

**The Parish Church of  
St John the Baptist, Beeston**

**PARISH EUCHARIST**



***The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**10:00am**

# WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

You are very welcome here as you join us in worship. Instructions are provided as to when you may wish to stand or remain seated, but if it is more comfortable for you to remain seated, please do so.

As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray quietly. Please switch off mobile telephones or put on silent.

If you are a newcomer please take note of the position of the exits. There are the doors at the rear where you came in and also fire exits towards the front left-hand side of the church. In the event of an emergency, stewards will direct you to the nearest exit and give assembly point details.

Toilet facilities are available towards the back of church.

Please join as for refreshments at the back of church after the service.

If you would like more information about our church please speak to the Vicar or one of the stewards. Information can also be found on our website: [www.beestonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.beestonparishchurch.co.uk), and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch).

## Communion

**We will be offering communion in both kinds (bread and wine) In line with national guidance, we have decided not to allow people to intinct (dip) any consecrated wafers into wine. We will simply be offering the opportunity for those who wish to to drink from the chalice (communion cup) in the normal way. Please come up for communion as normal, receive the bread and return to your place if you do not wish to drink from the chalice.**

If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing, please do come forward and hold your hands by your side, or carry a service sheet, to indicate this to the priest.

If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please advise a steward or member of clergy and communion will be brought to you in your place.

**Gluten free wafers are available;** please indicate to the priest as you go up to receive communion if this is your preference.

## Financial Support

There will be no offertory collection during the service, but there will be a plate by the door on leaving church at which you are invited to make a donation. If you're able to give a gift, one way to give is via our CAF Online Giving page. This can be accessed via <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/16013> or via the QR code below. We are grateful to all who are able to support our mission and ministry. Additionally, there is now a contactless giving machine at the back of church available for your use.



# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The President is Father Paul Knight and the Preacher is Dr Jem Bloomfield.*

## GATHERING

*All stand to sing the **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** when announced*

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.**

3

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

4

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne!**

*(HON 117)*

## THE GREETING

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

*The Priest welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

*All say this prayer together as our young people are gathered round the Advent wreath:*

**All Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.  
Amen.**

*The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is lit and then all sing:*

**Mary's gift beyond all telling  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way.  
Who could guess the final story?  
– cross and glory; Easter Day!**

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**All**            **Almighty God,**  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your **Holy Spirit**  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through **Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

*A minister introduces the confession*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**All**            **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**  
**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,**  
**in what we have thought,**  
**in what we have said and done,**  
**through ignorance, through weakness,**  
**through our own deliberate fault.**  
**We have wounded your love**  
**and marred your image in us.**  
**We are sorry and ashamed,**  
**and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**who died for us,**  
**forgive us all that is past;**  
**and lead us out from darkness**  
**to walk as children of light.**  
**Amen.**

*Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

**All**            **Lord, have mercy,**  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy.**

*The Priest says the **ABSOLUTION**, proclaiming God's forgiveness, using these or other words*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT**

*The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer and then says the prayer of the day.*

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*All sit for the reading.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **READING: Romans 16.25-27**

*Read by Cynthia Valentine-Comery*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand. During the **HYMN** please turn to face the Gospel as it is processed into the congregation. Remain standing for the Gospel Reading.*

The angel Gabriel from heaven  
came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as  
flame.

"All hail," said he, "thou lowly  
maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou  
shalt be.

All generations laud and honour  
thee.

Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers  
foretold,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her  
head.

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she  
said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify his  
holy name."

Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was  
born

in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas  
morn,

and Christian folk throughout the  
world will ever say:

"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

(HON 620)

### Luke 1.26-38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

#### Alleluia (x6)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Alleluia (x6)**

*The Gospel procession returns to the altar. Please sit at the invitation of the preacher.*

**SERMON** Dr Jem Bloomfield



*At the end*    Merciful Father  
**All**            accept these prayers  
                  for the sake of your Son,  
                  our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
                  Amen.

## THE PEACE

*The Priest invites the congregation to stand and introduces the Peace.*

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All**            The peace of the Lord be always with you  
                  and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to greet those near to you with an appropriate sign of peace.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*(HON 324 (HF8))*

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The Priest says*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.

**All**            Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Remain standing as the Priest says*

**All**           The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All**           Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**All**           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Priest praises God for his mighty acts and all respond*

**All**           **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Priest recalls the Last Supper and all respond*

**All**           Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues and all respond*

**All**           ... all honour and glory be yours, Almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation sits and silence is kept.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All**           **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;**

on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

**All** We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei is sung*

**All** **Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**grant us peace.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The president invites the people to receive communion, saying*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you.**  
**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Please come forward to receive communion if you wish. If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are warmly encouraged to come forward for a prayer of blessing; please hold your hands by your side or carry a service sheet so the Priest knows you'd like a prayer rather than communion. Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine, but if you'd prefer to take a consecrated wafer and not receive from the communion cup, then you're welcome to do so. Please refrain from drinking the consecrated wine if you have any cold or flu symptoms or are feeling unwell.*

### **COMMUNION HYMN – HON I**

**Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and Yours alone.  
May my will for ever be  
Evermore Your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
Never let me go.  
Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and Yours alone.**

**ANTHEM** *sung by the choir*

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

**All** **We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

*Following the notices, all stand for* **THE BLESSING**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** **Amen.**

Remain standing for the Final Hymn. Please turn to face the back of church as the procession withdraws.

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**

**Un-numbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!**

**Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!**

**Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!**

**Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

(HON 612 (HF46))

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Prayers:** Please remember those who died recently, including Jessica Pacey, Gillian Wright and Sheila Allton, as well as all those who mourn. Please also keep Brenda Smith, Emily Hill, Jean Cameron, Agnes Banner, Hayley King, Eileen Bramley, Christine Morris, Cathy Bennett, Floss Abbott, David Lowe, Audrey Spiby, Dave Capstick, John Lowe, Ben Sanderson and Sophie Sanderson who are unwell, in your prayers.

## **SERVICES THIS WEEK**

Today	4pm Christingle 9:15pm First Mass of Christmas (Incense will be used)
Monday 25th	10am Parish Family Celebration Eucharist
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10am Eucharist
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist

## NOTICES

There will be no offertory collection during the service, but there will be a plate by the door on leaving church at which you are invited to make a donation. If you're able to give a gift, one way to give is via our **CAF Online Giving page**. This can be accessed via <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/16013> or via the **QR code below**. Alternatively, you can make a donation directly to our bank account, number 50149438, sort code 40-10-06. We are grateful to all who are able to support our mission and ministry at this difficult time. We now have a **contactless giving box** on one of the tables at the back of church, for a trial period of 6 months. It is very simple to use, with onscreen instructions. You can use either a credit or debit card. Although the machine is set up for a £5 donation, you have the option to raise or lower it at your discretion.



### Parish Contacts:

Vicar	Revd. Wayne Plimmer: 0115 925 4571 (Not Fridays)
Associate Priest	Revd. Kirstine Buchan: 0787 1162672 (Not Fridays)
Permission to Officiate	Revd. Rob Wiggins: 07906 664263
	Revd. Paul Knight

Admin Assistant	Revd. Dawn Glen
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Revd. Monika Doering
E-mail	Kathryn Weller: 07709 756949
Website	Julie Howson: 07583 007396
Facebook page	<a href="mailto:beeston.parish@gmail.com">beeston.parish@gmail.com</a>
Instagram Page	<a href="http://beestonparishchurch.com">beestonparishchurch.com</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch">www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch</a>
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