

NEWSLETTER

St Catherine's | St John's | St Luke's

Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
406	580	527
263	633	265
152	128	67
63		63

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm Response:

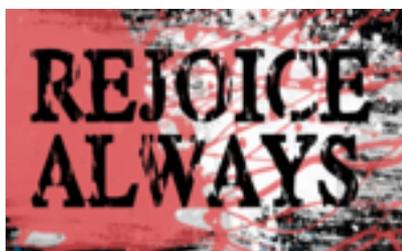
Shout aloud and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation:

St John's:
Alleluia ...
Speak Lord your servant is listening, you have the words, you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia ...

St Luke's: **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.**

If you know of a church member, or anyone, who is unwell or would appreciate contact from our priests, please inform the clergy at the earliest



Gaudete is the latin command to rejoice. Literally 'Rejoice ye!'. The reason for this joy is the impending celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. For many, this command to rejoice is difficult. Some of us will be missing loved ones this coming Christmas. Others amongst us will be full of anxiety for what the future has in store. If it was simply a cultural or societal demand to be happy then it could be dismissed. Yet, this call to rejoice comes from God. It is not a frivolous joy but goes to the heart of our identity as God's people, called to be the body of Christ here in Canton, in our homes and throughout the world.

3rd Sunday of Advent- Rejoice!

St Catherine's - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 10:30 Choral Eucharist;

St John's - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist; **4:00 pm Messy Church**

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass;

For Weekday Services and Regular Events see the Website or Church Notice boards for times and days.

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-1

Ecce Deus (Isaiah 12: 2-6)

1 Surely God is / my sal-vation; I will trust and / will not / be a-/fraid;
2 For the Lord God is my / strength and • my / might; he / has be-/come • my sal-vation.
3 With joy you / will draw / water: from the / wells / of sal-vation.
4 And you will / say • on that / day: Give thanks to the / Lord, / call on • his / name;
5 Make known his deeds a-/mong the / nations; pro-/claim • that his / name • is ex-/alted.
6 Sing praises to the Lord, for / he has • done / gloriously; let this be / known in / all the / earth.
†7 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O / royal / Zion: for great in your midst is the / Holy / One of / Israel.

Next week's readings: Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Benefice Notes:

Messy Christmas - Next Messy Church is in St John's today at 4:00 pm. It is a bring and share occasion: if your surname begins with A to M could you bring something savoury and N to Z something sweet. If you can't bring food don't worry, just come along anyway, there will be enough to go round.

Advent Group: 4 week bible study and exploration of faith through scripture and C.S Lewis 'The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe Advent in Narnia Thursdays 7-9pm in the vestry at St Johns. Contact Andrew Sims (see next item).

Living Faith Study Group - Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in St John's. For info: Andrew Sims maxsims@hotmail.com 09 2034 4641

Youth Club - The launch dates for our youth club will be the second week of January: Monday 11 Jan between 7-9 in Calvary Baptist for the drop in and Friday 15 Jan between 7-9 in St Catherine's hall for pool, table tennis, games etc plus a workshop on DJing and mixing music by Dave Jones. See facebook.com/cantonyouth for details or ask Fr Phelim.

2020 Vision - In December 2014 we had a series of meetings reviewing mission, buildings, pastoral care and other aspects of our Church life. Many things came from this (see the summary page on our website). We hope to revisit this and look at our progress and perhaps targets for this coming year in a meeting on Saturday 16 January 2016 in St John's at 11:00 am.

Volunteering in 2016 - The life of our churches and faith community is totally dependent on the generosity of volunteers for which we are very grateful for. In particular, we need help with the following: Messy Church craft activity leaders, readers, servers, choir members. If you could help support the work we do please contact the clergy or churchwardens.

Night shelter - Many thanks to all those who turned up last week to the training in Calvary. There was an excellent turnout from the Benefice. If you would like to get involved in helping homeless people this winter please contact Fr Phelim.

Newsletter Email - If you'd like an email copy of the newsletter and readings please ask Sheila on mgsmkelly1@gmail.com

Benefice Magazine - The Winter edition of our Benefice Magazine is now available. Thank you to Jean for all her work.

St Catherine's Notes:

Christmas Lessons and Carols - Please join us next Sunday 20 Dec at 4:30 pm in St Catherine's for our service of 9 Lessons and Carols for Christmas. The lessons are short Bible readings that tell the story of our salvation, from the fall of humanity the birth of Jesus. Carols are sung between the readings. Refreshments will follow afterwards in the hall.

Collection counting - If you are able to help once every two months with collection counting for 10-15 minutes after the morning service, please see Diana or email her dianafletcher@hotmail.com Likewise, if you no longer can help us.

Bookings - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email hall.stcatherines@gmail.com.

Logs - contact Clive 07931522683, Gareth 07527268461 or Diana 07909961256. From £5 per boot (depends on volume).

Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am on Wednesday.

St John's Notes:

Christmas Tree Festival - Thank you to all who helped make our festival and prize draw such a success. We raised £1400.

Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am on Thursday.

St Luke's Notes:

Community Carols - Monday 21 December 6.30 pm in St Luke's church carol service with the Elizabeth Singers. (Please note, this is on 21 December and not in November as mistakenly published in the Christmas flyer.)

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday School - There will be a Nativity play during the 10:30 service this morning. Mulled wine and mince pies after mass.

Christmas Flowers - If you could help us with donations towards our Christmas flowers please contact Brenda.

Midweek Services: Masses at 10:00 am on Tuesday and Wednesday; 6:30 pm on Friday; 10:30 am on Saturday.

Recently Departed: June Lloyd, Jean Margaret Evans

This Week in the Benefice: (Diocesan Prayer / Anglican Prayer Cycle / Events and Services)

Sun 13 Cilybebyll, Helen O'Shea (R); Windward Islands; **Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday**

Mon 14 Dulais Valley; Worcester; **St John of the Cross;**

Tues 15 Duffryn, Stephen Bodycombe (V); Wusasa, Nigeria;

Wed 16 Diocesan Board of Finance, Paul Marshall OBE; Wyoming; **Ember Day;**

Thur 17 Llansawel, Briton Ferry; Yambio, Sudan;

Fri 18 RB Neath, Stephen Ryan (TR); Lynda Newman (TV); Wendy Taylor (C); Liz Rees (C); Yangon, Myanmar; **Ember Day**

Sat 19 Skewen, Chris Coles (PinC); Yei, Sudan; **Ember Day**

Sun 20 Vale of Neath, Andrew Davies; **Yewa, Nigeria; ADVENT 4**

13 December 2015 – Third Sunday of Advent

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Zephaniah 3.14-20

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6

**R Shout aloud and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

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. **R**

And 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. **R**

**R Shout aloud and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Phillipians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.4-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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? Bear 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. Even 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?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more

than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers 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, John 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. His 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.

Luke 3.7-18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

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.