ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
EAST AYTON

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December Services

Sunday 6th December

Holy Communion at 9.00 am

Sunday 13th December

Informal Carol Service at 9.00am
Nativity Service for all at 3.00pm

Sunday 20th December

Holy Communion at 9.00 am
Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm

Wednesday 23rd December

Christingle at 3.00pm

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

First Communion of Christmas 'Midnight Mass' 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9.00am

Sunday 27th December

Benefice Holy Communion Service at St John's East Ayton at **10.00 am**



Coffee will be served after the service each Sunday.
(There will be no coffee served on Christmas Morning

Everyone is welcome!

January Services

Happy New Year!

Sunday 3rd January – Feast of Epiphany

Holy Communion at 9.00 am

Sunday 10th January

Morning Worship at 9.00am

Sunday 17th January – Benefice Confirmation at St John the Baptist, Cayton

10.00am
Come along and join Bishop Eleanor and our 3 parishes in supporting the candidates for confirmation.

Sunday 24th January

Holy Communion at 9.00am

Sunday 31st January – Presentation of Christ at the Temple

Morning Worship at 9.00am

Lunch Club takes a January break and returns in February. Thank you to all who work so hard with this.

Community Hub returns on Tuesday 19th January 2-4. All welcome for games or crafts and a chat.



reminder it's St Martin's fair this Saturday.

LunchBenefice service for Advent.
All welcome

A



Christmas Fair at St John's – Many Thanks
Thank You to all the team involved in the Christmas Fair at St John's.
It was a lovely afternoon with good conversations. Thank you to all who supported this event before and on the day.
It takes a lot of work to put on such an event so we offer our thanks.

Over £500 was raised. A great effort. Thank you.

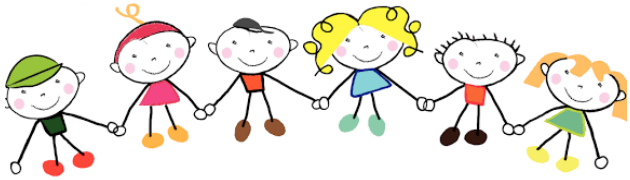
Enjoy Christmas Carol Singing?
An invitation to join St Martin's in reaching out across the community and Shining the Light of Christ.
Come and share the gift of Christmas by singing carols at:
10.30am to 11.30am
Saturday 19th December at
Wilsons Food Hall, Seamer, YO12 4 QD
Let's Shine the Light of Christ this Christmas in the community.



Safeguarding Sunday

As a benefice we commissioned our Benefice Safeguarding Officer Jo, in all 3 parishes, thanking God for all she does and committing to pray for her in the year to come. Jo, John and I enjoyed the beauty of York Minster and the choir, as we joined with Archbishop Stephen and the Diocese for a service of thanksgiving for all who support Safeguarding within our churches, as we seek to be a safe place where all came know the love of Christ.



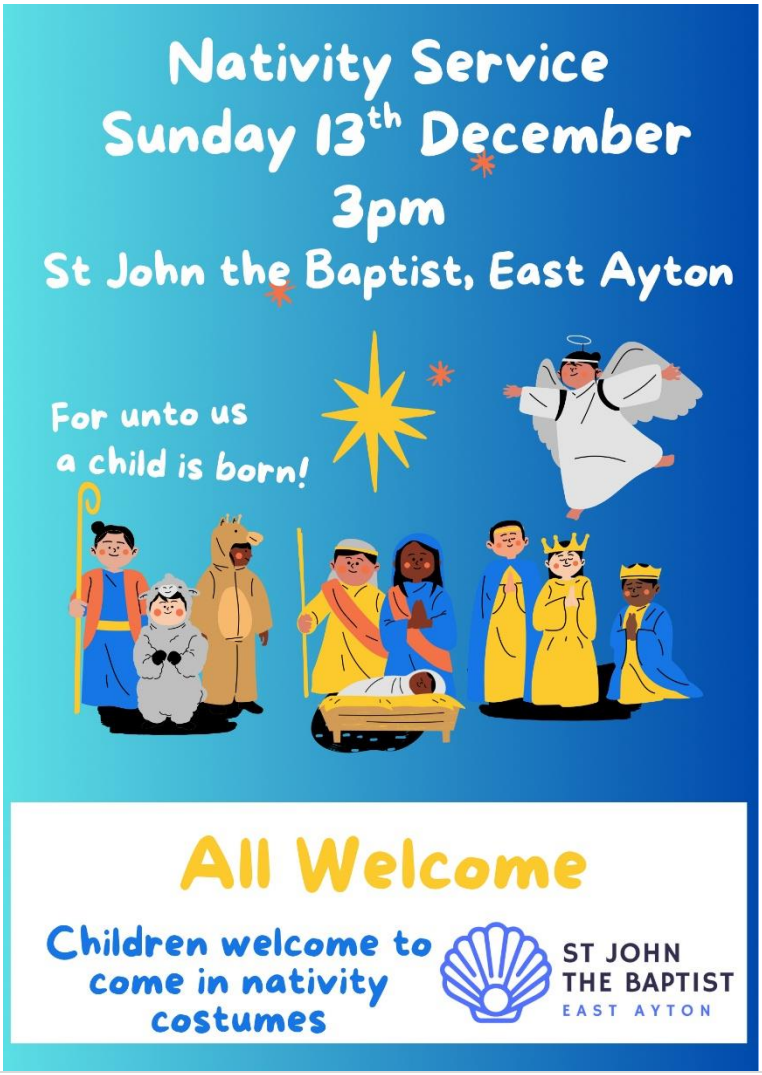


Children and Families Ministry across the Benefice What next?

Thank you to all who supported the open meeting we held last month. It was a positive start to reflecting on how we can work together and what God might be calling us to try.
We're open to ideas and there will be further chances to contribute. If you weren't able to be there but would like to share ideas and be kept informed please let Romaine or me know and we'll add you to the mailing group.
And do pray into where we might hold a Messy Church that will feel invitational and welcoming for all.
romainethompson@stmartinsseamer.co.uk

Special Christmas Services





Invite your family, friends and neighbours and come and support this interactive family service, for all ages. This year, we'll hear of **The Grumpy Innkeeper.**

This year's opportunities for Carol Singing in Ayton





Carols by Candlelight is a wonderful service to invite people to come along to as we tell of Christ's birth through traditional carols and well loved readings.

And this year, for those who can't make it out on an evening, there's an informal carol service at 9.00am on Sunday 13th December.

Another service that is ideal for families and friends, and is part of many families' Christmas tradition is the **Christingle and Crib service.**



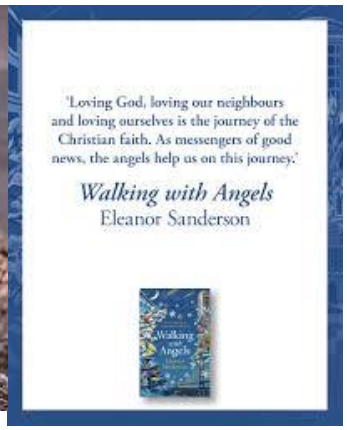
Revd Claire writes….

Advent is a wonderful season – if we can embrace it amidst the busyness. The start of a new Church year comes after a season reflecting on the nature of the Kingdom, and how we are connected to those who have gone before us, the Saints on earth and the Saints in heaven.

In Advent, we pause, if we can make the time, and look ahead to the Kingdom to come as well as the Kingdom we are seeking to play our part in building now, where we are, in our parish, within our benefice.

This Advent and in the year to come, we embrace the Gospel of St Mark with its bold and briskly paced account of Jesus; it's challenge to us, the disciples of Jesus today, and its intentional call to make known the good news of Christ. As part of that call, do be invitational with the Christmas services. Take the cards and service flyers and invite family, friends and neighbours. Display a poster on your gate, fence or in your window. Share them on your social media and do come along to the services yourself as we prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ, incarnate son of God, transformer of lives, hope for the world.





Advent is a good time to set aside time for further prayer, reading or fasting in some way – to find the gift of Christ amidst the activity.

This Advent, I'm reading, and commending to you, our wonderful Bishop Eleanor's book, which is Archbishop Stephen's recommended read too. We're invited to, 'Listen to the words of angels throughout the Bible and enter Advent with a deeper awareness of the connection between the heaven and earthly realms. Through the spiritual practice of prayer walking, this reflective guide encourages readers to slow down, step outside, and engage both body and spirit as you journey through the Advent season. Drawing on the words spoken by angels in Scripture, it explores how these messengers of God reveal the good news at the heart of the Christian story.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

May the Gift of Christ bless you with his transforming love

Through his love, may you share that love with all those you see, those you speak to or video call, and those you miss and hold in your heart this Christmas.

For our prayers



We pray for those who grieve the loss of someone they love recently or in years long past, as we remember how hard Christmas can be.
May they know the peace of Christ,

We pray for Otis and his Mum Heather who were baptised at Ayton recently, and for Izzy and Dylan who will be baptised in January.
We pray for Georgina, Ethan, Eleanor and Anna preparing for confirmation and for anyone else who is considering this ahead of our Benefice service on 17th January.
May they know the leading of Christ.

We continue to pray for all who are undergoing upon a course of treatment at this time, and for all whose vocation is within our local hospitals.
May they know the strength of Christ.

We pray for all involved in leading the many services, groups, and activities alongside those who support the smooth running of our churches, giving thanks for their servant hearts.
May they know the joy of Christ.

We pray that all people would know the gift of Christ in their hearts and in their homes this Christmas.



Readings in December

Sunday 6th December

Isaiah 40: Verses 1 to 11
Mark 1: Verses 1 to 8

Sunday 13th December

Isaiah 61: Verses 1 to 4 and 8 to the end
1 Thessalonians 5 : Verses 16 to 24
John 1: Verses 6 to 8 and 19 to 28

Sunday 20th December

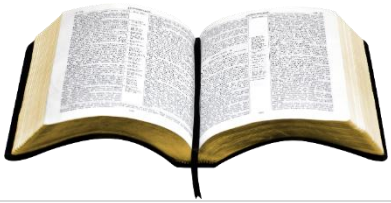
Luke 1: Verses 46 to 55
Romans 16: Verses 25 to 27
Luke 1: Verses 26 to 38

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9: Verses 2 to 7
Titus 2: Verses 11 to 14
Luke 2: Verses 1 to 20

Sunday 28th December

Galatians 4: Verses 4 to 7
Luke 2: Verses 15 to 21



Readings in January

Sunday 3rd January

Isaiah 60: Verses 1 to 6
Ephesians 3: Verses 1 to 12
Matthew 2: Verses 1 to 12

Sunday 11th January

Genesis 1: Verses 1 to 5
Acts 19: Verses 1 to 7
Mark 1: Verses 4 to 11

Sunday 17th January

Hebrews 5: Verses 1 to 10
Mark 2: Verses 18 to 22

Sunday 24th January

Revelation 19: Verses 6 to 10 OR
Acts 9: Verses 1 to 22
John 2: Verses 1 to 11 OR
Matthew 19: Verses 27 to end

Sunday 31st January

Malachi 3: Verses 1 to 5
Psalm 24: all Verses
Luke 2: Verses 22 to 40

The Children's Society

Sue Hill, at St John the Baptist, Cayton is a Children's Society rep and administers the collection boxes for Children's Society. In 2026 these boxes raised a wonderful £330.74. If you would like a house box, let me know and I'll get one passed on to you. Our Christingle collection will be. donated to the Children's Society. Envelopes will be handed out in church during the coming weeks and donations can be received at church services. The Children's Society support children and young people by offering practical and emotional support to those in need. Thank you

Christmas Shopping

Thank you to everyone who has shopped via easyfundraising.

If you are shopping online and
would like to raise money for
St John the Baptist Church, East Ayton
then please sign up to "easyfundraising"
It is free to do and the donations
are a much needed boost to Church finances. Leaflets available in church for more info or speak to the Treasurer, Janet. **Thank you**

How can you serve?
Would you like to become more involved in Church life?

It's a small team at present and help would be very much appreciated for: washing altar linens, setting up and tidying away after services, making coffee on Sunday mornings, welcoming people to the service and ensuring they have what they need, Church room cleaning, compiling the monthly Newsletter, weekly what's on emails, serving refreshments after special Christmas services, helping with flower and decorating church.
If you feel called to help with any of the above or another activity you have noticed, please. speak to the Vicar or Churchwardens. Thank you

Planned Giving
If you'd like to become a regular giver to the church as a response to God's generosity to you, please ask about the Parish Giving Scheme or take a leaflet.

Advent and Christmas across the Benefice of Seamer, East Ayton and Cayton

Celebrate the Gift of Christmas across the Benefice
All are welcome to any service

Key:
St Martin's, Seamer
St John's, East Ayton
St John the Baptist, Cayton

Date	Time	Service
Sun 29th November	9am	Eucharist for Advent Sunday
Sun 29th November	10am	Eucharist for Advent Sunday
Sun 29th November	10.45am	Eucharist for Advent Sunday
Tue 1 December	11.15am	Midweek Communion
Tue 1 December	7pm	Open to Advent — Reflective service for Advent
Tue 1 December	7.00pm	Benefice Open to Advent Service — Venue TBC
Sun 6 December	9am	Eucharist for 1st Sunday of Advent
Sun 6 December	10am	Eucharist for 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sun 6 December	10.45am	Eucharist for 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sun 6 December	4.00pm	Christingle Service
Wed 9 December	6.00pm	Carols around the tree
Sun 13 December	9am	Informal Carol service
Sun 13 December	10am	St Martin's Nativity Service for all ages at Seamer & Irton Primary School
Sun 13 December	10.45am	Eucharist for 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sun 13 December	3.00pm	Family Nativity Service
Sun 13 December	7pm	Crossgates Community Carols at Crossgates Community Centre
Mon 7 December	6.30pm	Rotary Carol Service
Tue 15 December	10.30am	Carols and Readings at Bell Close Community Centre, Seamer
Tue 15 December	6pm	Seamer Parish Council Community Carols in Seamer Memorial Hall
Wed 16th December	6pm	Cayton Parish Council Carols at The Star
Sat 19 December	11am	Carol singing outside Wilsons
Sat 19 December	6.00pm	St Martin's Carol Service at Seamer and Irton Primary School
Sun 20 December	9am	Eucharist for 4th Sunday of Advent
Sun 20 December	10am	Informal Carol Service
Sun 20 December	10.45am	Eucharist for 4th Sunday of Advent
Sun 20 December	4.00pm	Carols by candlelight
Sun 20 December	6.00pm	Carols by candlelight
Wed 23 December	3.00pm	Family Christingle/Crib Service
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Family Crib Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Outdoor Christingle/Crib Service
Christmas Eve	9pm	First Communion of Christmas 'Bethlehem' time
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Day Communion
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Day Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Communion
Sun 27 December	10am	Joint Benefice Eucharist at East Ayton