



**Pews News and Service
Sheet for Sunday 3rd
December 2023**

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

Morning Coffee: Fridays

10 – 12 noon in Church

Next Sunday, 10th:

**8am and 10.30am Mass -
with Holy Baptism**

3pm Lights of Love

Sunday 17th:

8am and 10.30am Mass

**6pm Lessons and Carols
for Christmas**

Sunday 24th:

9am Said Mass

4pm Crib service

6pm Carols in the garden

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

10.30am Sung Eucharist

**St John's
Pevensey Road
Welcome to Mass
this morning -
Advent
Sunday**

**(Today Year B in the Church
lectionary begins)**

**6pm here this
evening**

**ADVENT
CAROLS**



**Christmas
Fayre
this Saturday
10am - 1pm**

As it is Advent Sunday, the intercession list and Prayer Cross are being `renewed`. Please do add names to the prayer cross in church if you wish the church to pray for someone with longer-term needs. Please email pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com or let the clergy know, if you would like to add any name(s) to the more `acute` intercessions list. They will remain there for 4 weeks unless you notify us otherwise, and any `years mind` for one week. Thank you .

The logo for Christian Aid, featuring the word "christian" in a smaller font above the word "aid" in a larger, bold font, both in white on a red arrow-shaped background pointing to the right.A large, stylized wooden cross with a sunburst pattern behind it. The cross is outlined in a dark brown color. The names of the people being prayed for are written in different colors within the arms of the cross: Pauline in green, Baby Frankie in pink, and Xander in blue.

**St John's
Prayer
Cross**

Pauline

Baby Frankie

Xander

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.

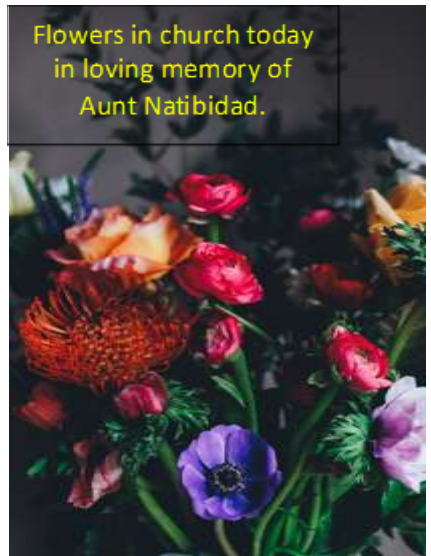
All are regularly prayed for by name

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.

Flowers in church today in loving memory of Aunt Natibidad.



Introit: Adam lay y bounden -Boris Ord

Opening Hymn

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!

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

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 first Advent Candle

Priest People of God: awake!

The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to
face.

Remember the ways and the
works of God.

God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one as we walk
with 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

Almighty God, give us grace to
cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall
come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. *All Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 64. 1-9

O that you would tear open the
heavens and come down, so that
the mountains would quake at your
presence-- as when fire kindles
brushwood and the fire causes
water to boil-- to make your name
known to your adversaries, so that
the nations might tremble at your
presence!

When you did awesome deeds
that we did not expect, you came
down, the mountains quaked at
your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has
seen any God besides you, who
works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do
right, those who remember you in
your ways. But you were angry,
and we sinned; because you hid
yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who
is unclean, and all our righteous
deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all
fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your
name, or attempts to take hold of
you; for you have hidden your face
from us, and have delivered us into
the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O
LORD, you are our Father; we are
the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O
LORD, and do not remember
iniquity forever. Now consider, we
are all your people.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ. I give thanks to my God
always for you because of the
grace of God that has been given
you in Christ Jesus, for in every
way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of
every kind-- just as the testimony
of Christ has been strengthened
among you-- so that you are not
lacking in any spiritual gift as you
wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ. He will also

strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn *during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.*

**Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human. *Refrain***

**Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. *Refrain***

**Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!***

F. Pratt, Green, 1903-2000

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 Mark

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 13.24 – end

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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.*

When the Lord in glory comes,
not the trumpets, not the drums,
not the anthem, not the psalm,
not the thunder, not the calm,
not the shout the heavens raise,
not the chorus, not the praise,
not the silences sublime,
not the sounds of space and
time,
but his voice when he appears
shall be music to my ears;
but his voice when he appears
shall be music to my ears.

When the Lord is seen again,
not the glories of his reign,
not the lightnings through the
storm,
not the radiance of his form,
not his pomp and power alone,
not the splendours of his
throne,
not his robe and diadems,
not the gold and not the gems,
but his face upon my sight
shall be darkness into light;

but his face upon my sight
shall be darkness into light.

When the Lord to human eyes
shall bestride our narrow skies,
not the child of humble birth,
not the carpenter of earth,
not the man by all denied,
not the victim crucified,
but the God who died to save,
but the victor of the grave,
he it is to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all;
he it is to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

The priest takes the bread and wine.

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. For when he
humbled himself to come among us
in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan
you formed before the foundation of
the world to open for us the way of
salvation. Confident that your
promise will be fulfilled, we now
watch for the day when Christ our

Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

Deacon 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.*

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world, have mercy on
us.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world, have mercy on
us.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world, grant us 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: O Thou the central orb –
Charles Wood*

Hymn

Come, thou long-expected
Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears
and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and
consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom
bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Prayer after Communion

Priest O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us
faithful as we await the coming of
your Son our Lord; that, when he
shall appear, he may not find us
sleeping in sin but active in his
service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Blessing of the Congregation

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

Come and see the shining hope that Christ's apostle saw; on the earth, confusion, but in heaven an open door, where the living creatures praise the Lamb for evermore: Love has the victory for ever! Amen, he comes! to bring his own reward! Amen, praise God! for justice now restored; kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of the Lord: Love has the victory for ever!

All the gifts you send us, Lord, are faithful, good and true; holiness and righteousness are shown in all you do: who can see your greatest Gift and fail to worship you? Love has the victory for ever! Amen, he comes....

Power and salvation all belong to God on high!

So the mighty multitudes of heaven make their cry, singing Alleluia! where the echoes never die:

Love has the victory for ever!

Amen, he comes

© Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns Ltd

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: Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' - J S Bach

Do stay for coffee!



*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 by **4pm Tuesday**

**Crowhurst Christian
Healing Centre invite
you to an Advent Quiet
Day "Treasures in the
Darkness - Holding the
light for those we
support"** led by Revd Steve

Gurr on **Tuesday 5th
December.** Being in a
place of darkness or despair is
often an overwhelming,
frightening, and disorientating
experience for people. It can
feel never-ending and hopeless
- like there is no way out. For
Christians who come alongside
those who find themselves in
darkness, we can be overcome
by our concern for the spiritual
wellbeing of others or feel
concerned that we are unable
to help. The backdrop of the
Advent season will provide the
context for our reflections
together. Steve is an Anglican
priest and spiritual director who
has worked in parishes,
hospice chaplaincy and is
currently Chaplain at HMP Ford
in West Sussex. The day will
run from 10am - 4pm and costs
£30 per person to include a 2
course lunch, refreshments and
cake. Book by calling 01424
830204

or <https://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk/retreat.php?retreat=787>

Gifts for Christmas Fayre

We are looking for the following
items to boost the stalls at the
Christmas Fayre on 9th

Christmas foods
Christmas goods
(decorations etc.)

Jigsaws

Bottles

Cakes (on the day)

or cash donations for prizes etc.
Please leave them in the box at
the back of the church or see

Katy H.

Thank you for making it an even
bigger success!

**At St Johns on
Saturday December
9th at 4.30pm
The Melodians &
Christchurch
School Choir -
A Concert of
Christmas Music
and Carols
Adults £3,
children free.
Proceeds for
Warming Up the
Homeless, and St
Michael's Hospice**

Parish Office: 07831904321

Email:
admstjohns30@gmail.com

Tina is our Administrator.

Please contact her also for
Church Hall bookings.

Safeguarding Officer can be
contacted on
safestjohn30@gmail.com

16th December Christ Church. Hastings Philharmonic Choir has a Christmas Concert of favourite carols, and some new ones too, with Cromwell Brass and Francis Rayner on piano. Tickets will be on sale through their website.

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

Story Group meets at Pen Wilcock's house on Sunday December 10th, from 7.30-9.00pm. Godly Play style; Advent is the story this time.

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The Diocesan Living Faith course is for lay Christians to find and develop their gifts and explore what discipleship and calling means for them. The course (which also counts towards the Authorised Lay Ministry course) is a blend of input from inspirational speakers and group work facilitated by a lay mentor. St Helen's Hastings hopes to host this course beginning in the New Year. For more information see www.chichester.anglican.org/living-faith