

# St John's, Pevensey Road



## Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - viewable via the Broadcast Page of our church website. [www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast](http://www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast)

**Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 situation, St John's Church is closed for public worship services & private prayer until further notice.**

**Sunday Parish Mass** will be online only - recorded in the closed church and broadcast via our church website at 10:30 a.m.

**Online "Zoom" service:** 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

**People for whom our prayers are asked:**

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Liisa & Junior, Libby V, Kath Q, and Linda.

**Please pray also for...**

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Lilian,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time:

Jeremy Lee, Doris Gordon, Gordon Ross, John Howie, Mary Robson, Helen Farrer, Rosemary Hughes, and Doris Jenkins,

...and all who mourn.

## **HYMN OF THE WEEK: O worship the Lord...**

From the Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 16:29 - *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.* (KJV)

...So sang the young Levite priest Asaph, David's musical director, and his brethren on the day of the entrance into Jerusalem of the Ark of the Covenant, God's presence amongst His people Israel. This was a new liturgical composition, incorporating elements of Psalms 96, 105 & 106, and appears to form the inspiration for John Monsell's verses sung today.

In keeping with the sentiments of grace and hospitality we encounter in today's scripture readings, David preceded this Ark celebration by blessing Israel, and giving each person a loaf of bread, piece of meat, and flagon of wine. (1 Chron.16:3)

We are more used to the idea of God being worshipped in the heavenly courts, alongside Christ, "one like the Son of man", as foreseen in the visions of Daniel (Dan.7:9-14). We can offer him no physical gifts, like those of the magi, but can simply worship him in truth, lowliness and loving obedience, rejoicing in his grace and hospitality in exchanging our fear, trembling and tears for hope, trust and joy.

According to Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary: *When Christ finished his work on earth, and was received into his glory in heaven, the church began to sing a new song unto him, and to bless his name. His apostles and evangelists showed forth his salvation among the heathen, his wonders among all people. All the earth is here summoned to worship the Lord. We must worship him in the beauty of holiness, as God in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.*

# Mass for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

## Welcome

*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 of Confession

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.

*All* Almighty God,  
our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through  
weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
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 grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

## The Priest says the Absolution

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 Collect

*Priest* Let us pray

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## A reading from the Book of Genesis

*Genesis 14.17-20*

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,  
'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'  
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

For the Word of the Lord

*All* Thanks be to God

## A reading from the Book of Revelation

### *Revelation 19.6-10*

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has  
come,

and his bride has made herself  
ready;

to her it has been granted to be  
clothed

with fine linen, bright and pure’—  
for the fine linen is the righteous  
deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, ‘Write this:  
Blessed are those who are invited to  
the marriage supper of the Lamb.’

And he said to me, ‘These are true  
words of God.’ Then I fell down at his  
feet to worship him, but he said to me,  
‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-  
servant with you and your comrades  
who hold the testimony of Jesus.

Worship God! For the testimony of  
Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

For the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy  
prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as  
thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of  
tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

*John S. B Monsell (1811 - 1875)*

## Gospel Reading

Alleluia alleluia.

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

**All Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 2.1-11*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen Martin, Will and Ruth, our bishops, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer.**

Bless and guide *Elizabeth our Queen*;  
give wisdom to all in authority;  
and direct this and every nation in the  
ways of justice and of peace;  
that we may honour one another,  
and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer.**

Give grace to us, our families and  
friends, and to all our neighbours,  
that we may serve Christ in one  
another,  
and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer  
in body, mind, or spirit ... ;  
give them courage and hope in their  
troubles;  
and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer.**

Hear us as we remember those who  
have died in the faith of Christ ... ;  
according to your promises,  
grant us with them a share in your  
eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [*N and of*]  
all your saints,  
we commend ourselves and the whole  
creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father  
**All Accept these prayers, for the  
sake of your Son, our Saviour,  
Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **The Peace is introduced**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of  
peace there shall be no end. *cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We may exchange a sign of Peace*

## **Preparation of the Table**

Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The president takes the bread and wine.*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**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 declare 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.

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 Saint John  
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Saint Paul,  
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**

Believing the promises of God, 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.**

## **Agnus Dei is said:**

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
Grant us peace**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The priest says the invitation to communion.*

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

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

*Communion is received*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The priest prays the Post Communion:*

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the  
light of the world:  
may your people,  
illumined by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and  
obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever  
**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 and Dismissal

*Priest* The Lord be with you  
*All* **And also with you**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Concluding voluntary: Rondeau from 'Abdelazer' - Henry Purcell**

 **This week's urgently needed items:**

- Tinned meat (but not corned beef or pork)
- Tinned vegetables (especially peas and carrots)
- Tinned fruit
- Longlife milk: full fat or semi-skimmed
- Tinned spaghetti in sauce

**Also welcomed:**

- Toiletries, toilet rolls
- Tinned fish, potatoes, rice pudding
- Tea, coffee, long-life fruit juice.

*There are collection points in various local supermarkets, to facilitate donation whilst our church building is closed*

**Thank you**

### A prayer for the pandemic

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you!

We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord.

Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue.

When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us.

You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff.

Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world.

Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring.

Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings.

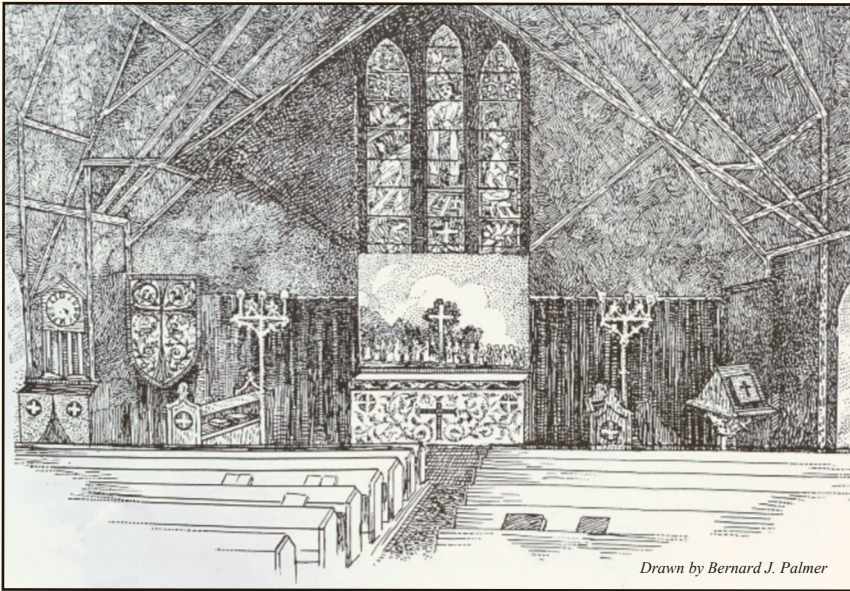
This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life.

Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus.

**Amen.**



## History Corner... the second St John's Church



In August 1867, just ten months after the demise of The Round Church building, the second St John's Church was ready! Once again, the clergy, choir and the local Great and The Good gathered in the old iron round church, this time to ceremonially process, with banners flying, into the new church, as they sang "Christ is made the sure foundation". Mr Dyer, the author of "St John the Evangelist - The First Hundred Years", describes this church building as "the little brick church on the hill". The Reverend Vaughan and his assistant priests administered both Christ Church and St John's churches for the next 15 years. We are told that in 1873, the clergy team of four priests and two deacons served a population of 6,000.

Unfortunately, on the eve of Advent Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 1878, this second St John's Church burned down. The fire was attributed to a gas stove which had been left burning there, due to the usual heating system being temporarily out of order. The Rev'd Robert Walker, who chronicled the building of the third St John's, later wrote: *"The little church and its quiet services were dear to many, and the sudden sight of the blackened and still smouldering ruin drew forth many a tear in the early hours of that Advent morning. But when from the standing point of 1886 we look back upon the ruin, it would be difficult to deny that the sorrow was indeed a blessing, for from the ashes of the little building there has arisen a stately church worthy... of the Worship of God, and fit to be the Parish Church of a large and important district"*.

***To be continued...***

## Tomorrow, 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Church celebrates the Conversion of Saint Paul.

Indeed, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65 A.D.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge



that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

## The Small Print for this pewsheet:

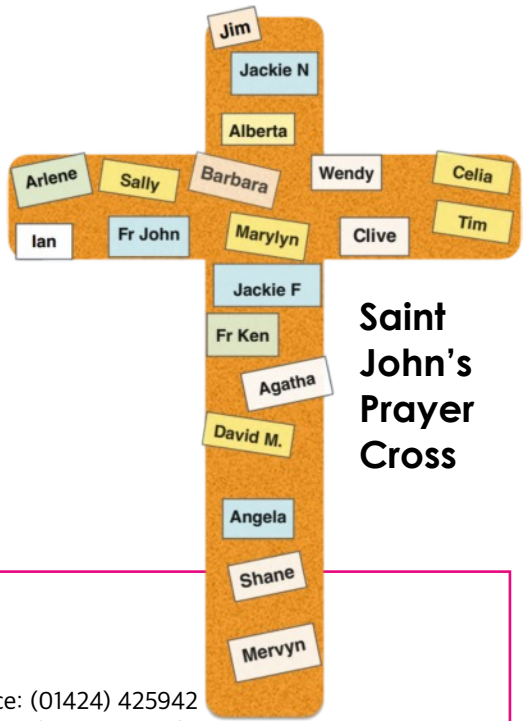
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## Saint John's Prayer Cross

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