

St John's, Pevensey Road



John the Baptist in Prison by Giousto de Menabuoi (1320–1391)

Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 11th December 2022

The Third Sunday
of Advent



Welcome to today's Mass at St John's

This week:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs, in Saint Peter's Chapel. Friday in Church.

Church open weekdays, where possible.

Midweek Mass: Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: Wednesday at 10 a.m. Please contact the church administrator on admstjohns30@gmail.com, to put you in touch with the organizer for a "link" to join in

Morning Coffee: Friday 10 - 12 noon in the Church Hall

Our prayers are asked for:

Andrew N, Holly H, Andy, Fr David Fentiman, Sue T, Don F, Helena, Betty, Ramona, Jackie N, Marie N, John T, and Tilly.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the departed, especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time: Stephen Cockhill, Valerie Shaw, Dan Rodney, and Eileen Scanlan,

... and all who mourn.

Today's church flowers are...

... *"in memory of William, a Father much missed."*

... *"in remembrance of Mum and Dad, Arthur & Mary Apps"*



The Church of England is supporting the **Warm Welcome** initiative to support organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome space for

those struggling to heat their homes this winter. Our Friday Coffee in the Church Hall is one such venue now listed as a Warm Welcome Space, Fridays from 10 - 12 noon. Listed venues may be found via www.warmwelcome.uk

CHRISTMAS services

at St John the Evangelist,
Pevensey Road TN38 0LF

Sunday before Christmas,
Sunday 18th December, 6 p.m.
LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve,
Saturday 24th December, 4 p.m.
Family-friendly CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve,
Saturday 24th December, 7 p.m.
CAROLS IN THE GARDEN outside church

Christmas Eve,
Saturday 24th December, 11 p.m.
"MIDNIGHT MASS"

Christmas Day,
Sunday 25th December, 10:30 a.m.
PARISH MASS for Christmas Day



The annual Christian Aid "Christmas Card" is now displayed at the back of the church. Save sending lots of individual cards, and instead write on the big card provided and put donations in the Christian Aid slot above the welcoming desk. Thank you! JB

Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent

Introit: *Gaudete* (Trad.)

We stand for the Opening Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
creating man from dust and clay:
to us reveal salvation's way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe
gavest thy folk the ancient law.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

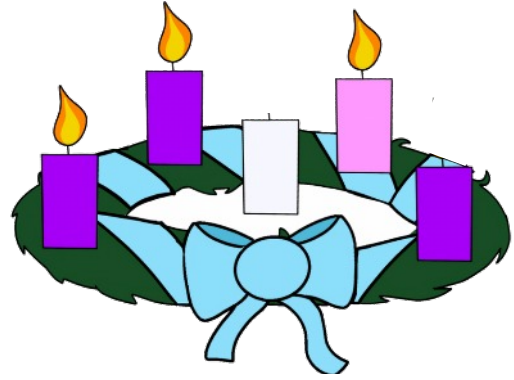
O come, thou Root of Jesse! Draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from those dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

O come, Desire of nations! Show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
thou corner-stone uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

*Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent
Antiphons, tr. T.A. Lacey (1853-1931) and
NEH eds.*



Welcoming of the people

Priest In the name of the Father
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

The lighting of the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,
just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was
witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
All Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
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.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Then the Kyrie Eleison is sung:

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy upon us.**

Priest 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 for the Third Sunday of Advent

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.

All Amen.

We sit for our Bible readings

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be
glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for
joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of James

James 5.7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the

Judge is standing at the doors!
As an example of suffering and patience,
beloved, take the prophets who spoke in
the name of the Lord.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

We stand for the Gradual Hymn

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

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 Matthew
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We stand for The Creed

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

**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.**

We sit for the Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength
to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

The intercessions may include the response:

Lord, in your mercy,
All Hear our prayer

And at the end:

Merciful Father
**All Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

We stand for The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn

***During which the table is prepared and
bread and wine are placed upon it.***

1. Hills of the north, rejoice;
river and mountain spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing;
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
he judgment brings and victory.

2. Isles of the southern seas,
deep in your coral caves
pent be each warring breeze,
lulled be your restless waves:
he comes to reign with boundless sway,
and makes your wastes his great highway.

3. Lands of the East, awake,
soon shall your sons be free;
the sleep of ages break,
and rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
has dawned the everlasting day.

4. Shores of the utmost West,
ye that have waited long,
unvisited, unblessed,
break forth to swelling song;
high raise the note, that Jesus died,
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

5. Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the North we come,
from East, and West, and South.
city of God, the bonds are free,
we come to live and reign in thee!

C.E. Oakley (1832-65)

Preparation of the Table

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 president 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 singing:

**All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heav'n 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,
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 St John the
Evangelist, St 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

The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

We sit as Agnus Dei is sung:

**O Lamb of God, our Lord most holy,
who redeems us from our sin.
Have mercy on us, meek and lowly,
make us clean and pure within.
Grant us peace we humbly pray,
as we who worship you today
receive your body and your blood,
renewed in faith by heav'nly food.**

Giving of Communion

*The priest says the invitation to
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.**

*The priest and people receive
Communion*

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*Anthem: Zion, hears the watchman's
voices (J.S. Bach)*

Hymn

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus may we ever be
rooted, grafted, built on thee.

Josiah Conder (1789-1855)

Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post Communion
for the day:*

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.

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

We stand for The Blessing

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.

Final hymn

Ye servants of the Lord,
each for your Master wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.

Watch! 'Tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.

Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amidst the angelic band.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

All May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Priest May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace...

All and rise in glory. Amen.

Deacon As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God. Amen.

Concluding voluntary: Concerto II in A minor (J.S. Bach)



Please stay for coffee after today's Parish Mass.



Church Together in
Hastings & St Leonards



You are warmly invited to attend an **Advent Candlelit Service of Music and Prayer from Taizé** this

afternoon, 11th December, at 4 p.m, in the Church of Saint Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET. If you would like to help lead the music, there will be a practice beforehand at 3 p.m.



Church Together in
Hastings & St Leonards

The **LOAF Second Sunday Walk** this month is today, the 11th of December.

Meeting half way down Battery Hill, Fairlight, at the Viewpoint on the junction with Peter James Lane at 2.00 p.m.

There is a small lay-by car park near the Viewpoint. Alternative arrangements will be made if there are more cars than will fit.

The Walk is some 4 miles in length and there are some very steep sections. After recent rains, footwear with good grip will be important. The Walk will be led by Ben Clayton of St Helen's Church. Thank you Ben.
Roger Mitchell

Lights of Love



Whether your loved one received the care of St Michael's Hospice or not, young or old, local or further afield, all can be remembered with Lights of Love. Here this afternoon at 3 p.m.

Do you have an item, prayer list update, or info for the Pews News? Please send to pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com by 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Thanks!

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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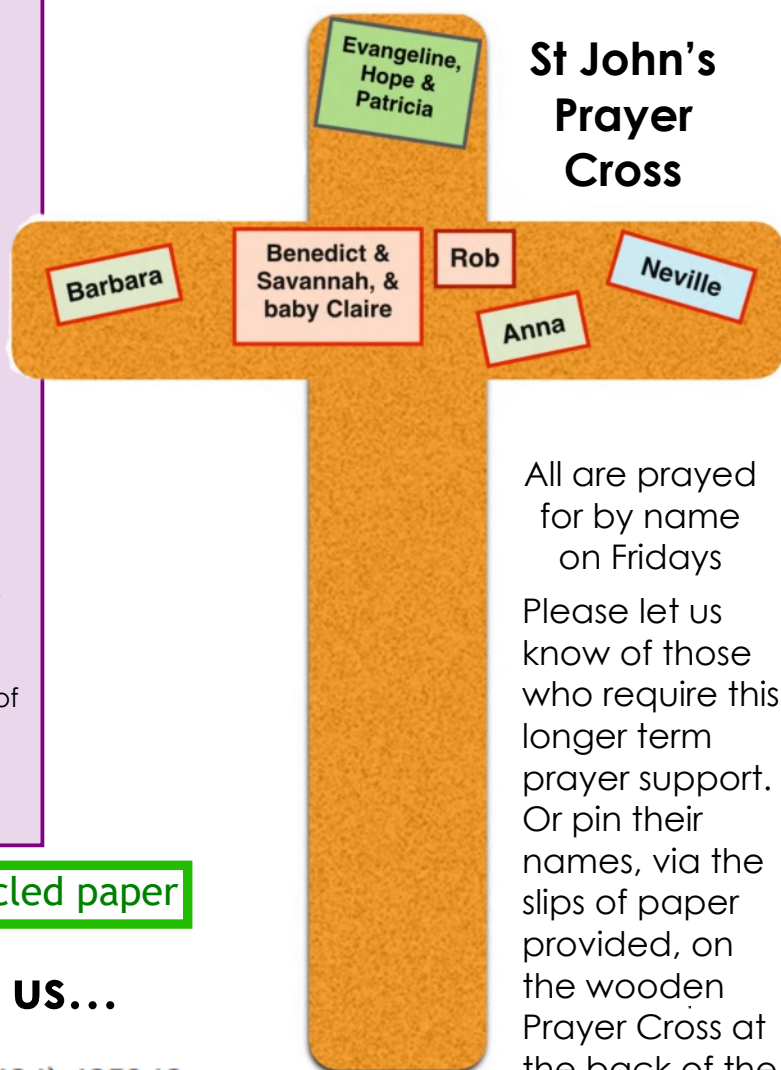
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St John's Prayer Cross

All are prayed
for by name
on Fridays

Please let us
know of those
who require this
longer term
prayer support.
Or pin their
names, via the
slips of paper
provided, on
the wooden
Prayer Cross at
the back of the
Church.
Thank you.

This pewsheet is printed on 100% recycled paper

To contact us...

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Tina is our Administrator.
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