



# St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

If you wish to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, please email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk) marking your email 'Newsletter Article' by **12 noon Thursdays weekly**.

## Church Services (also on-line)

### Saturday 7 January

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Sunday 8 January – Baptism of the Lord

10.30 Solemn Mass– Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer

### Monday 9 January

NO MASS

### Tuesday 10 January

NO MASS

### Wednesday 11 January

NO MASS

### Thursday 12 January

12.30 Mass – Fr Robert Ward

### Friday 13 January

10.00 BCP Mass – Rev'd Prebendary John Andrews

### Saturday 14 January

NO MASS

### Sunday 15 January – Second Sunday

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Isaiah 42:1-4 & 6-7 (*Reader: Robert*)

Psalms 29

***R: The Lord will bless his people with peace, with peace***

Acts 10:34-38 (*Reader: Alison*)

St Matthew 3:13-17

*Intercessor – Kevin*

Faith is to believe  
what we do not see,  
and the reward of this  
faith is to see what we  
believe.  
Augustine

## Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

First, many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard for our keeping of the Christmas season, readers, intercessors, servers, musicians, and those who organized our outreach activities. It has been splendid, and your PCC committees will be meeting after I return from a few days holiday to consider lessons learned, so if you have any insights to offer, please do talk with me or the Wardens or Sarah Lewis.

It is a delight to welcome Bishop Mike Hill as our preacher on Sunday for the Baptism of the Lord. And it will be a delight to welcome Archdeacon Adrian on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. The Wardens and I want to encourage you to be present on both occasions if you possibly can be, so that both Bishop and Archdeacon can see the community we have become.

Next week Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 12.30pm (Fr Robert) and Friday at 10am (John). Thank you, fathers, for standing in. There will be no other weekday services.

In the Orthodox Church calendar, the Baptism of Christ is the central focus of Epiphany. Jesus's baptism is the occasion of a second, and more dramatic, manifestation (*epiphaneia*) of his glory. Like the visit of the Magi, it foreshadows his paschal sacrifice and triumph. John's baptism resembled the practice of proselyte baptism for Gentile converts (the word *baptizein* meaning to make someone or something go down into water). In extending this practice to the Jewish people and their leaders, John was "in effect declaring that everyone stands in need of conversion, signaling their repentance and turning to God" (Anna Case-Winters, *Belief — A Theological Commentary on the Bible: Matthew*).

For Jesus to receive such a baptism might seem unnecessary. Yet when John the Baptist queries this, Jesus replies: "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." The Eastern Church sees this remark as an anticipation of Jesus's prayer to

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the Father: "Not what I want, but what you want" (Matthew 26.39). As the late Pope Benedict XVI explains, at the Jordan — as in the garden of Gethsemane — Jesus's "Yes" to the Father's entire will expresses solidarity with human beings who "have incurred guilt but yearn for righteousness" (*Jesus of Nazareth: From the baptism in the Jordan to the transfiguration*).

Jesus is the sinless victim whose paschal sacrifice alone can cleanse sinful humanity. It is what Jesus calls the "baptism" of the Cross (Mark 10.38), which will reveal the full meaning of his baptism in the Jordan. In the words of St Cyril of Alexandria, "Christ was not baptised as one repenting but as one cleansing sins and sanctifying the waters."

Let us, dear friends, rejoice in the gift of our baptism, and seek to be faithful to the promises which were made there, and so turn to Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

With my love and prayers,  
Fr Brendan

## PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

<b>Saturday 7 January</b>	Our Lady of Walsingham, St John's Walsingham cell as we gather together to celebrate Mass
<b>Sunday 8 January</b>	Our Church and parish and the residents of Millcross and Byfields
<b>Monday 9 January</b>	All in hospital awaiting surgery and all who care for them
<b>Tuesday 10 January</b>	William Laud, beheaded for his faith in 1645
<b>Wednesday 11 January</b>	Mary Slessor and all who foster or adopt unwanted children, especially twins
<b>Thursday 12 January</b>	The market traders. All who lack friends or companions with whom to share worries or concerns
<b>Friday 13 January</b>	George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends – Quakers. All Friends and Quakers
<b>Saturday 14 January</b>	Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Sunday 15 January</b>	Our Church and parish and the residents of Little Ham and Parsons Green

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All subject to there being no changes in Covid restrictions)

<b>Friday 6 January</b>	Epiphany Party at the Vicarage after the 19.30 Mass
<b>Sunday 15 January</b>	Celebration Sunday – The Archdeacon's Visit
<b>Sunday 29 January</b>	The Presentation of the Lord – Hot Meal in the Church Hall at 12.30 Tickets £7.50 (under 16's free). Details at the back of Church
<b>Saturday 18 February</b>	Jumble Sale in the Church Hall – 14.00 to 16.00. Details to follow.
<b>Sunday 19 February</b>	Celebration Sunday – Sunday before Lent
<b>Sunday 19 March</b>	Celebration Sunday – Mothering Sunday
<b>Sunday 9 April</b>	Celebration Sunday – Easter Day



## **CANDLEMAS LUNCH**

### **Sunday 29 January**

### **12.30 in the Church Hall**

**Tickets (available from Sarah) £7.50 per person**  
**– under 16's free**

**Menu details at the back of Church**

**Vegetarian option available**

**Please speak to Sarah or Debra if you have a dietary requirement**

### **Offertory Collection**

A recent review has resulted in a decision to continue with a retiring collection for all services, the collection plate is located just inside the church entrance, as is our Electronic Payment Card Reader for those of you who prefer not to carry cash (very much like the King) and wish to donate to the work of St John's.

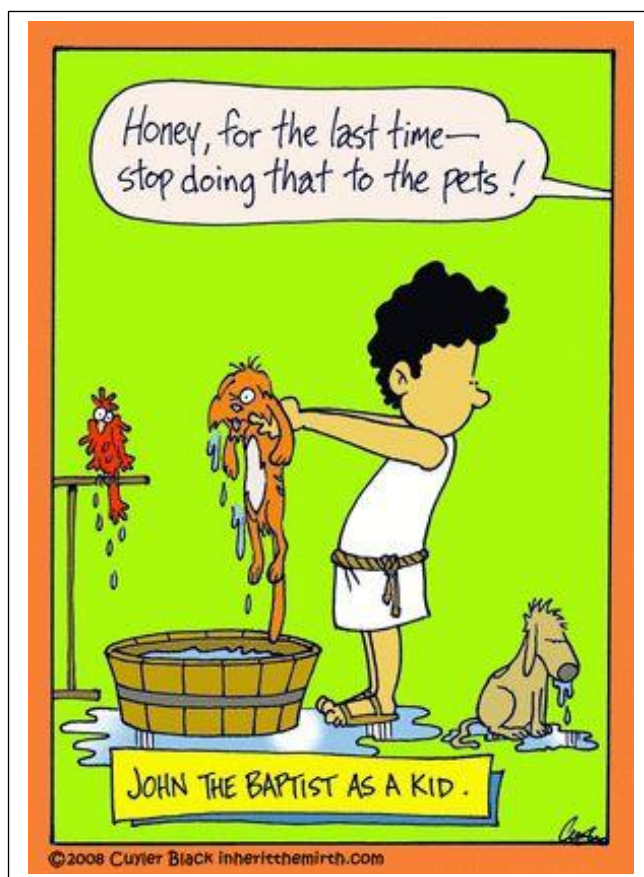
Thank you to all the members of our church community near and far, who regularly make generous donations to the work of our church through the Planned Giving Scheme and have consented to gift aiding their donations to increase the amount we can receive into our church funds.

Planned Giving Scheme standing order forms are available inside the south door entrance. If you wish to join this scheme, please ask for more details from Nicola or Gary, Churchwardens or Fiona, PCC Treasurer. Thank you.



You are  
invited to  
an Epiphany  
Cheese and  
Wine Party  
at the  
Vicarage on  
Friday 6  
January

after the 7.30 Solemn Mass

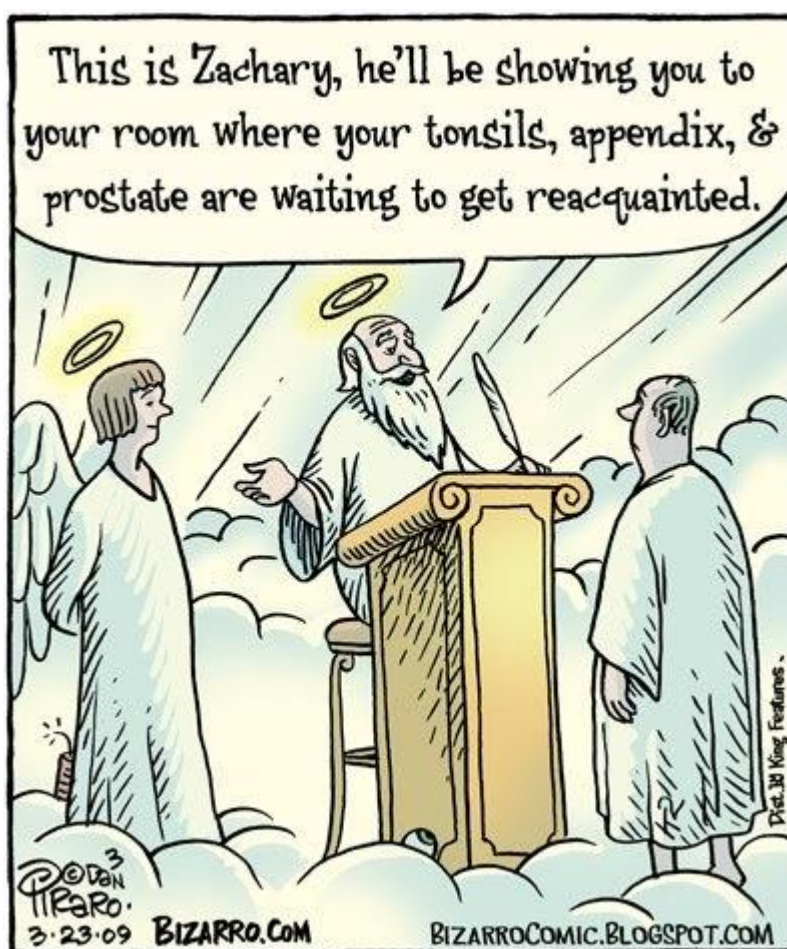




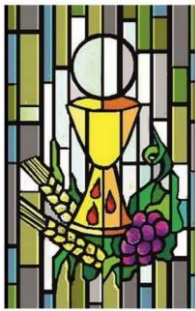
**Chat and Craft Group** continues to meet every Thursday afternoon in the Church Hall between 2 and 4pm. Bring your own project along to work on, and chat to fellow crafters. A drink and biscuits will be available. For more information, talk to Sue at church or ring on 01275 877710.



Calling all bakers! If you would like to provide a cake(s) for one of our regular Celebration Sundays, please add your name to the list at the back of Church. Alternatively, if you would like to celebrate a special occasion (perhaps an anniversary, birthday or exam success) please put your name against the relevant date and bring along your cake (it doesn't have to be homemade) on the day. Any questions, please speak to Sarah or Debra.



## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!



If you would like to take one of the Communion elements to the altar during the offertory hymn, please let one of the sidespeople know when you come into Church on Sunday morning.

## Plant Sale May/June 2023

Please start thinking about this. If you are taking cuttings or splitting plants this autumn, please do a few extra for the church plant sale.



Do you have any pearls of wisdom which could be used in the newsletter? They don't need to be religious; perhaps a special gardening tip, favourite recipe or an interesting story you'd like to share with your Church family. You can even remain anonymous if you wish. If so, please speak to Nicola or Gary or email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

## Sick List

If you need to let the clergy know of anyone who is unwell and/or is needing pastoral care, please email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk) or mention this to David or Betty, our Sickness Points of Contact (SPOC's), after the service outside of the church building. Any requests will be passed on to Fr Brendan and names will be added to the sick list.

## *Celia's latest Quiz !!*

1. Until it was changed in the 1920s what was the ancient name of Salthouse Field?
2. The Iron Age period of human history began in which century?
3. Which English city is cited on the River Soar?
4. Who wrote the novel The Diary Of A Nobody?
5. How old was Jesus when he was found in the Temple in Jerusalem asking questions?
6. In which year was the school leaving age in England raised to 15?
7. Which family of crustaceans includes the shrimp and crab?
8. Which sport is played on a surface 42 inches wide and 62 feet long?
9. What was the name given to a group of writers in the 1950s including Kingsley Amis, Alan Sillitoe and John Osborne?
10. In which decade did gas lighting become common in England?
11. Which river rises in the Czech Republic and flows into the Baltic Sea?
12. Which television crime series is set in Amsterdam?
13. What is the name of the alphabet used in Russia?

14. Who produced the first translation of the Bible in English in 1526?
15. From which country does the term Caviar, as in a fish dish, come from?
16. Which musical instrument consists of a set of moistened bowls?  
GORDON'S POSERS  
a: Spikey raptor; b: Crossing needing an oar; c: Crossing at its deepest.

### **Fund Raise as You Shop**

We have registered St John's with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Although you may only raise a few pence with every purchase, these donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistclevedon/>

### **On-line Giving**

Here is the link to our on line facility:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b8e3af98-2c05-4dfb-bd27-570f15c91a21> this link has been added to our Website, our Church Near You page and all our YouTube and other online offerings including social media. Please feel free to share it with all your friends to help with the ongoing good work of our Parish and the exciting outreach plans for our near future (not to mention the maintenance of our beautiful building and Hall!!) The QR code appears further on in this newsletter.

### **Website**

Please log into our website with as much frequency as you are able in order to bring it up the Google ratings...

It is <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/>

The website is a dynamic tool, so please send any comments, criticisms or ideas to Fr Brendan

**For those technically minded, here is the QR code for our online giving. Simply scan the code with your smartphone QR scanner and be magically directed to our 'givealittle' page.**



If you need to contact a Churchwarden please contact Nicola Coaker or Gary Lewis. Nicola can be emailed at [churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

Gary's email address is [churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

If you have any safeguarding questions or issues, please email [parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)



**The Vicarage telephone number is 01275 879617**

**The Office Number is 07522 494 504**

Please follow us on our website at: <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/> or at [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/) or on YouTube 'St John's Clevedon' or on Facebook: St John the Evangelist Church, Clevedon or join our WhatsApp group.

