

St. Peter's, Swettenham

MORNING PRAYER & HOLY BAPTISM ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



A very warm welcome to the community here at St. Peter's where worship has been offered on this site since Saxon times. The present Church building has its origins in the late 13th Century and has been the place of worship for the village of Swettenham since then. A special welcome to Ryan & Jennifer together with their family and friends, as they bring their daughter Abbie for baptism. An induction loop system operates here. If you make use of a hearing aid please switch to "T" for enhanced sound.

There will be a collection taken during the Offertory Hymn for the Ministry, Mission and upkeep of this beautiful Church building that costs £2,417 month to maintain. Please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews as this adds 25% to the value of your offering. Thank you.

Please stand to sing CAROL

WELCOME & GREETING

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Christ has brought us out of darkness;

To live in his marvellous light.

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

As we kneel now with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Please sit or kneel

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness

To stand in your presence as your children.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

Your Son our saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned against you and our neighbour

Forgive us and heal us Lord we pray. Amen

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to Christ Son of Mary;

Born a child,

you are one with us.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David;

Born to rule,

You reign in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, son of Man;

Born to save,

You are the light of the world.

Glory to God in the highest.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us: let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. **Amen**

The people who walked in darkness

**have seen a great light.
For unto us a child is born
to us a Son is given.**

**His name will be called
wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.**

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.**

COLLECTS

At our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear. The Father spoke from heaven, the Spirit descended as a dove and Jesus was anointed with power from on high. Here is the door of faith, through which we enter the kingdom of heaven. As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters, and called to proclaim the wonders of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvellous light:

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Merciful Father, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we at last attain to the light of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit for NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 John 1

Please stand to sing CAROL

Please remain standing for the Gospel John 21. 19b - 25

Please sit for the ADDRESS Revd Ian Godfrey

All stand for THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM beginning with THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE:

The Minister addresses the whole congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Abbie and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

All: With the help of God, we will.

The Minister then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Abbie with joy. Today we are trusting God for her growth in faith. Will you pray for her, draw her by your example into the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ?

Answer: With the help of God, we will.

In baptism she begins her journey in faith. You speak for her today. Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Answer: With the help of God, we will.

All remain standing for THE DECISION

The Minister addresses the candidate through her parents and godparents:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Answer: I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Answer: I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

Answer: I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Answer: I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Answer: I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Answer: **I come to Christ.**

All remain standing for THE SIGNING WITH THE CROSS:

The Minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate, saying:

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

The Minister invites parents and godparents to sign the candidate with the cross. When the candidate has been signed, the president continues:

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

Minister: May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

Remain standing for a Carol to be sung during the procession to the Font for the Baptism.

All remain standing as the Minister leads THE PRAYER OVER THE WATER:

The Minister stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All: who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Minister invites the congregation to make THE PROFESSION OF FAITH:

Let us affirm, together with those who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All remain standing for THE BAPTISM: The Minister pours water on the candidate, saying:

Abbie Elizabeth I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Minister continues:

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

As the Baptism party return to their seats we sing a carol during which a collection will be taken for the ministry and mission of the Church.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Father, we thank you that by baptism you have raised Abbie with Christ to new life in the Spirit. Guide and protect her with your grace, that she may follow you all their days and grow in knowledge and love of you. Father, by the victory of your Son.

All Give light to the world.

May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts and minds of all nations to unite the world in peace and love. By your healing power restore all that is broken and unite us with you, one God and Father. Father, by the victory of your Son.

All Give light to the world.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth, we join our prayers with all the saints on glory. Merciful father

All Accept these prayers for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ

As our Saviour has taught us so we pray

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.

All stand for THE WELCOME:

Minister: Abbie Elizabeth Gough by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All: We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

All stand to sing our Recessional Carol

All remain standing for THE GIVING OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE, BIBLE AND DISMISSAL

The Minister gives a lighted candle saying:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Minister: Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEXT WEEK AT ST. PETER'S
Holy Communion 11.15 am (BCP)

St. Peter, Swettenham Plough Service



Sunday 31st January
at 11.15 am

**Followed by lunch at
The Swettenham Club**

**Tickets for the lunch are available
from members of the Social Committee**