

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 19th December 2021

The 4th Sunday of Advent



Welcome to our Mass Services today - held each Sunday at 08:00 and 10:30 a.m.
(The 10:30 service is recorded and broadcast via our church website later in the day)

This week:

Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, at 9 a.m.

Church open for private prayer, usually 9 - 5.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Morning Coffee Friday 10 - 12, in church

**Drop in for
Morning
Coffee**

... and to spend some time in this beautiful church
Fridays, 10:00 - 12:00



Our prayers are asked for:

Geraldine, Amber, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, Jenny H, Alison N, Ana, and Clive P.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Lionel, and Brother Martin,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Stephen Cockhill,
Valerie Shaw, Dan Rodney, and Helena Quartey,

... and all who mourn.

Face coverings in church.

Further to our notice last week,
we now need to remind everyone
that it is a legal requirement for
the congregation to wear a mask
inside the building unless there is
a medical exemption.

Thank you for your understanding.
Mike and Barbara, Churchwardens.



Christian Aid
Christmas card

...is at the back of the
church for you to write your
Christmas message to others in
our congregation, in return for a
donation to Christian Aid, who are
working hard at this time to bring
comfort and aid to our brothers
and sisters in need. *JB*

Do you have an item, prayer list
update, or info for the Pews News?
Please send to
pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com
by 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES HERE AT ST JOHN'S



Sunday 19th December, 5 p.m.
LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve, 24th December, 4 p.m.
Family-friendly CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve, 24th December, 7 p.m.
CAROLS IN THE GARDEN outside church

Christmas Eve, 24th December, 11 p.m.
"MIDNIGHT MASS"

Christmas Day, 25th December, 8 a.m. Mass,
10:30 a.m. "Parish Mass for Christmas Day"

Boxing Day, 26th December, 10:30 a.m. Mass
(no 8 a.m. Mass that day)

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Introit: *Creator of the stars of night (plainchant)*

We stand for the Opening Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy name--the Lord, the Mighty One.

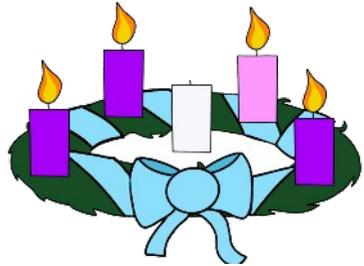
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Welcoming of the people

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

Bishop The Lord be with you
All and also with you.



The lighting of the Fourth Candle on the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of
your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the
heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ
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.**

Then the Kyrie Eleison is sung:

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

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 Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this
present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

We sit for our Bible readings

A reading from the Book of Micah

Micah 5.2-5a

The LORD says to his people:
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the
time
when she who is in labour has brought
forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in
the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD
his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he
shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 10.5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to
do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of
me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither
desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices
and offerings and burnt-offerings and
sin-offerings' (these are offered
according to the law), then he added,
'See, I have come to do your will.' He
abolishes the first in order to establish
the second. And it is by God's will that
we have been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

We stand for the Gradual Hymn

The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon the road
his glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son
scorns not the Virgin's womb;
that we from bondage may be won
he bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Zion, rise
to meet thy lowly King,
let not thy stubborn heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light,
as Judge he comes again,
his scattered people to unite
with him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away
ere that great hour shall dawn,
let this old Adam day by day
God's image still put on.

Praise to the Incarnate Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father and with Spirit One,
to all eternity. Amen.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. H. Putman (1861-1935)*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see
the salvation of God.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1.39-45(46-55)

Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, where she
entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are
you among women, and blessed is the fruit
of your womb. And why has this happened
to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to
me? For as soon as I heard the sound of
your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for

joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We stand for The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

We sit for the Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength
to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

The intercessor leads us in our prayers...

The response at the end is:

Merciful Father

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

We stand for The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break
upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of Peace

Offertory Hymn

*During which the table is prepared and
bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Ye who own the faith of Jesus,
sing the wonders that were done
when the love of God the Father
O'er our sin the victory won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
Mother of his only Son.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of grace.

Blessed were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come;
blessed was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessed far the Mother,
she who bare him in her womb.
Hail Mary...

Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name;
let the Church, in her foreshadowed
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's Mother sang in gladness
let Christ's people sing the same.
Hail Mary...

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
who hath made thee ark and throne
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary...

V.S. Stuckey Coles (1845-1929)

Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into
your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The bishop takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent
music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us
in your image,
the crown of all creation.

And now we give you thanks
because your Son our Lord was awaited
by the prophets,
announced by an angel,
conceived by a virgin,
and proclaimed at last to men and
women of every race.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands,
O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our
Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of
wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the
cross;
we remember his dying and rising in
glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us
at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring
before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of
your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in
your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your
glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every
land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the Mother of
God, and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and
heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs
of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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 bishop breaks the consecrated
bread.*

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sit as Agnus Dei is sung:
**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us**

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

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace**

Giving of Communion

*The bishop says the invitation to
communion.*

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you, but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

The bishop partakes of the consecrated bread - and wine on behalf of us all - to which we respond Amen.

Communion is then distributed, "in one kind" - The Body of Christ

Anthem: I saw a maiden (Old Basque Noel)

Prayer after Communion

The bishop prays the Post Communion for the day:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your
holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

**All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and
brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your
love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate
of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to
others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light
to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us,
so we and all your children shall be
free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your
name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

We stand for the Final Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice;
Him who made earth and skies.
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know;
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Based on C.E. Oakley (1832-65)

The Blessing

Bishop The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God. Amen.

Concluding voluntary: Allabreve BWV 589 - J.S. Bach

You are welcome to stay for coffee after the 10.30 Mass

*Loving God, as we journey closer to the heart of Christmas,
Give us the strength and courage we need to tell the good news of Jesus Christ
to all whom we meet through church, community, or home.
In the complexity of these days,
may we reflect your love, and know your peace.
We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



This Tuesday sees the **Winter Solstice** - the shortest day. A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens. Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green..." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.



The Mission to Seafarers
Caring for seafarers around the world

At Christmas can we spare a thought for the seafarers who work long hours in difficult and sometimes exploitative circumstances to bring us

90% of everything we consume. The Mission to Seafarers has centres in over 100 ports around the world, providing practical and spiritual support, as well as offering advocacy services and campaigning for changes that improve seafarers' lives. There are envelopes at the back of church for donations, which will be much appreciated. Just put money in the envelope and drop it into our general donation box. Thank you, *Fiona M*

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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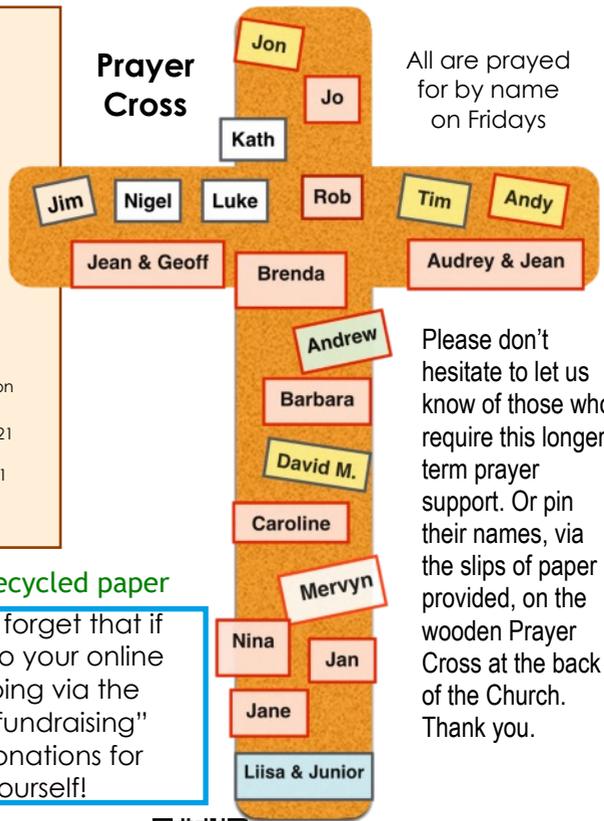
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Prayer Cross

All are prayed for by name on Fridays



Please don't hesitate to 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 Prayer Cross at the back of the Church. Thank you.

The printed pewsheet uses 100% recycled paper



Don't forget that if you do your online shopping via the "Easyfundraising" website/app, you can raise donations for St John's, at no extra cost to yourself!

St John the Evangelist
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Tina is our Administrator.
Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.
Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**



Website: www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk