

**St John's  
Pevensey Road  
Pews News and Service  
Sheet for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2023**

**Welcome to Mass  
this morning  
First Sunday of  
Christmas**



Christ in the Rubble - Icon by  
Kelly Latimore. (printed with  
permission)

During the week:  
10am Midweek Mass -in  
St Peter's Chapel  
Online Zoom service\*:  
Wednesdays at 10am  
Morning Coffee/Warm  
Space: Fridays  
10 – 12 noon in Church



**Our prayers are asked for:** David S, Tony G; Oliver; Rachel T.  
**Please pray also for** the repose of the souls of the recently departed, including Annora Clapp, ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, and all who mourn.

## St John's Prayer Cross

Xander  
Pauline  
Anna  
Miri  
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.



Two peoples, one land,  
Three faiths, one root,  
One earth, one mother,  
One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,  
One broken heart,  
One God.  
We pray to You:  
Grant us a vision of unity.  
May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.  
May you, Life of All the Worlds,  
Source of All Amazing Differences  
Help us to see clearly.  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other,  
Toward peace. Amen.

\*Please request a link to the Wednesday Zoom service by emailing [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com) Also to this email address please send any updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet asap. (Print date is dependent on Tina's working days) Thank you.



**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* God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, 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 61.10-62.3*

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 Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. For the Word of the Lord.

*All Thanks be to God.*

#### **A Reading from the letter to the Galatians**

*Galatians 4.4-7*

But 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.*

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

**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:**

***O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

**From God our heavenly Father  
a blessed angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

**And when they came to  
Bethlehem,  
where our dear Saviour lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling down  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

**Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and  
brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

*Traditional*

**Gospel Reading** *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*  
Alleluia, alleluia. I am the Alpha  
and the Omega, the first and the

last, the beginning and the end.

**All Alleluia.**

**Deacon** 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**

**Deacon** We proclaim the  
Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**All We believe and declare that  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God,  
is both divine and human.**

*Dcn* God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**All fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

*Dcn* As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**All Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

*Dcn* One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**All truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

*Dcn* For as mind and body form one human being so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**All The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*(from the Athanasian Creed)*

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

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable,  
give courage to all who are homeless:

Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,  
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep:

Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,  
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed:  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,  
give humility and wisdom to all who govern:  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,  
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you:  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
child of Mary,  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Priest* 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.**

*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 peace, like a river,  
attendeth my way,  
when sorrows  
like sea-billows roll,  
whatever my lot,  
you have taught me to say,  
'It is well, it is well with my soul.'**

*'It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.'*

Though Satan should buffet,  
if trials should come,  
let this blessed assurance  
control: W  
that Christ has regarded my  
helpless estate,  
and has shed  
his own blood for my soul.  
*'It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.'*

My sin - O the bliss of this  
glorious thought -  
my sin - not in part - but the  
whole,  
is nailed to his cross;  
and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
O my soul!  
*'It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.'*

For me, be it Christ,  
be it Christ hence to live!  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
no pang shall be mine,  
for in death as in life  
you will whisper your peace  
to my soul.  
*'It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.'*

But, Lord, it's for you - for your  
coming we wait;  
the sky, not the grave,  
is our goal;  
O trump of the angel!  
O voice of the Lord!  
blessed hope!  
Blessed rest of my soul!

*'It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.'*

Horatio G Spafford (1828-88)

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar**

*The priest takes the bread and wine.*

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 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.**

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 and 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.

*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* 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 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.*

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

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

*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**

### **Hymn**

**While shepherds watched their  
flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came  
down,  
and glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not’, said he (for mighty  
dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.**

**‘To you in David’s town this day  
is born of David’s line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the  
Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:**

**‘The heavenly Babe you there  
shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing  
bands,**

**and in a manger laid.’  
Thus spake the seraph; and  
forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who  
thus  
addressed their joyful song:**

**‘All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from  
heaven to men  
begin and never cease.’**

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Priest* Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at  
Nazareth the life of an earthly  
home: help your Church to live as  
one family, united in love and  
obedience, and bring us all at last  
to our home in heaven;  
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* May God the Father keep you in all your days.

May God the Son shield you in all your ways.

May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light. *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> c. 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 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.**

*To be said facing the open doors:*

*Dcn* To a troubled world  
**peace from Christ.**

*Dcn* To a searching world  
**love from Christ.**

*Dcn* To a waiting world,  
**hope from Christ.**

*Deacon* Go in peace.  
Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

*Organ voluntary: Toccata in G major -  
Dubois*

*Do stay for coffee!*



THE FLOOD St John's, Pevensey Rd: New Year 2024 event:

Join the FLUDDE! Hot on the heels of Hansel and Gretel 2022:

We are thrilled to offer a wonderful chance for children, 6 years to 18 years old who would like to be involved as animals (all sizes!) or as vocal soloists and wear head-dress masks (animals)/sing/act and generally have fun, to join our fund-raising event – Britten's "Noyah's Fludde"(based on a mediaeval miracle play). There is also a great opportunity for musically-talented young people up to the age of 18 with stronger voices, to sing/act the small solo parts.

Key moments include the animals entering the Ark, the Flood, the Storm and the Rainbow (not forgetting slung mugs and sandpaper for the real musicians...

We are also looking for a budding dancer (boy or girl) to join our Dove as The Raven and additional keen actors to join the cast.

The dress rehearsal is on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Performances are on February 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Rehearsals will be in mid January and February, mainly at weekends either in St John's or 6 The Uplands, Maze Hill. There will also be the opportunity to help making masks in January.

If you would like to join our happy band..

Please contact Lesley Ann on: [interopera.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:interopera.ltd@gmail.com)

Or Alan Privett on [alanprivett@gmail.com](mailto:alanprivett@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 07831904321

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

Tina is our Administrator.

Please contact her also for  
Church Hall bookings.

Safeguarding Officer can be  
contacted on  
[safestjohn30@gmail.com](mailto:safestjohn30@gmail.com)

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The prayer on page 2 was written by Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, Jewish Community of Amherst, Amherst, MA. Breakfast image: [www.freeimages.co.uk](http://www.freeimages.co.uk)

This pew sheet is printed on 100% recycled paper



On January 8<sup>th</sup> HTH (Holy Trinity Hastings) is hosting Dr Jason Myers, a New Testament/Pauline scholar from North Carolina. Jason will be teaching at Westminster Theological Centre in Nottingham and making a side-trip to Hastings for a few days. (WTC has a centre at Ashburnham). HTH has invited Jason to lead an evening seminar at HTH called '*Meeting Paul Again for the First Time*' followed by a Q&A session. Places can be booked online through the HTH website: [hthchurch.org/meeting-paul](http://hthchurch.org/meeting-paul).

## Big Breakfast

**Saturday 13th January 8.30am**

We are excited to announce that Richard White will speak at our next meeting. He recently retired as a local headteacher and will tell us about his adventures sailing the first parts of the round the world clipper race. Please join us for coffee and croissants and bring your friends.



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](http://www.chichester.anglican.org/living-faith)