

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

PARISH EUCHARIST



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December 2025

10am

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, and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch.

Photographs and Videos

Please refrain from taking pictures or videos during the service.

Communion - We will be offering communion in both kinds (bread and wine) 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 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.

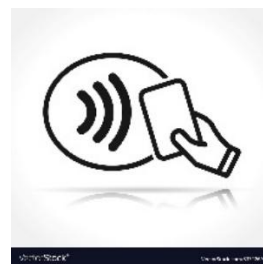
If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing, please do come forward and hold your hands by your side, or carry a service sheet, to indicate this to the priest.

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 Reverend Dawn Glen.

GATHERING

All stand to sing the PROCESSIONAL HYMN (HON 400) when announced.

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

3

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

4

Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All and also with you.

The Priest welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

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!

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

**All Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
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: *Isaiah 7.10-16*

Read by Norman Vaughton

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

*All stand. During the **HYMN** (HON 249) please turn to face the Gospel as it is processed into the congregation. Remain standing for the Gospel Reading*

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**Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour
comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes, the pris'ners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosanna, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 1.18-25

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

Alleluia ...

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Alleluia...**

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

SERMON *Reverend Dawn Glen*

All stand for **THE CREED**

**All We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is,
 seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by Janet Patrick*

Please sit to pray. One of these responses may be used

All	Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.	or	All	Lord, hear us Lord, graciously hear us.
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At the end

All Merciful Father
**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.

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 (HON 748)

1. Ye who own the faith of Jesus,
sing the wonders that were done
when the love of God the Father
ov'r our sin the vict'ry won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
mother of his only Son.
Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of
grace.

2. Blessèd were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come;
blessèd was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessèd was the mother,
she who bore him in her womb.
Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of
grace.

3. Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name;
let the Church, in her foreshadowed,
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's mother sang in
gladness
let Christ's people sing the same.
Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of
grace.

7. Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
who hath made thee ark and throne
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of
grace.

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 in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 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.

All sit. Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **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 Priest invites the people to receive communion.

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.

All The body of Christ.
Amen.

All The blood of Christ.
Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

**No wind at the window, no knock
on the door;
no light from the lampstand, no
foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no
ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a
voice in her ear.**

**‘O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from
my face.
Be glad that you’re favoured and
filled with God’s grace.
The time for redeeming the world
has begun;
and you are requested to mother
God’s Son.’**

**‘This child must be born that the
kingdom might come:
salvation for many, destruction
for some;
both end and beginning, both
message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours
and divine.’**

**No payment was promised, no
promises made;
no wedding was dated, no
blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what
none could guess,
replied with conviction, ‘Tell God
I say, “Yes”’.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All 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.
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.**

THE DISMISSAL

Remain seated for the Notices.

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 **RECESSIONAL HYMN** (CS 15) *Please turn to face the back of church
as the procession withdraws.*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
Redeem thy captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell
Thy people save,
And give them vic'try
O'er the grave:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Day-Spring,
Come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows**

**Put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way
That leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come,
Thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes,
On Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 In the name of Christ. Amen.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Today 6:30pm Joint Carol Service with Beeston Methodist Church

Wednesday 24th 10am Eucharist
 4:30pm Christingle
 9:15pm First Mass of Christmas

Thursday 25th 10am Parish Family Celebration

Sunday 28th 8am Eucharist
 10am Parish Eucharist

Prayers: *Please keep those who are unwell, including Father Michael Taylor, Brenda Smith, Christine Morris, Ben and Sophie Sanderson, Eileen Bramley, Beverley Gray, Baby Jack Barnard and family, John Lowe, Carleen Lowe, Des Millar, Paul Smith, Gerri Cooke, David Cooke, David Shaw, Joseph Dackombe, Mari Herter and partner Stefan, Baby George Smith, Cynthia Wiggins, Philip Wheeler, Alan Holmes and Carol Costello in your prayers. Please also remember those who died recently, as well as all those who mourn.*

NOTICES

First Aid Workshops: We will be hosting two First Aid Workshops, provided by British Red Cross on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 15th January 2026 from 7pm to 8:30pm. (You only need to attend one date!) This is a great opportunity to gain some practical first aid skills. We would encourage all participants, in particular, those who are leading/helping at any Church Group, but everyone is welcome. There are sign up sheets at the back of church. Places are limited, so please sign up as soon as you are able.

Prayer List: We will be renewing the sick list in the new year. If you would like your loved one to remain on the list, please let Kathryn know.

Christmas Cards: There are cards at the back of church. If you are able, please try to deliver some to the houses on your street or local area. Many thanks.

Walking with the Word

You may remember Mother Kirstine talking to us on 'Bible Sunday' a few weeks ago about the need to become more familiar with the Bible. We want to provide more opportunities to study and use the Bible together as 'the Body of Christ' and individually as 'pilgrims on the Way.' Jesus is called 'the Word' in St John's Gospel and the Bible is often described as 'the Word of God.' Walking with the Word is a good title for a Bible Study course where our aim is to know what's in the Bible, why it's there and how we are to live out what is in it. More importantly, how do we relate to the Jesus we read and hear about in the Bible? How does putting him at the centre of our lives make a difference?

It is not helpful to think of it as a rulebook (not that rules aren't important) but as more of a handbook or map and compass for our Christian journey – perhaps the most important of things for us to carry in our Christian rucksack. We are all on a journey 'home' to God and our life together and individually is about uncovering the reality (as Mother Julian of Norwich put it) that 'God made us, God loves us and God keeps us.' It is worth remembering however that even with a Map there are often different ways of getting to the same destination! We need to seek God in our life together as a Church and to seek God in our individual lives. There will be common reference points on the journey and times when we walk together surveying the same scenery and undergoing the same experience and there will be other times when our journey is deeply personal and unique to us. God calls us together and apart. The Bible can speak into all of this and often helps us to navigate life's challenges and to encourage a deeper trust in God.

With this in mind we want to spend time looking at what the Bible is and what it meant when the authors of its library of books wrote them and what the contents might mean for us now in the turbulent 21st century. One thing is for sure the Word of God has the power to change lives and the Bible is crammed full of examples!

It is important to say that you do not need any previous experience of studying the Bible in order to be part of Walking with the Word. It is also important to say that the sessions are 'stand alone,' so if you miss one no worries! There are resources available to go with the course and details of these will follow. If you would like to take an early peek at these then they can be found on the Bible Society webpage <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

Our meetings will take place on a Saturday morning (with Coffee and Cake) from 10-11.30 and we will begin in January 2026. The dates we have earmarked so far are 17th and 31st January and 21st February.

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. 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 **£6 donation**, you have the option to raise or lower it at your discretion.

Please can we also draw your attention to the **Gift Aid forms and envelopes**, available at the back of church? If you are a tax payer, you are able to Gift Aid any donations made, which means we will receive **25% more than the donation amount**. So, for example, should you donate £10, the church will automatically receive an extra £2.50 via Gift Aid. The Gift Aid we receive really does make a big difference, so we would appreciate you signing up for this.

Parish Contacts:

Vicar
Associate Priest
Permission to Officiate

Rev. Wayne Plimmer: 0115 925 4571 (Not Fridays)

Rev. Kirstine Buchan: 0787 1162672 (Not Fridays)

Rev. Rob Wiggins: 07906 664263

Rev. Paul Knight: 077 233 46484

Father Michael Taylor 07913545537

Rev. Dawn Glen

Rev. Monika Doering 07930 679806

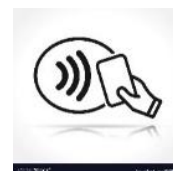
Kathryn Weller: 07709 756949

Julie Howson: 07583 007396

beeston.parish@gmail.com

beestonparishchurch.com

www.facebook.com/beestonparishchurch



Parish Administrator
Parish Safeguarding Officer
E-mail
Website
Facebook page

Safeguarding

Over the next few weeks we will be publishing contact details for helplines which may be of use to you or someone you know.

Nottinghamshire County Council are the lead agency for adult and children's safeguarding referrals. If you think a child or adult is at risk of abuse, don't ignore it.

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

If you have any concerns, please contact Father Wayne or Julie Howson, our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Contact details above.

Please remember to take this order of service with you. You may wish to look over the readings and notices again.

Once you have finished with it, we would encourage you to recycle it.



Nottingham South Newsletter

December 2025

Welcome to our new deanery newsletter

We hope to be able to share all that God is doing across the deanery, things to pray for and important dates for your diary.

The Wise Peoples Lunch

An extended deanery chapter for clergy, retired clergy and readers, including lunch.

Wednesday 7th January

12-2pm

St Barnabas Lenton Abbey

Deanery Confirmation Service

The Deanery wide confirmation service for the South Deanery will be held on Sunday 25th January 6pm at St. John's, Beeston

Please join us in praying for all of the candidates for confirmation

Diocesan Day of Prayer

The next Diocesan Day of Prayer is on Thursday 11th December.

We will be heading outwards to four 'gates' of the wider diocese.

1-2pm – St Helen's Church,
Selston

1-2pm – St Andrew's, Langar

7.30-9pm – St Nicholas Bawtry

7.30-9pm – The Potting Shed at
St Nicholas Tuxford

People Changes

St Mary's Wollaton Park has now gone into Vancancy. Rev'd Rob Brewis has now left his post and is preparing to start as Associate Minister of Christ Church Newland, Hull. We are praying for St Mary's and Rob during this season of change.

Spotlight on a parish

We would like to use this newsletter as a space to have a spotlight on good news stories across the deanery in different parishes. If you would like your parish to be featured please contact katie.barlow@southwell.anglican.org

Regular Church Services

Sundays	8am	Said Eucharist
	10am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
Wednesdays	10am	Said Eucharist
Every 1 st Sunday	6:30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Every 3 rd Sunday	6:30pm	Taizé Service
Every 1 st Tuesday	2pm	‘Green Pastures’ Dementia Friendly Service

Regular Church Groups/Activities

Tuesdays (Term time)	9:30am	ABC2 Baby and Toddler Group
Thursdays	10am	Coffee Stop
Every 3 rd Thursday	4:30pm	Julian Prayer Group
Every Friday	7:25pm	Choir Practice
Every 1 st , 3 rd & 4 th Sunday	10am	Youth Group
Every 2 nd Sunday	6pm	Youth Group

Open Door

We aim to open on Wednesdays, following the 10am Eucharist until 12pm

GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

QUICKLY AND EASILY ONLINE



The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, providing a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations to fund their mission and ministry.

Just like with telephone and paper donations, by choosing to give online, you can:



Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit



Increase your gift annually in line with inflation



Enhance your gift with an optional 25% Gift Aid



Give anonymously



Donate securely

Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code or visit the unique URL on any device to access your church's dedicated landing page on the PGS website.

From here, it's simple to set up and manage your regular giving online.

Scan your code



Visit:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/beeston-st-john-the-baptist-beeston/>