

**Here this evening
6PM**

**LESSONS and
CAROLS for
CHRISTMAS**

**St John's Upper St Leonard's
Pews News and Service Sheet
for Sun 17th December 2023
Welcome to Mass
this morning -
Advent 3**

During the week:

Wednesday 10am

Midweek Mass in St

**Peter's Chapel, followed by
a relaxed Advent Course
using Stephen Cottrell's book
'Walking backwards to Christmas'.**

Online Zoom service*:

Wednesdays at 10am

Next Sunday 24th:

9am Said Mass

4pm Crib service

6pm Carols in the garden

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

10.30am Sung Mass

Sunday 31st:

10.30am Sung Mass

**(NO 8am Mass and NO
Mass on Wed 27th Dec.)**



Friday Coffee morning in church is **cancelled next Friday 22nd Dec and Friday 29th Dec.**

We will re-open again Friday 5th Jan 2024 10-12 as usual. We wish our friends a very Happy Christmas. See you all again in January.

Love from Sue, Mary and Sue
XX

Also, tomorrow, 18th, is the last day that Tina will be in the office this year, so there will be **no updates to printed notices or to the printed prayer cross or printed intercession list until Sunday 7th January.** Thank you to Tina for doing the weekly printing and to Mary and Sally who fold and staple.
Vx

**Our prayers
are asked for:**

Oliver; Tony G;
David S;

**Please also
pray for the**

souls of the
recently
departed,
especially
Annora Clapp,
for those whose
Years Mind falls
at this time, and
for all who
mourn.

Instead of our usual Christmas Card scheme here at St Johns we are simply asking throughout Advent for donations to
The Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

Please put money in the Christian Aid box in the wall (or on the desk). If you wish to use the contactless system please make the donation then also put a note in the box with the amount you have given and the date.



**A prayer from
Christian Aid for the
Middle East**

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

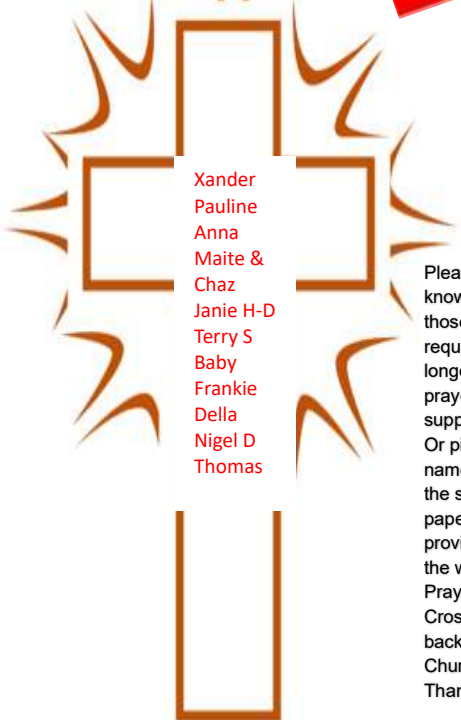
May the clamour of violence cease, replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God, in your name, Amen

**St John's
Prayer
Cross**

Xander
Pauline
Anna
Maite &
Chaz
Janie H-D
Terry S
Baby
Frankie
Della
Nigel D
Thomas

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 Prayers Cross at the back of the Church. Thank you.



Introit: Gaudete – trad.

Opening Hymn

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

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

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

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

O come, thou Lord of David's
Key!
The royal door
fling wide and free;
safeguard for us
the heavenward road,
and bar the way

to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

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

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

*Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent
Antiphons; tr T A Lacey (1853-1931) et al*

The 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 at the lighting of the third Advent Candle

Priest People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains and the
seashore announce the good
news. God comes in justice and

peace, to all who follow his ways. **The**
You are God's children.

**All Lord, make us one in the
peace of Christ today and for
ever. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light things now
hidden in darkness, and will
disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in that light,
we confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather
the nations into the peace of your
kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Choir and Congregation sing:

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy,

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy

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.**

Collect

Priest God for whom we watch and
wait, you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice, and to suffer
for the cause of right, with Jesus
Christ our Lord. **All. Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon
me, because the LORD has
anointed me; he has sent me to
bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted, to
proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners; to
proclaim the year of the LORD's
favour, and the day of vengeance
of our God; to comfort all who
mourn; to provide for those who
mourn in Zion-- to give them a
garland instead of ashes, the oil of
gladness instead of mourning, the
mantle of praise instead of a faint
spirit. They will be called oaks of
righteousness, the planting of the
LORD, to display his glory. They
shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former
devastations; they shall repair the
ruined cities, the devastations of
many generations....

⁸ For I the LORD love justice, I
hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will
faithfully give them their
recompense, and I will make an
everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known
among the nations, and their
offspring among the peoples; all
who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the

LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

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

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

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

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

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

Gospel Reading *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **All Alleluia.**

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1. 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

....

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Deacon We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**All for by his will they were
created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**All for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say,
'Come!' Even so come, Lord
Jesus! Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *led by the
intercessor using their own words or ...*

In joyful expectation of his coming
to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and
judge. We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your
coming

and give us a longing for your
kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the
nations. We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in
silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour
and comforter. We pray for ...

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness
and distress, and set us free to
serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and
guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful
departed a share in your victory
over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus,
with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you, that with *St
John the Evangelist and all your
saints and angels* we may live and
reign with you in your new
creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love. By your
coming, raise us to share in the joy
of your kingdom on earth as in
heaven, where you live and reign
with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest The God of peace make us
holy in all things that we may be
ready at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always
with you **All and also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a
sign of God's peace

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn *during which the
altar is prepared, and bread and wine
are placed upon it.*

**Hills of the north, rejoice;
river and mountain spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing;
though absent long, your Lord
is nigh;**

he judgment brings and victory.

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

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

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

**Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the north we come,
from east, and west, and south.
City of God, the bonds are free,
we come to live
and reign in thee!**

C. E. Oakley (1832-65)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

Look upon us in mercy not in
judgement; draw us from hatred to
love; make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

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

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. 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, singing:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
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.

Dcn Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St John the Evangelist, 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

Deacon 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 by all.*

Jesus, lamb of God: have mercy upon us. Jesus bearer of our sins: have mercy upon us. Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Giving of Communion

The priest says the invitation.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion is received. Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing.

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Anthem: This is the truth sent from above – trad. French

Hymn

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)

Prayer after Communion

Priest We give you thanks, O
Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his
face; who is alive and reigns now
and for ever. **All Amen.**

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

Notices

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest 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,
Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, be
upon you all now and always.

All Amen.

Final hymn *Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

**Lo! he comes with clouds
descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints
attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought 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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

The Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

All May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and 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 As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *All* In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary: Concerto in A minor – J S Bach

Do stay for coffee!



This afternoon:

*Parish of The Good Shepherd
The Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs
Magdalen Rd. St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 4ET*

'WAIT FOR THE LORD'

**An Advent Service of
Music and Prayer from Taize**

Sunday December 17th 4.00 pm



All welcome
Please join us in praying for peace in our world

Anyone who would like to help lead the music is asked to come to a practice beforehand at 3.00pm in the Church.

The Greatest Gift

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS & WORSHIP
22 DECEMBER 2023, 4 - 6PM**

**AT HOPES @THE COACH HOUSE,
BEXHILL OLD TOWN**

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP,
PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP TO CELEBRATE
THE GREATEST GIFT TO ALL MANKIND:
JESUS OUR SAVIOUR.**

**MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WILL BE SERVED
AFTERWARDS**

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS
INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!
2 CORINTHIANS 9:15**



Monday 18th December, 7pm.
Whatlington Singers have a
Christmas Concert at St Mary's
Battle. Donations, rather than
tickets, to St Mary's organ
restoration fund.

Wednesday 20th December 7pm
Christ Church St Leonard's.
Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra's
Gala concert - including the Songbirds
(Childrens Choir). Tickets will be on
sale through their website.



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*Please request a link to the Wednesday
Zoom service by emailing
pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com
Also to this email address please send any
updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet
**asap. There will be no changes to the
printed sheets until the New Year. It may
be possible to add items to the
emailed/online versions.**