

# St John's, Pevensy Road



Pews News & Service Sheet  
for Sunday 18th December 2022

The 4th 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 and Warm Space:** 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, Graham & Jane, and Tilly.

### Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Donald Lester, and Richard Smallman,

and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Eileen Scanlan,  
... and all who mourn.

## CHRISTMAS services

at St John the Evangelist,  
Pevensey Road TN38 0LF

**Sunday before Christmas,**  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 6 p.m.  
**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Christmas Eve,**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 4 p.m.  
**Family-friendly CRIB SERVICE**

**Christmas Eve,**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 7 p.m.  
**CAROLS IN THE GARDEN** outside church

**Christmas Eve,**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 11 p.m.  
**"MIDNIGHT MASS"**

**Christmas Day,**  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30 a.m.  
**PARISH MASS for Christmas Day**



Please note there will be  
NO 8 a.m. Mass on 25<sup>th</sup>  
December or 1<sup>st</sup> January

Thank you to all who supported  
last week's Christmas Fayre -  
£1718.92 was raised for Church  
funds

### Mission to Seafarers:

We missed Sea Sunday this year due to confirmations, so it would be good if people could spare a little money this Christmas to help the Mission to Seafarers cater for the welfare of these often forgotten workers, who bring us 90% of everything we consume, including many of our Christmas presents. Their envelopes are on the table at the back of church. Just put your donation in and drop it in the collection box. If you are able to do Gift Aid, please write your details on the back of the envelope. Many thanks. *Fiona M*

## Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Introit: *Creator of the stars of night*  
(plainchant)

### We stand for the Opening Hymn

Hark! A herald voice is calling;  
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day."

Startled at the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,  
and earth's final hour draws near,  
may he then as our defender  
on the clouds of heaven appear.

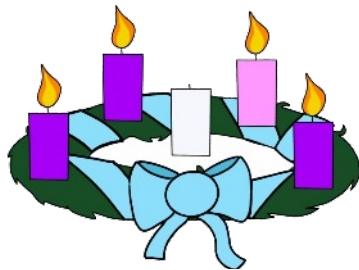
Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit,  
while unending ages run. Amen.

*From the Latin, tr. E. Caswall (1814-78)*

### 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 4th Candle 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 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.**

## **The Absolution**

*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 4th Sunday of Advent**

*Priest* 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.**

*We sit for our Bible readings*

## **A reading from Isaiah**

*Isaiah 7.10-16*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

For the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

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

*Romans 1.1-7*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

### ***We stand for the Gradual Hymn***

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age to same;  
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord,  
To children's children and for evermore!  
*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*

### **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 1.18-25*

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a

righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.*

Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
sing the wonders that were done,  
when the love of God the Father  
o'er our sin the victory won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of his only Son.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

Blessèd were the chosen people  
out of whom the Lord did come,  
blessèd was the land of promise  
fashioned for his earthly home;  
but more blessèd far the Mother  
she who bare him in her womb.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

Wherefore let all faithful people  
tell the honour of her name,  
let the Church in her foreshadowed  
part in her thanksgiving claim;  
what Christ's Mother sang in gladness  
let Christ's people sing the same.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

Let us weave our supplications,  
she with us and we with her,  
for the advancement of the faithful,  
for each faithful worshipper,  
for the doubting, for the sinful,  
for each heedless wanderer.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,  
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,  
praise the everlasting Spirit,  
who hath made thee ark and throne;  
o'er all creatures high exalted,  
lowly praise the Three in One.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

*V.S. Stuckey Coles (1845-1929)*

**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.* 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;

## **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.** who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

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,  
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.**

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**

*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: O Little one sweet (J.S. Bach)*

## Hymn

The advent of our God  
with eager prayers we greet,  
and singing haste upon the 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 comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light,  
as Judge he comes again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,  
ere that great hour shall dawn,  
let this old Adam day by day  
the new Man all 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. H. Putman (1861-1935)*

## Prayer after Communion

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

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

### *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

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
alleluia!  
Christ 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,  
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  
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!

Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

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!

### 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: Sinfonia from  
Cantata no.29 (J.S. Bach)**



Please stay for coffee after today's  
Parish Mass.

*Advanced notice from Lesley Ann and  
Alistair, about next year's fund-raising  
show...*

**Hansel and Gretel** is next year's offering  
on Friday February 24th and Saturday  
February 25th both at 7.30 p.m.

If anyone has children who might like to be  
involved (primary school age) do get in  
touch with Lesley Ann on:  
interopera.ltd@gmail.com or see us in  
church.

There will be short rehearsals in February  
(two alone and one with soloists) before  
the final week. It'd be good to have children  
from the church community taking part,  
gingerbread children are essential!

The final dress rehearsal is on Thursday  
23rd Feb

## The Small Print for this pewsheet:

Some material included in this service is copyright: ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, 2004

Invitation to Confession (1st Sun. of Advent to Christmas Eve) © 1988 Continuum (Mowbray) (Adapted)

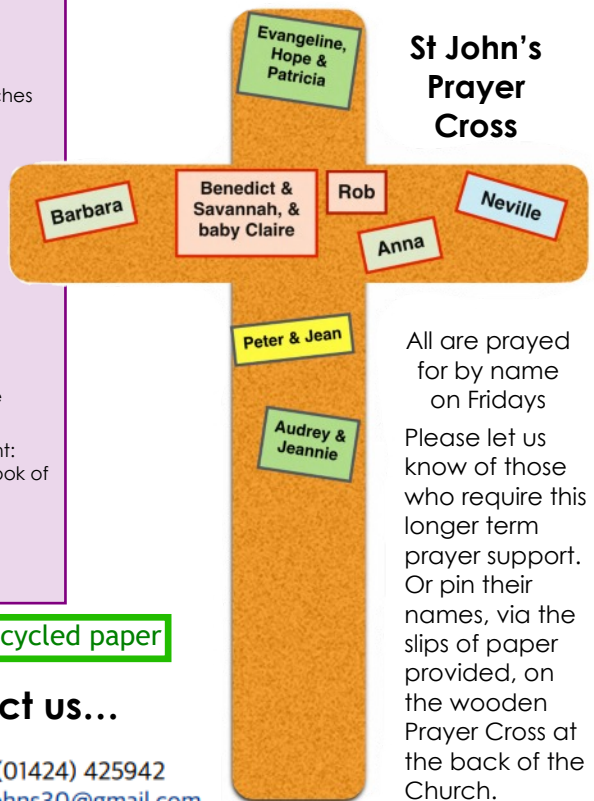
Collect (4th of Advent, Additional) © The Archbishops' Council 2004

Advent Wreath Prayers Advent 4: Prayer 1 © The Archbishops' Council 2005

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Hymn words reproduced under CCLI Licence no. 219821

## 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...

St John the Evangelist  
Pevensey Road  
St Leonards on Sea  
TN38 0LF

Parish Office: (01424) 425942  
Email: [admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com)  
Tina is our Administrator.

Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.  
Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

Website: [www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk](http://www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk)