

# St John's, Pevensey Road



## Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 20th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

### **People for whom our prayers are asked:**

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Jackie F, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H,  
Jo, Amber, Shirley, and Andrew N.

### **Please pray also for...**

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed,  
especially Brian Webb, Peter Turnbull, Jean Broscheit, and Pat,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,  
especially Helena Quartey, Thelma Riddle, and Tony Levere,

...and all who mourn.

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - whether you are here in person, or viewing via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listening via the Media/Audio page.  
[www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast](http://www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast)

**Here later today: Christmas Lessons and Carols**, in Church at 6 p.m., viewable online from 8 p.m. *Please only attend in person if you have pre-booked*

## This week:

**Morning Prayer:** is said in the main church at 9 a.m., Mon, Tues, Thurs

**The church is open for private prayer:** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30, Monday - Wednesday, all day on Thursday

**Midweek Mass:** celebrated in the main church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday

**“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.

**Thursday, Christmas Eve: Carols around the Tree**, outside the church at 4:30 p.m.

**Friday, Christmas Day: Mass** at 10:30 a.m. *please only attend in person if you have pre-booked.* Viewable online at lunchtime, via the church website/YouTube



The **St John's Christmas card** is at the back of the church for you to write your Christmas greeting to other members of the congregation, in return for a contribution for Christian Aid - to be put in the slot in the wall above. There are socially distanced stars to write on (please use your own pen!) or bring your own pre-prepared greeting. Many thanks, **The Christian Aid team.**



### **This week's urgently needed items:**

- Tinned potatoes,
- Sweet treats
- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life custard.

### **Also welcomed:**

- Toiletries, loo rolls
- Tinned veg, fish, meat, rice pud, fruit.

*They currently have plenty of pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, baked beans*

**Thank you**



*And now for something completely different later today...*

# Carols by Car Light

Led by Hastings Elim

Sunday 20th December  
6pm

Morrison's Carpark  
Queens Rd, Hastings

Now happening via Zoom only, due to new Covid restrictions! Zoom ID 761-858-0827, password 707232

# Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent



## 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 Fourth Candle is lit on the  
Advent Wreath*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,  
merciful and gentle:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your light has shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepared like her for the coming of  
your Son,  
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## 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:

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this  
present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **A reading from the Second Book of Samuel**

*2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom

shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

For the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

## **A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*Romans 16.25-27*

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

For the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

## **Gradual Hymn**

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly!  
O come quickly!

Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## 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 Luke

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 1.26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel  
was sent by God to a town in Galilee  
called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged  
to a man whose name was Joseph, of  
the house of David. The virgin's name  
was Mary. And he came to her and  
said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The  
Lord is with you.' But she was much  
perplexed by his words and pondered  
what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid,  
Mary, for you have found favour with  
God. And now, you will conceive in your  
womb and bear a son, and you will name  
him Jesus. He will be great, and will be  
called the Son of the Most High, and the  
Lord God will give to him the throne  
of his ancestor David. He will reign  
over the house of Jacob for ever, and  
of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary  
said to the angel, 'How can this be, since  
I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The  
Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the  
power of the Most High will overshadow  
you; therefore the child to be born will be  
holy; he will be called Son of God. And  
now, your relative Elizabeth in her old  
age has also conceived a son; and this is  
the sixth month for her who was said to  
be barren. For nothing will be impossible  
with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I,  
the servant of the Lord; let it be with me  
according to your word.' Then the angel  
departed from her.

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:** *Voluntary in C* (William Boyce)

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.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love  
beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he  
came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find  
us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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 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:

*Siciliana (Samuel Wesley)*

## Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your  
holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All 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

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless,  
in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**All Amen.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
**All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**All Amen.**

**Concluding voluntary:**  
*Grand Choeur (Dubois)*

## A date for your diary...

Despite the gloom out there, our talented musical friends here at St Johns, together with guest artistes, have been planning a jolly event for next year, in a similar vein to last January's "Savitri" opera evenings. Although originally planned for January 2021, the current Covid situation has meant that it has been pushed back to the end of April, all being well.

Lesley Ann says: "The evening will begin with an entertaining one act opera by Michael Hurd, in English, in our usual innovative setting, and then we will enjoy a Mediterranean cruise in the second half, being entertained by sung music from around the cruise route. There'll be plenty of laughs and the whole aim is to raise spirits and have socially-distanced fun.

We shall need volunteers as usual to help with snacks, serving, seating etc, but will publish this at a later date."

**THE WIDOW OF EPHEBUS**  
A comic 1 act opera by Michael Hurd  
**AND**  
**A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE**  
Enjoy a virtual holiday with your own tour guide

BOOK YOUR SEATS EARLY  
TO ENJOY THE SUNSHINE

A  
COVID-SAFE  
EVENT

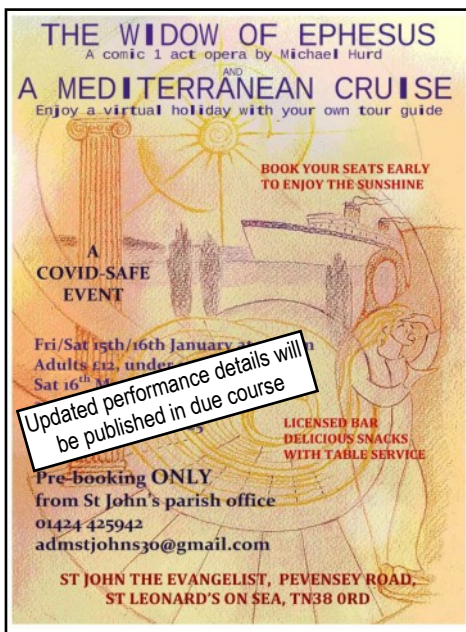
Fri/Sat 15th/16th January  
Adults £12, under 16's £8  
Sat 16th 11.30am

Updated performance details will  
be published in due course

LICENSED BAR  
DELICIOUS SNACKS  
WITH TABLE SERVICE

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from St John's parish office  
01424 425942  
admstjohns30@gmail.com

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PEVENSEY ROAD,  
ST LEONARD'S ON SEA, TN38 0RD



## Christmas Services 2020

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December,**

**"Lessons and Carols for Christmas"**

6 pm in Church, view online from 8 pm

**Christmas Eve, Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Church open all day for private prayer.

**"Christmas Carols around the Tree"**

4:30 p.m. outside the Church

**Christmas Day, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

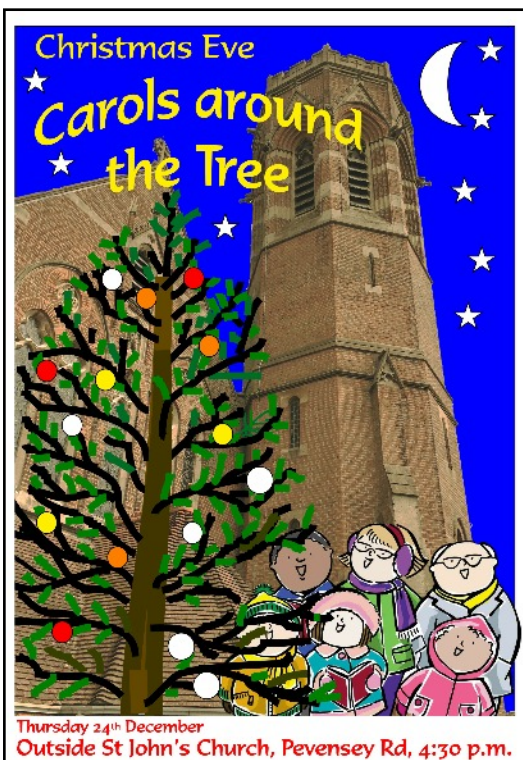
**Christmas Mass**

10:30 a.m. in Church, viewable online  
after lunchtime

If you intend to come in person to either of the services being held *inside* the Church, please contact the Parish Office to book (tel. 01424 425942 or email [admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com))

Our capacity with social distancing is about 60 worshippers. All of this is subject to change during the present Covid-19 situation, so please keep an eye on the Church website.

Christmas Eve  
**Carols around  
the Tree**



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Outside St John's Church, Pevensey Rd, 4:30 p.m.

All are welcome to this outdoor Carol Service here on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Please stay safe and socially-distanced, following Gov. Guidance.



**“Star of Bethlehem”:** Tomorrow evening, 21<sup>st</sup> December, British cloudy skies permitting(!), we’re being treated to a sight in the sky that hasn’t been seen literally for centuries, giving a visual effect akin to the Star of Bethlehem. Apparently we don’t need a telescope - just an unobstructed view of the horizon to the south-west, where the two planets Jupiter and Saturn line up almost exactly. They should appear as though they have merged into a single dazzling “star”, but will dip below the horizon by 6:30 p.m.

The last time these planets were so close was in July 1623. It is tempting to think that a similar conjunction may explain the phenomenon of the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to the Christ Child, but alas, the giant planets didn’t have such a close encounter at that time. What did happen, though, was that Jupiter and Saturn did take part in a “Triple Conjunction” in 7 BC. They appeared to approach and separate again, three times over. It has been suggested that this would have been full of meaning for the Magi/astrologers, who interpreted it as marking the birth of a new king of the Jews and the beginning of a new era. The Magi duly set out to find him.

This is just one of many theories attempting to explain the Star of Bethlehem. Other suggestions include a comet, a shower of meteors or an exploding star...

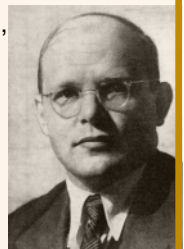
**Chichester Cathedral** has unveiled a new art installation depicting an unusual but topical version of the Nativity. Characters in the photographic scenes have been drawn from organisations, charities and medical services in East and West Sussex, and paired symbolically to the roles within the Nativity, with angels acting as guardians of health and well-being, shepherds as providers of food and resources, and the Magi as people who have learned from experience and are now leaders of their community. Each participant was photographed individually, before being edited into the composite image.



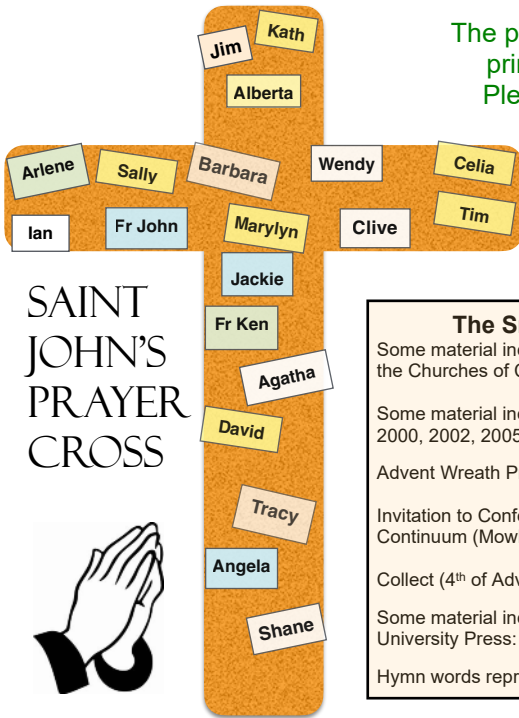
***A quotation to challenge us, chosen by Fiona M.***

"Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness and pride of power and with its pleas for the weak. Christians are doing too little to make these points clear rather than too much. Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offence, shock the world far more than they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favour of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong."

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45)*



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