

**St John's
Pevensey Road
Pews News and Service
Sheet for Sunday 7th
January 2024**

**Welcome to Mass
this morning
Epiphany Sunday**

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



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.



*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; Oliver; Rachel T.

Please pray also for the repose of the souls of the recently departed, ...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
Della
Nigel D
Thomas
Tia K
Everyone
in the
Holy
Land
under
duress

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

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

Introit *Past three o'clock - trad*

Opening Hymn

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heaven and earth
adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly
King.

Holy Jesu, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are
past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to
guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
thou its Sun which goes not
down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

The Welcoming of the People

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

Priest Blessed are you, Lord our
God, King of the universe.
**All From the rising of the sun to
its setting your name is
proclaimed in all the world.**

Priest. The Lord of glory be with
you. **All and also with you.**

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon The grace of God has
dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to
purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins..

Silence is kept

Dcn God be gracious to us and
bless us, and make your face
shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Dcn May your ways be known on
the earth, your saving power
among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Dcn You, Lord, have made known
your salvation, and reveal your
justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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 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 Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh, let us pray: Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. *All. Amen*

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness

shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the

Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

**Bethlehem, of noblest cities
none can once with thee
compare;
thou alone the Lord from heaven
didst for us incarnate bear.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth;
to the lands their God
announcing,
seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**By its lambent beauty guided
see the eastern kings appear;**

**see them bend, their gifts to
offer,
gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.**

**Solemn things of mystic
meaning:
incense doth the God disclose,
gold a royal child proclaimeth,
myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

**Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
to the Gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit
endless praise to thee be paid.
Amen.**

*Latin, Prudentius (348-410) Tr E Caswall
(1814-78)*

The three figures of the Magi may be placed at the crib. The priest prays: Bright Morning Star, your light has come and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago may we be drawn to you, and offer you such gifts as we are able.
All Amen.

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

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All Alleluia.

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2. 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 in their own words or...

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also worship him with great joy, and make our prayer to his and our heavenly Father.

Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our

neighbours and families, together with the whole community of which we are part.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen [... *and all*] those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to [... *and all*] the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Priest Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to 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.*

**The first Nowell
the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep:**

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

**They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.**

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

**And by the light
of that same star,
three Wise Men came
from country far;
to seek for a king
was their intent,
and to follow the star
wheresoever it went.**

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

**This star drew nigh
to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,**

and there it did both
stop and stay
right over the place
where Jesus lay:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

Then entered in
those Wise Men three,
fell reverently upon their knee,
and offered there
in his presence
both gold and myrrh
and frankincense:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises
to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and
earth of naught
and with his blood
mankind has bought:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

Traditional

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar
Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in
praise of Jesus Christ, our light
and our salvation. **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 honour and praise be yours
always and everywhere, mighty
creator, ever-living God, through
Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your
glory made present in our midst. In
the coming of the Magi, the King of
all the world was revealed to the
nations. In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us. In
the water made wine the new
creation was revealed at the
wedding feast. Poverty was turned
to riches, sorrow into joy. 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 be 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.

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.**

**Anthem: The three kings – Peter
Corneliua**

Hymn

**Brightest and best of the sons
of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend
us thine aid;
star of the East, the horizon
adorning,
guide where our infant
Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-
drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts
of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber
reclining,
maker and monarch and Saviour
of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly
devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings
divine?
gems of the mountain, and
pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold
from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample
oblation,
vainly with gifts would his
favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's
adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of
the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons
of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend
us thine aid;
star of the East, the horizon
adorning,
guide where our infant
Redeemer is laid.**

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Prayer after Communion

Priest Lord God, the bright
splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your Son, the Word made flesh,
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

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the
shining of a star to find the Christ,
the Light from Light, lead you also
in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

May God, who has delivered us
from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in
light in the kingdom of his beloved
Son. **All Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and 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

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
*O star of wonder, etc.***

**Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
all are raising:
worship him, God most high.
*O star of wonder, etc.***

**Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
breathes a life
of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
*O star of wonder, etc.***

**Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice.
“Alleluia”, “Alleluia”,**

**earth to heaven replies.
*O star of wonder, etc.***

John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)

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: War March of the
priests - Mendelssohn**

Do stay for coffee!



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The Magi Follow the Star

From the *St. Alban's Psalter* or *Psalter* of Christina of Markyate English (St. Alban's Abbey), First Half 12th Century Hildesheim, Dombibliothek. fol. 24

TOMORROW.....

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

This pew sheet is printed on 100% recycled paper

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, TN35 0JH.

With input from Pauline scholar Dr Jason Myers (Duke University) and Westminster Theological Centre this evening is a chance to get a deeper insight into the Apostle to the Gentiles, whose Paul made men his friends to help them do the things they would otherwise do. Paul make to us today? Come ready to learn and ask questions.

HTH Church logo and Westminster Theological Centre (WTC) logo.

On January 8th 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.