

# St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet  
for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

**The Naming and  
Circumcision of Jesus**



## 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 F, 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 recently departed, especially Richard Smallman, Janet Benkyi, Neville Alonzo, and Su,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Vivienne Harvey, Arnold Kingsnorth, Peter Crighton, Norman Illman, Bob Byrom, and Gwen Beecher,

... and all who mourn.

### **What is one word that best sums up 2022 for you?**

For its 'word of the year' in 2022, the Collins English Dictionary has chosen '*permacrisis*' - meaning '*an extended period of instability and uncertainty*'. Considering the ongoing ramifications of the Covid pandemic, war in Europe, droughts, floods, famine and wildfires of climate change, political instability, and now a truly frightening cost-of-living crisis, 'permacrisis' is a good description!

No wonder our Christmas celebrations and 'Happy New Year' hopes may have been a bit muted this year. Many people are deeply worried about the future.

And yet as Christians, we have somewhere to turn, Someone to turn to, for comfort and for reassurance that we are not forsaken, and that we need not be overwhelmed by whatever 2023 may bring to us. God is our strength, a trusted refuge in times of trouble.

Let's hold onto these well-loved promises:

*Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22 NIV)*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV)*

Because of our faithful God, we can truly say: Happy New Year!

## Opening Hymn

See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below;  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years:

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in heights sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim:

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
what your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’  
told us of the Saviour’s birth.”

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

Virgin mother, Mary blest,  
by the joys that fill thy breast,  
pray for us, that we may prove  
worthy of the Saviour’s love.

*Edward Caswall (1814-78)*

## The Greeting

**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:  
cleans 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

**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.

Jesus, name above all names,  
forgive us our lack of reverence and  
awe in your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, name of our salvation,  
forgive us our attempts to live in our  
own strength.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, name of life and healing,  
forgive us our sins and offences.

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***

***Priest*** Let us pray

Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son was circumcised  
in obedience to the law for our sake  
and given the Name that is above  
every name:

give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,  
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,  
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the  
world;

who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

***All Amen.***

### ***We sit for our Bible readings***

#### **A reading from the Book of Numbers**

*Numbers 6.22-27*

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak  
to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you  
shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to  
them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon  
you, and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon  
you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the  
Israelites, and I will bless them.

For the Word of the Lord

***All Thanks be to God***

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

*Galatians 4.4-7*

When the fullness of time had come, God  
sent his Son, born of a woman, born under  
the law, in order to redeem those who  
were under the law, so that we might  
receive adoption as children. And because  
you are children, God has sent the Spirit of

his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

### Gradual Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:

*and it's tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
and it's tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father  
the blessed angels came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
that there was born in Bethlehem  
the Son of God by name:  
*and it's tidings...*

The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding,  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and straight they came to Bethlehem,  
the Son of God to find:  
*and it's tidings...*

And when they came to Bethlehem,  
where our sweet Saviour lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
the blessed Virgin kneeling down  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*and it's tidings...*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this merry time of Christmas  
is drawing on apace:  
*and it's tidings...*

Trad.

### Gospel Reading

**Dcn** Alleluia, alleluia.

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as children.

**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 2.15-21*

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.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.

*All* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### *We sit for our Prayers of Intercession*

In and through the name of Jesus let us pray to the Father.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.

We give thanks for the name of Jesus...  
We pray for the worship and mission of Christ's Church ...  
Lord, hear us.

*All* Lord, graciously hear us.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.

We pray for the world and for its healing ...

We pray for all who carry heavy loads ...

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.

We pray at the beginning of this new year  
for renewed discipleship and  
consecration to the way of the Lord ...  
Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.

We remember with thanksgiving all  
who have loved the name of Jesus ...  
We pray that, surrounded by such a  
cloud of witnesses,  
we may run with perseverance the  
race that is set before us.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

***We stand for The Peace***

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

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.*

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)*

### **Preparation of the Table**

Jesus, true joy of loving hearts,  
we turn unfilled to you again.  
Come and be known to us in the  
breaking of the bread.

*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,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
We praise you that on the eighth day  
he was circumcised in obedience to the  
law of Moses,  
that he might fulfil the law and reveal to  
us your grace and truth.

For here is foreshadowed  
his perfect self-offering upon the cross,  
the shedding of his blood to set us free  
from sin and death.

In baptism we die with him and are  
raised in him,  
that we might walk in newness of life,  
and proclaim the wonders of his saving  
name.

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**

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:*  
**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*

*Anthem: Good King Wenceslas (trad.)*

## Hymn

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds worship and angels  
sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him praise,  
The Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear: God's Son is here  
His love all loves exceeding.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The Cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
All tongues and peoples own Him!  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
Let every heart enthrone Him:  
Raise, raise your song on high,  
While Mary sings a lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98) and NEH Editors

## Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post Communion:*

Eternal God,  
whose incarnate Son was given the  
Name of Saviour:  
grant that we who have shared  
in this sacrament of our salvation  
may live out our years in the power  
of the Name above all other names,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All** Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son  
and brought us home.  
Dying and living,  
he declared your love,  
gave us grace,  
and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body  
live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup  
bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights  
give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope  
you have set before us,  
so we and all your children  
shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your  
name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Notices

## The Blessing

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

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
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

Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
and all the little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder.

*Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

## 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 to love and serve the  
Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Concluding voluntary: Toccata in G  
major (Dubois)*



Please stay for coffee after today's  
Parish Mass.

---

Richard S's funeral will be taking place in Church this Tuesday 3rd January at 12.30 - all are welcome to attend. Donations to the Royal British Legion, in lieu of flowers, would be gratefully appreciated, via this link:

<https://richardsmallman.muchloved.com>

**A request from the Editor!** Do you have an item, prayer list update, or info for the Pews News? I am reliant on people proactively letting me know updates to the prayer/RIP list etc for St John's as I'm looking after another parish at the moment and don't have such an "ear to the ground" here! Please send to [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com) by 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Thank you!

Rev Rosemary

## The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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

Various materials included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2010

Absolution (Epiphany) © Right Revd Kenneth Stevenson, 1989

Hymn words reproduced under CCLI Licence no. 219821

Cover image licensed from Shutterstock

**This pewsheet is printed on  
100% recycled paper**

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

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

## To contact us...

Parish Office: (01424) 425942

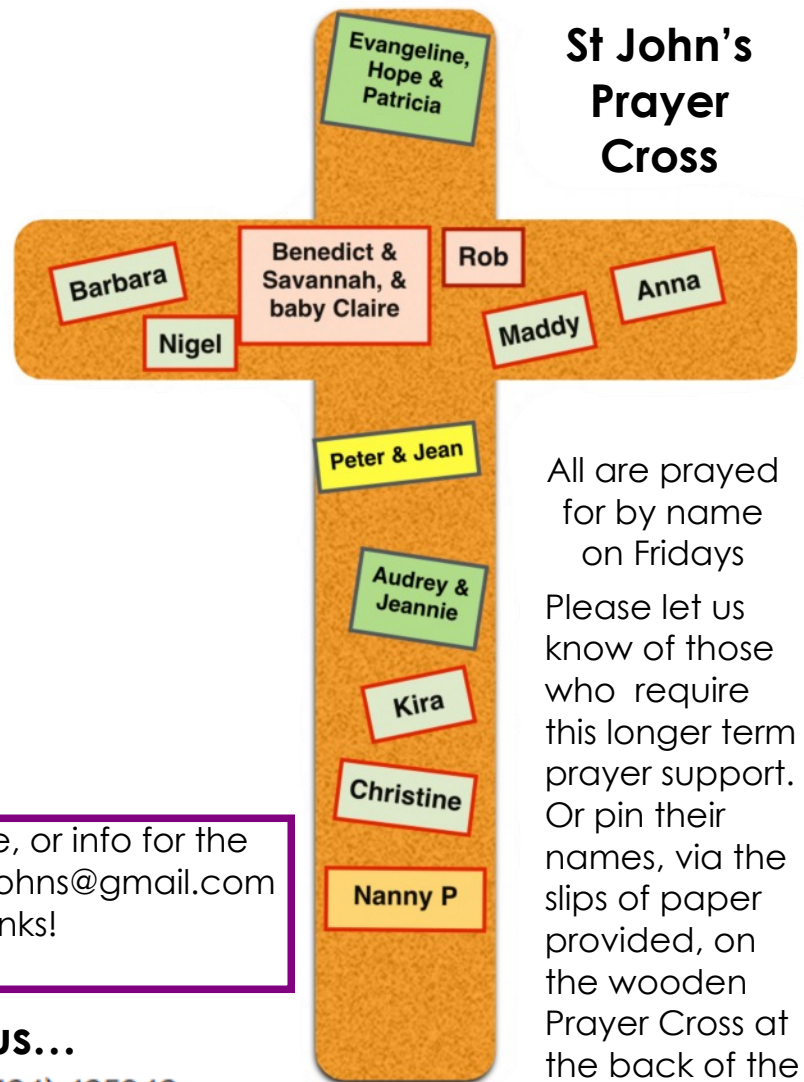
Email: [admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com)

Tina is our Administrator.

Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.

Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

## 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.