



The United Benefice of Old Shoreham and Kingston Buci
The Churches of St Nicolas, St Julian and St Giles

saintnicolas.org.uk

parishofkingstonbuci.org.uk

Newsletter

for Sunday 12 January 2025 — The Baptism of Christ
The First Sunday of Epiphany



Large print service books are available. Please ask.



All of our churches have **induction loops**. Please set your hearing aid to “T”.



Children: Sunday School in the Parish of Kingston Buci meets on the second Sunday of the month in St Julian’s Church Hall at the start of the service and returns for Communion. Toys and colouring available in all churches. Please ask.



Need a lift to church? Please let us know.

For Today's Worship

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water
and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as
your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed
yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved
Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth
through the waters of the new
creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 43.1–7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Second Reading: Acts 8.14–17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.15–22

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 baptise 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 baptise 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. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Readings Next Sunday — The Second Sunday After Epiphany

First: Isaiah 62.1–5

Second: 1 Corinthians 12.1–11

Gospel: John 2.1–11

For Your Prayers

In the Anglican Communion we pray for The Church of the Province of West Africa.

In our Diocese we pray for the Diocesan Secretary, John Preston and his PA Melissa Davies.

Those in need of our prayers specifically at this time: John R., Jocelyn A., Jean M., Pauline R., Albus, Dave, Amy, Sue, Vanessa T., Patricia C., Peggy G., Buster, Fr James.

Those whose anniversary is at this time of the year: Joy Bainbridge, Les Alden, Anne Bird, Joan Whale.

Reflection

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Christ

John the Baptist preached in the wilderness, telling people to repent of their sins and be baptised as a sign of their repentance. They needed to prepare for a greater person coming after him.

There are many similarities between John and the Old Testament prophet Elijah. Both of them spent time in the wilderness, wore simple basic clothing (John wore a camel-hair tunic with a leather belt), were outspoken and often offended people (John called the religious leaders vipers), and preached a message from God.

These similarities give an important clue about the identity of Jesus. In Jewish belief, Elijah was expected to return to earth a second time to announce the coming of the Messiah. So, if John was Elijah returned to earth—i.e., a second Elijah—what does this say about Jesus?

The baptism carried out by John involved full immersion in the River Jordan. Baptism was not a new idea. There is evidence that a monastic group called the Essenes used baptism at their monastery at Qumran as a type of ritual cleansing. Qumran was in the Jordan wilderness, near the area where John was probably preaching. Some Bible scholars think that John may have had connections with this community.

The Gospels record that when Jesus asked John to baptise him, John was reluctant to do so. This could be for the following reasons: baptism is for the forgiveness of sin, yet Jesus is God's Son and therefore sinless; and Jesus is the greater person John has been telling people about, so John does not feel worthy to baptise him.

At the moment that Jesus was baptised, there were three significant events:

1. Heaven was opened.
2. God's spirit descended on Jesus.
3. God's voice was heard.

A dove, often used as a symbol of peace, represents God's spirit descending on Jesus. This gives Jesus the power to equip him for his ministry.

God's voice is heard saying, "This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased." This confirms Jesus' identity as the Son of God. The crowds of people standing on the banks of the River Jordan will know for certain that this is the greater person John has been telling them about.

Revd Pat

Intercessions

Father God, help us to remember that the Christmas story did not end in the stable but continued as Jesus grew into a man, unnoticed by the world until his appearance at the temple, which was for him his spiritual home on earth. As 2025 begins, and with it the next chapter of our lives, help us to grow in faith and wisdom and to recognise your presence with us in all we do and say. We pray for James and his family in their life in the years ahead.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, strengthen your church that we may be a united benefice, united in prayer and in practical help and support for one another. We pray for courage, wisdom, and guidance to stand up for our faith when it is challenged. Inspire our bishop, our archdeacon, and all those in positions of authority within our diocese to lead and guide us all in our ministries as we continue through 2025.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, creator and preserver of all humankind, we pray for people of every race and in every kind of need: make your ways known on earth, your saving power among nations. During this season of Epiphany, when we remember the revelation of your Son to the world, we earnestly pray that this year will see an end to militancy and terrorism, and we pray for all who are striving to find a peaceful solution to war-torn parts of our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we can see in the story of Jesus the same problem we so often face: to follow your call whilst at the same time pleasing our families and friends. Sometimes we cannot do both, so help us to live our lives with care and integrity. Most of all, we thank you for your understanding when we make mistakes and ask for your guidance whenever we face a challenge in the year ahead.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for all who weep; the sick and the lonely; the aged and the dying. Give the song of joy to all who are now on the road to recovery and recuperation, and the song of thanks to all who helped them on that road.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died, and whose anniversaries we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us, until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we continue through this year, we have faith that God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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

Notices

Defibrillator at St Julian's. There is now a defibrillator on the external wall of St Julian's Church Hall, facing the car park. This was provided by the British Heart Foundation and the energy costs for the first year are generously being covered by Matt Fiddes Martial Arts, who run classes in the hall. See mattfiddes.com
You can learn lifesaving CPR in 15 minutes - visit bhf.org.uk/revivr to start the training.

Sunday School. 12 January at 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you for the first session of 2025 in St Julian's Church Hall. Any queries please contact Simon or Tina.

St Nicolas Coffee & Cake. Saturday 18 January, 10 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. in St Nicolas Church. Everyone welcome.

St Julian Patronal Festival. Sunday 26 January. We will be celebrating the patronal festival of St Julian of France in our 10 a.m. Sunday Service. King Henry II was baptised at a church committed to St Julian in Le Mans in 1133 and this later led to St Julian's church being dedicated to the same saint. All welcome!

Holocaust Memorial Day. Monday 27 January, 11.30 a.m. at Buckingham Park. Revd Pat will be leading prayers at the Adur District Council Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration. Please dress for the weather and gather at the Holocaust Tree.

Shoreham & Adur Community Foodbank. The foodbank needs tinned fruit, veg and meat, washing-up liquid and long-life milk. Thank you as always for your support!

Don't Dine Alone. Every Wednesday from 12.30 to 2 p.m. you can join the staff and residents of Kingsland House for a meal and company. To book, call 01273 440 019.

Choir Practice at St Nicolas. Every Friday, 7 p.m. The choir of St Nicolas' church meets every Friday evening. All ages and ability levels welcome! Contact Lena on urquhartmlena@gmail.com if you would like to get involved. 🎵

Pastoral Care Team. Our Pastoral Care Team does a wonderful job of visiting the care homes in our community, bringing the residents communion, fellowship, songs and so much joy. If you would like to help with these (regularly or just once in a while) please contact Vanessa Thompson (07808 752 304) for Cavell House, New Elmcroft and Kingsland House, or Revd Pat, Gill P and Sue B for Kathleen's Lodge.

**Cavell House
(Last Monday,
3 p.m.)**

27 Jan, 24 Feb,
31 Mar, 28 Apr,
26 May, 30 Jun.

**New Elmcroft
(2nd Wednesday,
3 p.m.)**

12 Feb,
12 Mar, 9 Apr,
14 May, 11 Jun.

**Kingsland House
(3rd Thursday,
2.30 p.m.)**

16 Jan, 20 Feb,
20 Mar, 17 Apr,
15 May, 19 Jun.

**Kathleen's Lodge
(2nd Thursday,
11 a.m.)**

13 Feb.

This Week's Diary

Sunday 12 January	8.30 a.m.	St Nicolas	Eucharist (BCP)
Epiphany 1			
The Baptism of Christ	9.45 a.m.	St Giles	Café Church
	10 a.m.	St Nicolas	Sung Eucharist
	10 a.m.	St Julian	Holy Communion with Sunday School

Thursday 16 January	10 a.m.	St Julian	Holy Communion
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Friday 17 January	9.00 to 11.30 a.m.	St Giles	Pop-up Coffee
	10 a.m.	St Giles	Morning Prayer

Saturday 18 January	9 a.m.	St Nicolas	Morning Prayer
	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	St Nicolas	Coffee and Cake (see Notice)

Sunday 19 January	8.30 a.m.	St Nicolas	Eucharist
Epiphany 2	10 a.m.	St Nicolas	Sung Eucharist
	10 a.m.	St Julian	Eucharist & Healing
	10 a.m.	St Giles	Holy Communion

Contact Details

Churchwardens

(During this period of interregnum, the churchwardens are the first point of contact)

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Churchwarden, St Nicolas

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Churchwarden, St Nicolas

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Mrs Tina Robertson

Churchwarden, St Julian & ALM

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Benefice Administrator and Church Office

Mr Simon Overton

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Minsters

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Mr James Askew

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

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For Safeguarding Enquiries or Concerns

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

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St Giles Church

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For notices for the weekly newsletter, contact Mr Simon Overton at
kbosadmn@gmail.com Deadline: Thursdays at 9 a.m.

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