

25th December 2020

WELCOME

Christmas Day

to

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Wishing you all a very Holy and Blessed Christmas

10 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST

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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Isaiah 9 vv 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Titus 2 vv 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 2 vv 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Hymns

- O Come, all ye faithful vv 1,2,6 & 7 (61)
- Of the Father's love begotten (64)
- In the bleak mid-winter (55)
- Silent night, holy night (69)
- O little town of Bethlehem (63)

Reflection – Christmas Vigil

Mother of God, with the Christ child visit me this night.

As I watch in prayer transform me, birth me into God.

With the daybreak, his Word upon my lips, filled with his joy and grace, transformed to receive afresh the Word made flesh.

David Hodges

Message from Canon Elaine

I know many of us are disappointed at not seeing our families this year but I take heart from the words from Isaiah for Christmas morning – *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.”*

We are living in a land of deep darkness at the moment but let us never forget that the light of Christ has shined upon us. We are people who walk where the Christ-light has already been – Emmanuel – Christ with us now and ever shall be! We will get through this, we will be embracing our families once again. Let Him be born afresh in us today.

Christmas Socks and Jumpers

Thank you to everyone who joined in last week by wearing their Christmas attire. We hope you checked out the photos on Facebook. You helped to raise £62.45 for church funds.

Entering Church

Taking into consideration the current Tier 3 situation, the corona virus statistics and concerns about numbers of people going into church apart from our Sunday worship the wardens along with Canon Elaine have made the decision that the lock on the outer door will be temporarily changed and only limited keys will be issued. This is for the health and wellbeing of everyone. Anyone wishing to enter the church for reasons other than services, although we do not envisage this being a regular request, will need to speak to Elaine, Claire or Alan. We hope that the majority of things can wait until Sunday when we are open as normal. Thank you for your co-operation on this.

Used Postage Stamps

In this Christmas time just a reminder that Pat Gregory would like your used postage stamps please. These go to help The Bransby Home for Horses. There will be baskets in each porch so any donation of stamps can be left there. Thank you.

Mission of St. John's Church

To be a caring community striving to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ;
sharing in the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
and to love our neighbour, having the Eucharist at the centre of our worship.