## Holy Communion

### Holy Communion

*Collect for Sunday 30th December*

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.

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26  
*(p266 in the OT of the Church Bibles)*  
Read by Rachel Thake

Luke 2:41-52  
*(p76 in the NT of the Church Bibles)*

Eucharist celebrated by Revd. Christine Bainbridge  
Preaching by Revd. Peter Crooks  
Worship led Revd. Christine Bainbridge  
Prayers led by Reeba Ushas

### Hymns for Today

Good News, Good news to you we bring  
O little town of Bethlehem  
Calypso Carol  
*Silent Night*  
Hark the Herald Angels sing.

## Christmas Cards

**Don't forget to check the your pigeon holes for  
Christmas cards!**



## Birthdays

**Chris Bicknell (25th)**  
**Norma Stevenson (27th)**  
**Alice Ripley (28th)**  
**Hilary May (30th)**  
**Jendi Penillse (1st)**

## Prayers

- Pray for those in our community who feel isolated and lonely at this time of year
- 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.
- Prayers for Carol Meunier

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

Sun 30th 10.30am Holy Communion (sung)

31st December—4th January Low Week

Parish Centre Closed

No clergy available

Sun 6th 10.30am Holy Communion (sung)

## 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)



**St. John &  
 St. Stephen's**

## Christmas Season

Midnight Mass, Christmas Day &  
 30th December



### 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.**

30th December—Thake Homegroup

6th January—Oasis Group

Welcome Team leader 30th December—**Ian Maynard**  
 On-duty Warden on 30th December is **Rosemary Croft**

Credit - Icon of the Theotokos (God Bearer) "Sweet-Kissing" 17th century