

# St John's, Pevensy Road



Pews News & Service Sheet  
for Christmas 2022

**Christmas Morning**



## Welcome to this Parish Mass for Christmas Morning

Please note there is **NO 10 a.m. Midweek Mass** this Wednesday.  
**Online "Zoom" service:** Wednesday at 10 a.m.

**Morning Coffee / Warm Space:** Friday 10 - 12, in the Church Hall.

**Next Sunday - New Year's Day** - there will be be Parish Mass here at 10:30 a.m. [NO 8 a.m. Mass that day]

### Our prayers are asked for:

Andrew N, Holly H, Andy, Fr David F, 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 L, Richard S, Janet B, and Neville A,

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

... and all who mourn.

Richard S's funeral will be taking place in Church on Tuesday 3rd January at 12.30 - all are welcome to attend.

*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](mailto: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

LA

### 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

## Opening Carol

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*CF Alexander (1818-95)*

## The Greeting

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

**All Amen.**

*Priest* We meet to celebrate the coming  
of Christ into the world.  
The Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us  
**All and we beheld his glory.**



## The White Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,  
King of Peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
The new light of your incarnate Word  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.  
Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and  
praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*The Priest and Altar Party then proceed  
to the crib*

## Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the  
birth of Christ, let us pray that God will  
bless this crib, that all who worship his  
Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come  
to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this day your Son  
Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that  
holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in  
faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came  
to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.

**All Amen.**

*The Christ Child is placed in the manger.*

## **Prayer of Confession**

*Dcn* Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God, through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*Dcn* God our Father,  
you sent your Son, full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Dcn* Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Dcn* Spirit of Love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

## *The Priest says the Absolution*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## *Then 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 for Christmas Day**

*Priest* Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder  
at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
*All* **Amen.**

## *We sit for our Bible readings*

### **A reading from Isaiah**

*Isaiah 9.2-7*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep  
darkness –  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of  
Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping  
warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his  
kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for  
evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do  
this.

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

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

*Titus 2.11-14*

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all, training us to  
renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives that  
are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

while we wait for the blessed hope and the  
manifestation of the glory of our great God  
and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave  
himself for us that he might redeem us from  
all iniquity and purify for himself a people of  
his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

### **Carol**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel

*Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

## Gospel Reading

*Dcn* Alleluia alleluia.

The Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

*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 2.1-14(15-20)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign

for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those  
whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

## Sermon

### The Creed

*The Deacon says :*

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 our Prayers of Intercession*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,  
who has brought us out of darkness  
and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us,  
Son of God given for us:  
help us to know you,  
to worship and to serve you.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor,  
you order all things with your wisdom:  
help the Church to reveal the mystery of  
your love  
and fill her with the Spirit of truth.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,  
the government is on your shoulders:  
guide the leaders of the nations  
and bring in your kingdom of justice and  
righteousness ...  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Everlasting father,  
you call us to live together in unity:  
protect by your mercy all your children,  
bless our families and renew our  
communities ...  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,  
you bring reconciliation through the cross:  
by your healing power give to all who suffer...  
your gift of wholeness and peace.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed  
through death  
in the hope of your coming kingdom...  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the Father,  
full of the Spirit,  
**All hear our prayer,  
receive our praises,  
and fill our lives. Amen.**

## ***We stand for The Peace***

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince 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***

## **Offertory Hymn**

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

In the bleak mid-winter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter,  
long ago.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air -  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -  
give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

## **Preparation of the Table**

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation  
you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit  
may we share in your riches.

***All Amen.***

***The priest takes the bread and wine.***

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours  
always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.  
We give you thanks and praise for your  
Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled  
himself,  
was born of the Virgin Mary by the  
power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.  
In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our  
hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the  
face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the  
God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory  
of your name  
and sing our joyful 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**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here  
among us, 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.*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*Holy Communion is then distributed.*

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing, to indicate this to the priest*

## **Carol**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Anon.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The priest prays the Post Communion:*

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the 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

*Priest* The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
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

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:

*O come...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:

"Glory to God  
In the Highest:"

*O come...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given:  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come...*

*Latin, 18th century, tr. Frederick  
Oakeley (1802-80) and others*

### The 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.**

*Dcn* Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*Concluding voluntary: Sortie in E flat  
(Lefebure-Wely)*



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

### To contact us...

Parish Office: (01424) 425942

Email: [admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com)

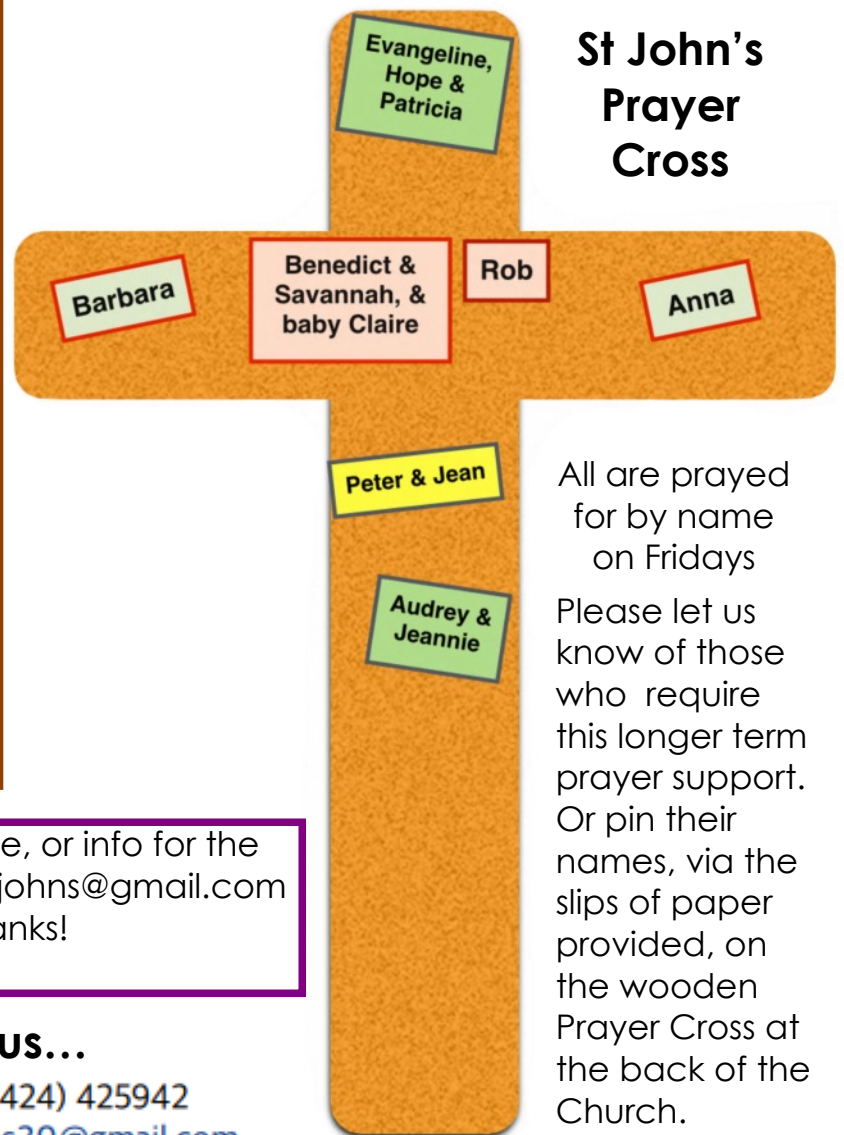
Tina is our Administrator.

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)

## 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.