



**30<sup>th</sup> January 2022: Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**Season:** Today we remember the time that Jesus was presented in the Temple at 40 days old and recognised as the Messiah who would bring redemption to Israel and a Light to the Gentiles.

**Liturgical Colour:** White **Why?** White symbolizes purity, light, glory, and joy.

**8am Holy Communion (no hymns) in the Lady Chapel**  
President and Preacher: Revd Tim

**9.30 am Parish Eucharist with Admission to 1<sup>st</sup> Communion**  
President and Preacher: Revd Tim Vickers  
Deacons: Luella Buckle and Clemency Venner  
Reading: Hebrews 2: 14 – end  
Reader: Phyllis Venner  
Intercessions: Stuart Burnett  
Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (Thorne)  
Hymns: Processional: 669, 693, 719, 42, 463, 72

**Those admitted to First Communion:** Sophia Neville, Luella Buckle and Harry Evans.

**10.30am Parish Coffee** in the Church Hall

**CHILDREN AT ST JOHN'S**

All children are very welcome at St John's. We are still looking to find a way to resume our Junior Church (we need some help co-ordinating). Until then, this might help:

- Please don't be afraid to sit at the front – children can see what is going on better.
- There are books and bags at the back of church as well as colouring in packs (updated each week).
- Please make use of the church as you need to, and don't worry about making noise.
- Join us in the hall for refreshments after the service.

## GIVING AT ST JOHN'S

At St John's we rely on the enormous generosity of our congregation to support our ministry, so that we might live God's love to our Parish. If you are in a position to support us, there are a number of ways you can give, either as a one-off or on a regular basis:

- Collection plate – both cash and contactless either before or after the service
- Set up a direct debit
- Join our Parish Giving Scheme

Envelopes to donate for the collection where gift aid can be claimed are available. For more information contact Andrew Poppleton on [Andrew.poppleton@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.poppleton@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

## SUNDAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

### **The Collect**

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

**Amen.**

### **New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2. 14- 18**

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## Gospel Reading: Luke 2.22-40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes  
to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### IMPORTANT PARISH CONTACTS

Revd Tim Vickers, Vicar of St John's (usual day off Friday)  
[vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) 01582 469343

Churchwardens, Jane Donati and James Hillman  
[wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Parish Office, Julie Birkett [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
01582 712776

Safeguarding, Jane Donati [safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

### IN OUR P R A Y E R S

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer  
[www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/daily-prayers](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/daily-prayers)

*Deanery of Ampthill and Shefford*

Sunday:	Parish of Shillington and Gravenhurst
Monday:	Parish of Silsoe
Tuesday:	Archdeacon of Bedford
Wednesday:	Archdeacon of Hertford
Thursday:	Archdeacon of St Albans
Friday:	Parish of Southill
Saturday:	Parish of Steppingley

For those admitted for First Communion:  
Clemency & Phyllis Venner, Harry Evans, Luella Buckle, Sophia Neville

In our Parish for the sick:  
Claire, Sue, Christine, Hermione, Karen, Chris, Paul, Pat, Tamsin,

Mike, Miriam, Daniel, Pat, Barbara, Chris and all whose names are entered on our St Luke's Cell Prayer List.

For the dearly departed:

Joan Allen, Graeme Oggelsby

In their year's mind:

Jane Grieveson, Sheila Burley (31<sup>st</sup>); Helen Whiting (1<sup>st</sup> Feb);  
Michael Coleby (2<sup>nd</sup>) Adrian Champion, Joyce Watson,  
Francis Stephen (3<sup>rd</sup>); Mary Bracey, Josephine Young (5<sup>th</sup>)

For the homes and families in

Sunday	Kingcroft Road, Kings Court
Monday	All those living outside the Parish
Tuesday	Knowle Drive, Leycroft Way
Wednesday	Lilac Way, Limbrick Road
Thursday	Linwood Road, Loire Mews
Friday	Long Butlers, Longfield Road
Saturday	Magna Close, Maple Cottages

Please let Tim know if we can pray for you.

## NOTICES

### THIS WEEK

**First Communion TODAY.** Today at 9.30am we will be welcoming 5 young people to communion. Do please do pray for them and if you can, join us so we can celebrate as a Church family together!

**Spiritual Well Being Survey.** Tomorrow is the last (official) day to complete our spiritual well being survey. Please do have your say! It's completely anonymous, unless you want to talk directly to the Ministry Team or wardens. Link: <https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/surveys>

**Covid-19 update.** As masks are no longer mandatory, mask wearing will no longer be required at St John's. However, we do encourage you to wear masks in crowded areas, such as communion or on arrival to church. Seats will be set aside for those who wish to remain socially distanced and wear masks throughout the service. Please do leave this space for those who would like to make use of this.

## PASTORAL

**Prayer list Revision.** We are preparing to update our prayer list. If there is someone you know on the prayer list who you would like to remain on the prayer list, please let Julie in the office know. The new list will be valid from 6<sup>th</sup> February (but names can be added at any time)

## COMING UP

**Calling all cooks!** St John's is launching a cook book to raise money for the new Parish Centre. But we need your recipes! So do not delay, send your recipes in today. Deadline 18<sup>th</sup> April. More details can be found here. <https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/cook-book>

**Volunteer Fair.** We are planning to hold a Volunteer Fair next Sunday, after our All Age Parish Eucharist. If you are looking for new ways to be part of our church or want to try something new – this is the perfect opportunity to see everything that happens at St John's.

**Next steps in faith...** Preparations are currently being made to run a confirmation course upto a Confirmation service at St Johns in mid June. If you are interested in exploring this further, please speak with the Vicar.

**Memorial Service for Joan Allen RIP:** This will take place in Church on Thursday 17 February at 2 pm.

**Date for your diary:** Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, after the 9.30am Parish Eucharist. Please put this date in your diary as it is when we celebrate everything we have achieved and look to the future with hope.

### **Decisions made by PCC at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January:**

- Agreed for a specification and plan to replace the sound system and install a permanent livestreaming system.
- Affirmed our commitment to Project Phoenix as the right vision for our Church. Thank you to all who have enabled and supported the project so far, and look out for information about how we will get this project back on track.

## PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 10.00 am Little Acorns in the Parish Hall  
Thursday 2.00 pm Mothers' Union meeting in Lady Chapel

## NEXT SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion and 9.30am Fourth Sunday before Lent  
Readings: NT: Isa 6.1-8; Gospel: Luke 5.1-11

### **Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer (in the Lady Chapel)**

Morning Prayer: 9.30 am, Monday to Thursday and  
Evening Prayer: 5 pm, Monday to Thursday  
Eucharist, 10.30am every Wednesday in the Lady Chapel.

### **Sign up to our Newsletter:**

We also send out a weekly newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please get in touch:

<https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/about-us/newsletter/>

For arrangement of baptisms, weddings & funerals contact the Parish Office or talk to the vicar after the service



St John's Church, 5 St John's Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1DJ  
Parish office 01582 712 776

# Want updates on Covid exposures?



We report these in our newsletters.

Want to know quicker?  
Don't get our newsletters?

Register your details:



[stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/trace](https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/trace)

(or speak to a Church Warden at the back of Church)

We won't use the data you provide for any other purposes and will delete it soon after the exposure risk has passed.