

Newsheet 15th December 2024 (Advent 3)

Welcome to St Paul's Egham Hythe, and especially if you are visiting or here for the first time. This morning, we have Godly Play in the hall for children aged 4-14.



Response for lighting of the Advent Candles:

Come Lord Jesus: And bring **hope**

Come Lord Jesus: And bring **peace**

Come Lord Jesus: And bring **joy**

Hymns: 596 Shout for Joy, 949 Wait for the Lord, The Lord is My Shepherd (sheet), 60 Beauty for Brokenness, 603 Sing to God new songs of worship.

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord

Post Communion: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever

First Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount

prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

For prayer this week

- For those who live in Wapshott Road, Wards Place, Wendover Place, Wendover Road
- For Freddie and Charlie being baptised today
- For our Open Space project as we await news on funding.
- For those who are ill and have asked for prayer including Heather, Ian, Peter, Jon, Alma, Jane and Debbie.
- We pray for those who mourn, and at their year's mind we remember Sheila Butterfield, Karl Kemnitzer, Molly Hawckett, Doreen Simmonds, Norman Slark

This week we are hosting Thorpe Lea and Hythe School concerts in church. Our regular groups are now taking a break for Christmas but will return on the following dates in the New Year: **Stepping Stones** and **Tea and Chat** on Thursday 9th January. **Youth Space** on Tuesday 14th January.

St Paul's Church Christmas Card Send just one Christmas card to all your friends at Saint Paul's and make a donation to Christian Aid – see display at back of church

Christmas Services:

See website for more information – hope to see you there!

✚ Carol Service – Sunday 22nd 6pm

✚ Crib Services – 3pm and 4pm Christmas Eve – 24th December

✚ Midnight Communion – 11.30pm 24th December

✚ Christmas Day All Age Celebration Communion 10am 25th December

