

## COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING Isaiah 64.1-4, 8-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.  
The servant of the LORD said: 1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**



## Responsorial Psalm 126

**Response: The Lord has done great things for us.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy. **R** Then said they among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced. **R** Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them. **R**

## SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.  
My brothers and sisters, 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; 21 hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. 23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this day.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

## GOSPEL John 1.6–8, 19–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**GLORY TO YOU O LORD**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26 John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST**

## POST COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**



# The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

[www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org](http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Welcome to church on this Gaudete Sunday—Rejoice in the Lord always!

## Worship in the Benefice today—Advent 3

**O Wisdom coming forth from the mouth of the Most High**

0930 **Sharnbrook** Litany & Parish Communion

1100 **Felmersham** Litany & Parish Communion

1600 **Felmersham** 9 Lessons & Carols—Rector & LLWs

1800 **Souldrop** 9 Lessons & Carols—Rector & LLWs

**Monday—O Adonai and leader of the House of Israel,**

1145 Sharnbrook Messy Church

1800 **Advent Compline** in St Mary's—praying for those travelling—Rector

2000 Christian Meditation in SPR

2000 **Advent Compline** in St Peter's—LLW Andrea

**Tuesday—O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples**

1000-1300 Safeguarding training S3 at Barton-le-Clay

1800 **Advent Compline** in St Mary's—praying for world leaders—LLW Rosemary

1900 Wedding Prep—Rector

**Wednesday—O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;**

0930 Sharnbrook **Holy Communion 3rd Wed BCP**

1300 Burial of Late Mary Claxton at Woodland Burial Ground

1800 **Advent Compline** in St Mary's—praying for families—LLW JaneT

2000 **Advent Compline** at St Peter's—FrMac

**Thursday—O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal**

0930 Felmersham **Holy Communion CW**

1400 Sharnbrook Interment of Ashes of Late Mary Hardgrave

1800 **Advent Compline** in St Mary's—praying for refugees—Rector

**Friday—O King of the nations, and their desire,**

1230 Worship Leader Festive Thank you lunch at Rectory

1800 **Advent Compline** in St Mary's—praying for peace and faith—LLW Rosemary

1800 Sharnbrook Confessions & Spiritual Counsel

1900 Sharnbrook **HOLY HOUR** (with incense as normal)

2000 **Advent Compline** in St Peter's—Rector

**Saturday—O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver**

## Next Sunday morning—Advent 4

1030 **Souldrop** Benefice Litany & Parish Communion

The Benefice Diary is online at [www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org](http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org)

### Intercessions

**The sick and in need:** Barbara, Sally, Martin, Mary, Linda, Judy, Marjorie, Doreen, David & James,

**The Departed:** Mary Freeman, George Hogg, Georgie Hayles, Mary Claxton

*Send the names of people who have asked to be remembered in our parish intercessions to the Rector*

Pray for those looking after the homeless over the Christmas season

Pray for the LyCiG initiative across the Benefice as we share in prayer.

Pray for good Christmas worship together.



### Christian Meditation Group

meets on Mondays 2000 in SPR—all welcome!



**Take your LiCiG prayer postcard to use at home.** The LyCiG prayer will be used at all church happenings—services and groups as we pray for our way forward. Take a LyCiG leaflet too.

**Launde Abbey 2018** Retreat Programmes now in church to

take **LENT retreat: Be Radiant**

Mon 5-8 Mar—**book your place** and add

your name to the list if you want to go.

Looking at Ps34



**Last Sunday's Christingle raised over £700 for the Children's Society and The Salvation Army say thank you for the gifts.**

**Thank you for your support.**

**COMPLINE** this week is on

Mon, Wed and Fri at 8pm in St Peter's

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri at St Marys 6pm



### Christmas Eve

3pm Sharnbrook Crib Service

4pm Felmersham Christingles at the Crib

1130pm Sharnbrook Midnight Mass

1130pm Felmersham Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

830am Souldrop Holy Communion BCP

10am Sharnbrook Christmas Day Communion

12noon Felmersham Christmas Day Communion

### Church Contacts

**The Rector:** Fr Reuben Preston, The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook MK44 1PE 01234 782000 07971 895897

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**Lay Leaders of Worship:** Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

### Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roland Carpenter 01234 781551

St Mary's Church: Jane Wells 01234 782462 &

Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

**Safeguarding Co-Ord:** Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004

**Items for inclusion should be sent to**

**sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.**

To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

**Sponsorship: In memory of late Don Gough & in thanksgiving for Hanne's good health**

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)