

St John's, Pevensy Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 30th January 2022

**Presentation of Christ in the
Temple**



Welcome to this Parish Mass on the Feast of The Presentation

This week:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday
Church open for private prayer, where possible.
Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.
Online "Zoom" service: Wednesday at 10 a.m.
Morning Coffee Friday 10 - 12, in church

Drop in for
Morning Coffee

... and to spend some time in this beautiful church

Fridays, 10:00 - 12:00



Introduction to the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Our prayers are asked for:

Geraldine, Amber, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, Alison N, Clive, Ana, and Pat.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Gwen Beecher and Tony Murton,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Jeremy Lee, Doris Gordon, Gordon Ross, John Howie, Mary Robson, Helen Farrer, Rosemary Hughes, and Doris Jenkins,

... and all who mourn.

There will be a **Requiem Mass for Gwen Beecher**, here at St John's this Wednesday, 2nd February, at 1 p.m. followed by refreshments. Please let Ian McNulty know if you are attending, for catering purposes. It was Gwen's request that we should not wear black, or mourn or be sad, but joyfully celebrate her life.

Thanks be to God! Jenny H, for whom we have been praying, has been given the "all clear" following her course of treatment.



JANUARY 2022

SEEN OR HEARD
 IN THE CHURCH
 GARDEN
 THIS WEEK.



Winter Heliotrope

The Gardening Team tell us the Winter Heliotrope plant has few, large, vanilla-scented flower heads. It is of the family of Colts Foot.

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

Opening Hymn

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest,
to both great and small;
In all life thou livest,
the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish,
but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of Glory,
pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render,
O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendour
of light hideth thee.
W. Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

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.

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

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in
darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

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.

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 Gloria in Excelsis is sung:

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of
the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the prophet Malachi

Malachi 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so

that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, Thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou my Inheritance, now and always:
Be thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, c8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

All Alleluia.

Dcn The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Dcn Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them

and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Blessing of the Marriage of Roy and Elizabeth

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through Christ our light and life.

Father,
your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church,
sharing his light.
Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in the temple brings judgement on the world:
look in mercy on the nations who long for his justice.
Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sake became poor:
look in mercy on all who are in need, suffering with him, especially Geraldine, Amber, Don, Sue, Eve, Alison, Clive, Ana, and Pat, for whom our prayers are asked, and those known to us personally.
Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, especially Gwen Beecher and Tony Murton, and those whose years minds fall around this time: Jeremy Lee, Doris Gordon, Gordon Ross, John Howie, Mary Robson, Helen Farrer, Rosemary Hughes, and Doris Jenkins - that they may see your salvation.
Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one destined to be rejected:
look in mercy on us as who now turn towards his passion.
Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,
and showed them the infant King.
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Peace *is introduced*

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken 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 with
those around us*

Hymn

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

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light...

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light...

Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

Preparation of the Table

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light
for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.
All Amen.

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,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you
from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your
splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the
light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked
for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's
heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace
with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
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 for-
giveness 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

Believing the promises of God,
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 the bread of life, and that life
is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

We sit as Agnus Dei is sung:

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace**

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 partakes of the consecrated bread -
and wine on behalf of us all - to which we
respond Amen.*

*Holy Communion is then distributed in
one kind - The Body of Christ.*

*Anthem: How beautiful upon the mountains
(Stainer)*

Prayer after Communion

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

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond
words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he 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

Final hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee:
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Christ the Son of God
perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts
with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

All **Amen.**

Candle Prayer

Priest Lord God,
the springing source
of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls
dispelled,



and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Final Responsory

Priest Father, here we bring to an end our
celebration of the Saviour's birth.

All **Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Priest Here we have offered the Church's
sacrifice of praise.

All **Help us, who have received the bread of
life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Priest Here we have rejoiced with faithful
Simeon and Anna.

All **Help us, who have found the Lord in his
temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Priest Here we have greeted the light of the
world.

All **Help us, who bear these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Priest Here we stand near the place of
baptism.

All **Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Priest Here we turn from Christ's birth to his
passion.

All **Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Priest Here we bless one another in your
name.

All **Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart
in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation :
which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel
Luke 2.29-32

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Deacon: Go in the light and peace of
Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Concluding voluntary: *Toccata in
D minor (Boellmann)*



There will be home-made
marmalade and lemon
curd for sale after Mass
next Sunday, 6th February,
and maybe even a few
catnip mice too! *Katy H*

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
Please bring
your mask

Friday 25th
Saturday 26th February
7pm for 7.30pm
Adults £12, under 12s £6

LICENSED BAR
SWEET & SAVOURY
SNACKS
In Mediterranean style

Pre-booking ONLY
from St John's parish office
01424 425942
admstjohns30@gmail.com

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

The Widow of Ephesus, and A Mediterranean Cruise...

This unmissable
event (flyers
available at back of
the church) is now
open for booking in
advance, for cruises
on February 25th
and 26th at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are very accessibly priced and can
be bought via Tina in the Church Office.
There are no paper tickets. Your name will
be on a list upon arrival at the port of
embarkation, with the number of tickets paid
for.

Payment can be made by cheque or cash in
the church office, or directly into the bank -
please ring Tina (01424 425942) for bank
details.

Passengers are further warned of a slip risk
on the gang-plank should the weather be
frosty...

Early booking will ensure a sea view and
space in the lifeboat...

OUR WOMEN celebrate their new Centre & thank you for donating
(only £5,000 to go) They were downcast & now Rejoicing!
GOD BLESS YOU FOR HELPING.

[Bishop Laurie](#)



The Small Print for this pewsheet:

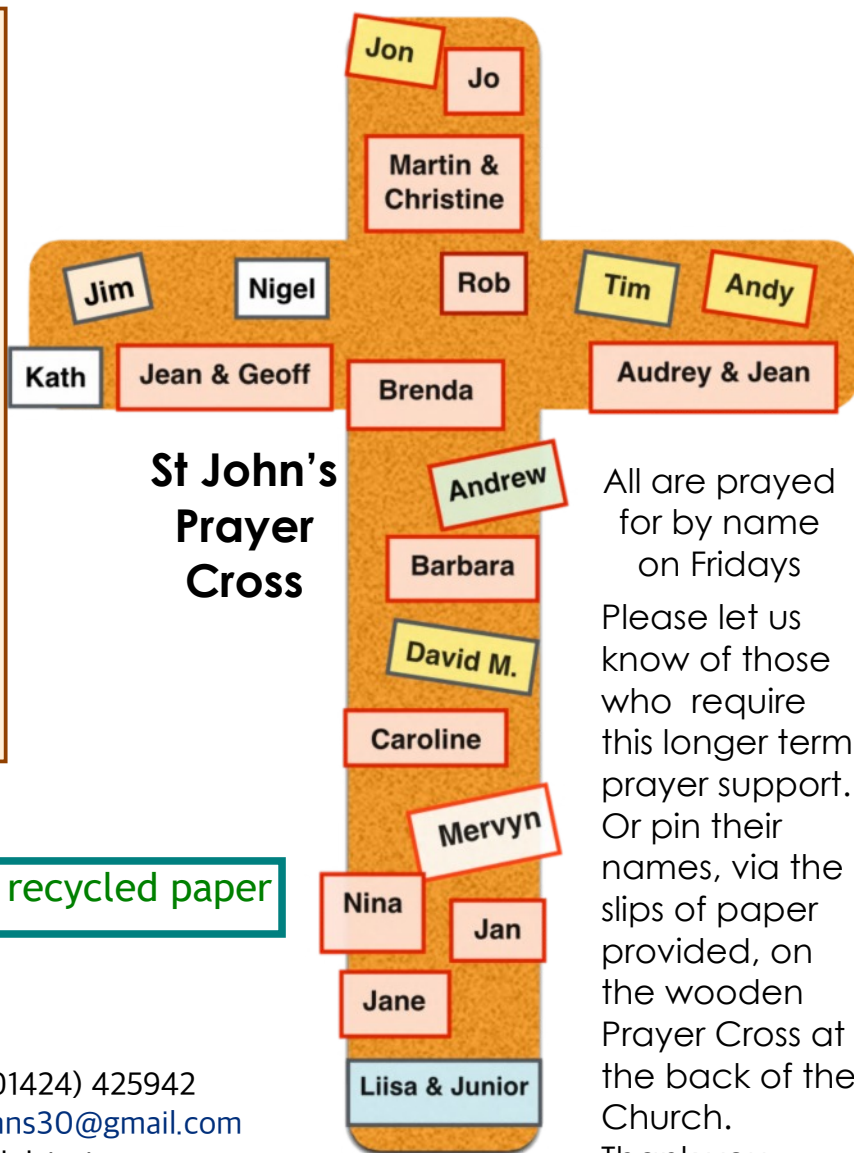
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All are prayed for by name on Fridays
Please let us know of those who require this longer term prayer support. Or pin their names, via the slips of paper provided, on the wooden Prayer Cross at the back of the Church.
Thank you.

This pewsheet is printed on 100% recycled paper

To contact us...

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

Website: www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk