



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone

January 2020

www.StJohnsJohnstone.org.uk



Season of **Christmas & Epiphany**



Where is home? And what does home feel like? How do I know when I am at home? Are all questions which pop up in the Christmas season. On the first Sunday of Christmas we recall the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt as refugees for fear of their lives.

Sadly this is a plight for many people in the world today as they seek to find a home and a

place to feel safe and secure.

During my early months of living in Scotland I met many many people in Glasgow fleeing from despotic regimes to build a life in Scotland because they had heard it was a good place to live. Here in Johnstone there are not that many people who are refugees, people seeking to put down roots and feel secure and safe – but there are some. We are reminded in Christmastide that Jesus himself was a refugee – the Holy Family knew what it was to seek a place to live and call home. May we take this to heart as a spiritual lesson to us, that we welcome the stranger and foreigner into our midst: whether in Johnstone, Lochwinnoch, Howwood, Elderslee, Linwood or Kilbarchan and offer the hospitality of welcome that the Lord always offers to us as we come to meet him at the alter week by week. God know what it is like to not fit in, to seek a home and a place to belong. God welcomes you wherever you have come from and may we at St John's do the same that together we build a church of brother & sisters from across the globe.

May you keep the 40days of the Christmas season with joy and peace in your hearts.
Rev Reuben Preston - Rector





Thank you to everyone who cleaned, prepared flowers, and helped to get the church ready for the Christmas Services. It was a lovely start to the Christmas season and very much appreciated.

Well done and thank you to everyone who supported our good causes for Christmas. At the Christingle Service we raised £110 for the Barochan Residential Unit, 20 Barochan Road, Johnstone who help youngsters and children having difficulties at home and in life.



Our FACEBOOK Page has a complete collection of photos from the Christmas Tree Festival and thank you to Kenny for getting the pictures to the Gazette for their article on the festival.

Our Crib scene was built out of the packaging for the A-boards which we received early in November. Please take a look at the Nativity Scene and say a prayer for St Johns in the year ahead.



At our Epiphany Celebration on Sunday 5 January, we shall welcome not only the Magi to the crib but also our guest preacher Rev'd



Andrea Maffie. Andrea is visiting us from the Canterbury Province of the Anglican Communion where she is Assistant Priest in Flitwick Parish in St Albans Diocese. Andrea was a student in the St Albans Ordination training programme and spent two years training under the Rector. It is good to welcome Andr ea to our celebrations as she visits us with son Mario, daughter Chiria and dog "St Patrick"!

On St John the Evangelist day – 27 Dec - we paid our respects and paid to rest the Late Fred Roberts. Many of you at St Johns knew Fred through the years as he was a big part of St Johns life over the decades. It was fitting to celebrate his life on the day when the world-wide church celebrates our Patron Saint John the Evangelist. To a filled church we remembered all that Fred had given to so many people through the years. A retiring collection was taken for Beatson Cancer Charity. May he rest in peace **& Rise in glory.**

Next Vestry meetings are on Fri 24 Jan and Fri 6 Mar at 1030am in church.

Repair work begins on Monday 6 January on the roof and will last for approx. one week depending upon weather conditions and the state of the roof timbers.





Sunday Worship Ministry Rota for January 2020

Sunday 5 January	EPIPHANY CELEBRATION Gold/White	Rector
Epistle	Ephesians 3.1-12	
Reader	David Roberts	
Gospel	Matthew 2.1-12	
Intercessions	Gill Reynolds	
Eucharistic Assistant	Wilma	
Sunday 12 January	Baptism of Christ Gold/White	Rev Robert Chambers
Epistle	Acts 10.34-43	
Reader	David Fowles	
Gospel	Matthew 3.13-17	
Intercessions	Kay Cherrie	
Eucharistic Assistant	David Fowles	
Sunday 19 January	Epiphany 2 White	Rector
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1.1-9	
Reader	Ann Lamont	
Gospel	John 1.29-42	
Intercessions	Gill Reynolds	
Eucharistic Assistant	Ann Lamont	
Sunday 26 January	Epiphany3 White	Rector
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1.10-18	
Reader	Agnes Fullerton	
Gospel	Matthew 4.12-23	
Intercessions	Kay Cherrie	
Eucharistic Assistant	David Fowles	
Sunday 2 February	Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple White/Gold	
Epistle	Hebrews 2.14-18	
Reader	David Roberts	
Gospel	Luke 2.22-40	
Intercessions	Rector	
Eucharistic Assistant	Wilma	

If you are reading the Sunday Pewsheets is available on the website
from midday on Saturday

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Contact: Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk **Mob:** 07971 895897

The next Newsletter will be produced for Sunday 26 January 2020 – please hand any items for inclusion to the Rector by the Sunday before.