

**St John's
Pevensey Road
Pews News and Service
Sheet for Christmas
morning 2023**



**Welcome to
St John's on
Christmas Day**



During the week:

Online Zoom service*:

Wednesday at 10am

NO Wed Mass

**NO Morning Coffee on
Friday**

Next Sunday 31st:

**10.30am Sung Mass
(NO 8am Mass and NO
Mass on Wed 27th Dec.)**

*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 . (The printed sheet will not now be updated until the new year)

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, including Richard Smallman, and all who mourn.

**St John's
Prayer
Cross**



Miri
Xander
Pauline
Anna
Maite &
Chaz
Janie H-D
Terry S
Baby
Frankie
Della
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.

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

Opening Hymn

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.

Mrs C F Alexander (1818-95)

The Welcoming of the People

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

Priest `Do I not fill heaven and
earth?' says the Lord.

**All Now the Word is made flesh
and laid in a narrow manger**

Priest From eternity to eternity you
are God

**All And now we see you as a
newborn child.**

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

The White Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Priest People of God: shout and
sing! Tell the good news of peace
on earth. Lord, bring us today into
Christ's peace.

All God's people shout: **Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star
shines. All creation bows to the
Lord of all. Lord, bring us today
into Christ's light.

All God's people shout: **Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's
love.

All God's people shout: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*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 figure of the Christ child is placed in the manger

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

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

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

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

The

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

All Amen.

The Priest and Altar Party return from the crib

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung

**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.**

Collect

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

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet 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 onward and forevermore. 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 to Titus

Titus 2. 11-14

For 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 Savior, 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.

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

**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 all 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.**

**Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes,
the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once
more.**

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

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

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. 1-20

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 Savior, 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

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.*

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)

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.

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 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

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
til 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.

Anonymous Philadelphia 1883

Prayer after Communion

Priest 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

Blessing of the Congregation

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest 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,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
with you all for evermore.

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, let us, etc.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens
of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest:"
O come, let us, etc.

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, let us, etc.

*Latin 18th century. Tr F Oakeley (1802-80)
et al*

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.**

Deacon Go in peace. Proclaim the
Word made flesh.

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

*Organ voluntary: Sortie in E flat –
Lefebvre-Wely*



In loving
memory
of Su Hill

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 22nd and Performances are on February 23rd/24th 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

Or Alan Privett on alanprivett@gmail.com

HTH Church, in conjunction with Westminster Theological Centre, presents...

Meeting Paul again for the first time

an evening with Dr. Jason Myers

Monday 8th January
19:30 - 21:30 (doors at 19:00)
HTH Church, Robertson Street, Hastings, East Sussex, TN11 0UH.

With input from Pauline expert Dr. Jason Myers (Greenwich University and Westminster Theological Centre) this evening is a chance to get a second first impression of the 'Apostle to the Gentiles' - who was he? What made him tick? What did he believe about the Gospel? What differences does Paul make to us today? Come ready to learn and ask questions.

HTH Church logo and WTC logo.

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Photo Christ is born by [Ch P](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Photo of baby held by hands

by [Isaac Quesada](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Photo of vase of white roses

by [Karolina Bobek](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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