



**St John's
Pevensey Road
Pews News and
Service Sheet for
Sunday 28th January
2024**



**this morning:
Presentation of
Christ in the
Temple -
Candlemas**

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



*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. (Print date is dependent on Tina's working days) Thank you.

Our prayers are asked for: David S, Tony G; Rachel T, Shirley K.
Please pray also for the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Beverley Chard ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, and all who mourn.



Ramona
John H
Don
Bostik
Diane
Goldie

Zack
Dulcie
Miri
Della
Olli

Lori-Leigh M
Maite & Chaz
Janie H-D
Jeannie & Audrey &
family

Xander
Lorenzo
Jean and
Geof

Anna
Pauline

Gill T

Terry S

Nigel D
Thomas
Tia K

Everyone
in the
Holy
Land
under
duress

**St John's
Prayer
Cross**

All are
regularly
prayed
for by
name



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
safestjohns30@gmail.com

Introit: *Creator of the stars of night*

Opening Hymn

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
in light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unceasing,
and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest -
to both great and small;
in all life thou livest,
the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish -
but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render:
O help us to see
'tis only the splendour
of light hideth thee.

W. Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

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.

Priest Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

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.**

The Collect

Priest Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus 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 Malachi

Malachi 3. 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against

those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Candlemas Procession

Priest May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

All The Lord bless you.

*Hymn during which candles are lit
and the Gospel is brought amongst
us.*

**Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me,
save that thou art;
be thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping,
thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me,
and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father,
and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling,
and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour,
be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter,
be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward,
great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance
now and always;
be thou and thou only
the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven,
my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven,
thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys
after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler
of all.**

*Irish c8th century tr. Mary Byrne
(1880-1931)*

Priest Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please extinguish your candles after the Gospel has been read)

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

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature. **All Alleluia.**

Deacon Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law. **All Alleluia.**

Deacon Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was

Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Deacon Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life. Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel: look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light. Lord, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations, who

long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation. **F**

Lord, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected: look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King. Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance,

through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.

Amen.

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.

The Peace

Priest In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way 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.*

**O worship the King
all glorious above;
O gratefully sing
his power and his love;
our shield and defender,
the ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour
and girded with praise.**

O tell of his might,
O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path
on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power
hath founded of old:
hath 'stablished it fast
by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills,
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils
in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust
and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust,
nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender,
how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
while angels delight
to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
with true adoration
shall sing to thy praise.

Robert Grant (1779-1838)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name.
All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (A)

Priest The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise

Priest It is indeed right and good, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity. For on this day he appeared in the Temple in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement. He searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour. Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption. Destined for the falling and rising of many, he was lifted high upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you. And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too, have seen your salvation and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly
Father, through your Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and
obey his command,
grant that by the power of your
Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may
be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of
himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty
resurrection and glorious
ascension;
we look for the coming of your
kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ
your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high
priest, this our sacrifice of thanks
and praise, and as we eat and
drink these holy gifts in the
presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in
him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in
earth and heaven, we worship you,
Father almighty, in songs of
everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory
and power be yours for ever and
ever. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Believing the promises of
God, as our Saviour taught us, so
we pray:

**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.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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

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

Antem: *How beautiful upon the
mountains – Stainer*

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 Lord, you fulfilled the hope
of Simeon and Anna, who lived to
welcome the Messiah: may we,
who have received these gifts
beyond words, prepare to meet
Christ Jesus when he comes to
bring us to eternal life; for he is
alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

Notices

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. **All Amen**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **All Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **All Amen.**

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

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my

heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707 -88)

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 departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace...

All and rise in glory. Amen.

Deacon We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations. Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God. Amen

Organ voluntary: Postlude in D – Healey Willan

Do stay for coffee!



THE FLOOD (Friday Feb 23rd and Sat Feb 24th) - **BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUYING TICKETS:**

Please contact the Parish Office (Tina) on 07831904321 or admstjohns30@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. Payment by cheque, made payable to St Johns PCC or by bank transfer as below.

Parochial Church Council St Johns
Sort code: 405240
Account no: 00006561
Please add the ref: FLOOD/your surname

If paying by cheque, please post through the Church hall letterbox.

In extremis, tickets CAN be purchased on the door, but this makes a huge amount of work for the kind volunteers on the desk and causes queues so please do take advantage of the above methods if at all possible.

THANK YOU

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**Walsingham Pilgrimage
June 21st-23rd**

A £50 deposit is needed by Jan.31st please.

Cheques or cash transfer via Tina in the parish office. The office mobile number is

07831
904321

We have booked for 25 people at the Shrine and have 4 places still available. Please speak to Dcn.Michael for more information.

The Guardians maintain the discipline of reserving sacramental ministry in the Shrine to male priests who have been ordained to the diaconate and to the priesthood by a male bishop at whose episcopal ordination a male bishop, himself ordained in the historic apostolic succession of bishops, presided.