

St John's, Pevensey Road

www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 29th November: First Sunday of Advent

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Grace, Angela, Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Kath, Ali, Jackie F, Ian M,
Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, and Jo.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,
especially Jean Young, Reginald Wartemberg, Meriel Curtis,
Donald Palmer, and Druscilla,

...and all who mourn.

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - albeit online during "Lockdown 2.0".
View via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listen via the Media/Audio page.
www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

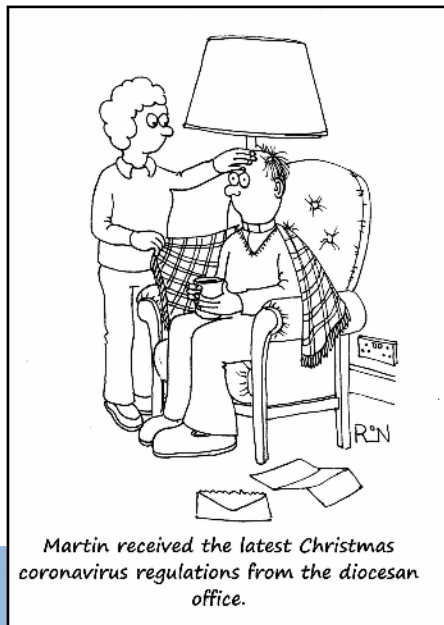
This week:

The church is open for private prayer
on weekday mornings 9:30 - 12:30.

"Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday.
Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email
and they will let you know how to join in.

Next Sunday, 6th December: We will be
returning to our 10:30 a.m. socially
distanced Mass here in church, as the
current Lockdown will have ended.

Cynthia and Michael would like to share the
good news that their grandson Henry, for
whom we have been praying recently, has
had the "all clear" from his health issue.
Thanks be to God!



Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart, today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now, today I believe.

Words from The Northumbria Community

Hymn of the Week

The Hymn of the Week is "The Advent of Our God", chosen by Pete M from the choir. It was originally written in Latin as *Instantis adventum Dei* by Charles Coffin (1676-1749), and has been translated into several slightly different English versions - this one is from 1906, by Harriet Packer. It reflects the Advent theme of us fallen human beings awaiting the coming of Jesus, the "Everlasting Son" of God, who was there "in the beginning", to redeem us from our sins. He is our "bondsmen" - the Wiktionary definition of which is "someone who signs a bond that states they have taken responsibility for someone else's obligations". He will come to live amongst us as a human being via the "Virgin's womb" of Mary, bringing peace, dying for us, ultimately judging us and yet also paying the price (the "doom"!) for that judgement! No wonder the final verse brings us to our knees to praise and thank him, as he has allowed us "old Adams", tarnished by sinful ways, to restore our divine likeness as beings created in "God's image".

*Do you have a favourite hymn for **Hymn of the Week**? Please contact Fr David or Rev Rosemary (details on back of pewsheets) or Richard our organist.*

Watch out for Rev Jill's "Advent Windows" coming through to your email inbox from the 1st of December



LOAF "First Sunday" Walk, next Sunday, December 6th

We have a 4 mile walk planned - meeting at 2 p.m. at the Barley Lane Public Car Park. We expect to walk in small, socially distanced groups to explore North's Seat and Ecclesbourne Glen. There is a shortcut for those who feel 4 miles is going to be too much. There will be some muddy sections so have suitable footwear, and walking sticks may help.

Roger Mitchell

Advent Bidding Prayer

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's Kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his Kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end. **Amen.**



Mass for the First Sunday of Advent

The night is far spent,
and the day is at hand:
let us therefore cast off the works
of darkness,
and let us put on the armour of light.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

The First Candle is lit on the Advent Wreath

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
All Amen.

Prayer of Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things
now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ
let us confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the
nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your
sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon his road
his glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son
scorns not the Virgin's womb;
that we from bondage may be won
he bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
let not thy stubborn heart despise
the peace he deigns to bring.

On clouds of awful light,
as judge he comes again,
his scattered people to unite,
with them in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,
'ere that dread hour shall dawn,
let this old Adam day by day
God's image still put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father and with Spirit one,
to all eternity. Amen.

*Charles Coffin, (1676-1749)
tr. from Latin by Harriett Packer, 1906.*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation
of God.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Mark
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days,
after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in
clouds" with great power and glory. Then he
will send out the angels, and gather his elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the
earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as
its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. So
also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not
pass away until all these things have taken
place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but
my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for
you do not know when the time will come. It
is like a man going on a journey, when he
leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the
doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore,
keep awake – for you do not know when the
master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or
at dawn, or else he may find you asleep
when he comes suddenly. And what I say to
you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with
confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.
That God may bring in his kingdom with
justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the
bread,

let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen ...

let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow
of death ...

let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Music: Sinfonia from Cantata 156 (J.S. Bach)

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one, so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his
death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Saint Andrew,
Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Peter,
Mary the Mother of God, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour
has taught us

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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share
in one bread.

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.

Communion is received

Music during Communion:

Largo from Concerto in D minor (Vivaldi)

Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise
your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine
upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he
comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Concluding voluntary: *Wachet Auf, ruft
uns die Stimme (Wake, awake, for night is
flying) BWV 645 (J.S. Bach)*



Andrew - the first disciple of Jesus

Andrew, whose feast day is on 30th November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us - though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltire' of Scotland.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time, Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

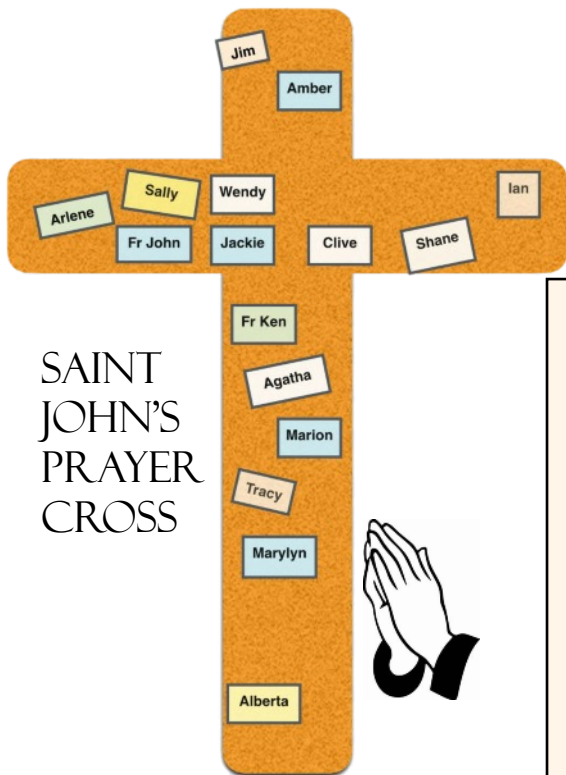
All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straightforward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



The lovely mellow interior of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness



SAINT JOHN'S PRAYER CROSS

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