



**Pews News
and Service
Sheet**

**for Sunday 10th
December 2023 –
Advent 2**

During the week:

**Monday: PCC meets
Wednesday 10am**

**Midweek Mass in St
Peter's Chapel, , followed by a
relaxed Advent Course
using Stephen Cottrell's book
'Walking backwards to Christmas'.**

Online Zoom service*:

Wednesdays at 10am

**Morning Coffee: Fridays
10 – 12 noon in Church**

Next Sunday 17th:

**8am & 10.30am Mass
6pm 9 Lessons and Carols**

Sunday 24th:

9am Said Mass

4pm Crib service

6pm Carols in the garden

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

10.30am Sung Eucharist



**St John's
Pevensey Road
Welcome to Mass
this morning**



**Flowers in church today:
In loving memory of Richard –
beloved husband and father.**

**Here 3pm today –
Lights of Love**

Our prayers are asked for: David S, Tony G;
Please pray also for the repose of the souls of the recently departed, including Annora Clapp, ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, including Richard Smallman, and all who mourn.

St John's Prayer Cross



Baby Frankie
Maite and Chaz

Xander
Pauline
Terry S
Della
Anna

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

Instead of our usual Christmas Card scheme here at St Johns we are simply asking throughout Advent for donations to
The Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

Please put money in the Christian Aid box in the wall (or on the desk). If you wish to use the contactless system please make the donation then also put a note in the box with the amount you have given and the date.

A prayer from Christian Aid for the Middle East

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease, replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God, in your name, Amen

*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 by **4pm Tuesday**.
Thank you.

Introit: A great and mighty wonder - trad

Opening Hymn

Hark! A herald voice is calling;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of
darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth
dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from
heaven;
let us haste, with tears of
sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

so when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws
near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run. Amen.

From the Latin tr E. Caswall (1814-78)

The Welcoming of the People

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

Prayer at the lighting of the second Advent Candle

Priest People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you, giving
you joy for sadness and turning the
dark to light. Be strong in hope
therefore; for your God comes to

save. You are God's children.

*All Lord, make us one in the love
of Christ today and for ever.
Amen.*

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light things now
hidden in darkness, and will
disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in that light, we confess
our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather
the nations into the peace of your
kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Choir and Congregation sing:

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*,
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 Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **All Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the second letter of Peter

2 Peter 3. 8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and

regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.**

**Truth from the earth,
like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice,
from her heavenly bower,
look down on mortal men.**

**Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he
who shalt by right
the nations all possess.**

**The nations
all whom thou hast made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee,
Lord,
and glorify thy name.**

**For great thou art,
and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest God alone.**

*John Milton (1608-74) cento Psalms
85, 82, 86*

Gospel Reading *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*
Alleluia, alleluia. . Prepare the way

of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **All Alleluia.**

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1. 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Deacon We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

Dcn We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**All for by his will they were
created and have their being.**

Dcn We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**All for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

Dcn We believe in God the Holy
Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say,
'Come!' Even so come, Lord
Jesus! Amen.**

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

In joyful expectation of his coming
to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and
judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your
coming and give us a longing for
your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the
nations.

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in
silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour
and comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness
and distress, and set us free to
serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and
guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful
departed a share in your victory
over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus,
with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you, that with *St
John the Evangelist* and all your
saints and angels we may live and
reign with you in your new
creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love. By your
coming, raise us to share in the joy
of your kingdom on earth as in
heaven, where you live and reign
with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The priest introduces **The Peace**

Priest The God of peace make us
holy in all things that we may be
ready at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ

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

Deacon Let us offer each other a
sign of peace. **All may exchange a
sign of peace.**

Offertory hymn *during which the altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Thy kingdom come!
On bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls
have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.

But the slow watches
of the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting night
the silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins,
ye prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:

The day
in whose clear-shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice
shall be throned in might,
and every hurt be healed;

When knowledge,
hand in hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad:
the day of perfect
righteousness,
the promised day of God.

Frederick Hosmer (1840-1929)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar *The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

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 Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people. And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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 stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St John the Baptist, 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 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 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 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.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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: Come thou Redeemer of the world – Praetorius

Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected
Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears
and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and
consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom
bring.**

**By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Prayer after Communion

Priest Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet

him with joyful love and firm faith; 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

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest 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, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, be upon you all now and always.

All Amen.

Final hymn

**On Jordan's bank
the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken,
for he brings glad tidings
from the King of kings.**

Then cleansed be every
Christian breast;
and furnished
for so great a guest
yea, let us each
our hearts prepare,
for Christ to come
and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great
reward;
without thy grace
our souls must fade,
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand
to heal our sore,
and make us rise,
to fall no more;
once more
upon thy people shine,
and fill the world
with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent
sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Spirit blest,
for evermore. Amen

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749) Tr John
Chandler (1808-76)*

The Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

**All May the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, and love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

Priest May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace...

All and rise in glory. Amen.

Dcn As we await our coming
Saviour, go in peace to love and
serve the Lord. **All In the name of
Christ. Amen.**

*Organ voluntary: Chorale Prelude
on 'Vom Himmel hoch' - Pachelbel*

Do stay for coffee!



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Photo of flowers by [KS KYUNG](#) on [Unsplash](#)



*Parish of The Good Shepherd
The Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs
Magdalen Rd. St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 8ET*

'WAIT FOR THE LORD'

**An Advent Service of
Music and Prayer from Taize**

Sunday December 17th 4.00 pm



All welcome

Please join us in praying for peace in our world

*Anyone who would like to help lead the music is asked to come
to a practice beforehand at 3.00pm in the Church.*

16th December Christ Church.
Hastings Philharmonic Choir has a
Christmas Concert of favourite
carols, and some new ones too, with
Cromwell Brass and Francis Rayner
on piano. Tickets will be on sale
through their website.

Monday 18th December, 7pm.
Whatlington Singers have a
Christmas Concert at St Mary's
Battle. Donations, rather than tickets,
to St Mary's organ restoration fund.

Wednesday 20th December Christ
Church St Leonard's 7 pm. Hastings
Philharmonic Orchestra's Gala
concert - including the Songbirds
(Childrens Choir). Tickets will be on
sale through their website.

The Church office has now
relocated to a new refurbished space
at the back of the Church hall.
The email remains the same:
admstjohns30@gmail.com but all
phone contact should now go
through the office mobile which is
07831904321.

Parish Office: 07831904321

Email:
admstjohns30@gmail.com

Tina is our Administrator.

Please contact her also for
Church Hall bookings.

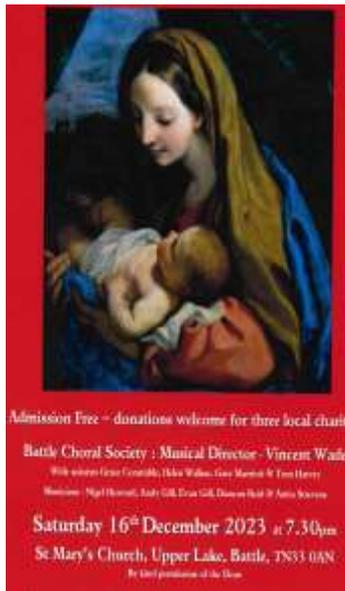
Safeguarding Officer can be
contacted on
safestjohn30@gmail.com

It has been announced that the Revd
Matthew Foy is the new Rural Dean for
Hastings Deanery.

The Hastings Foodbank, run by the Trussell Trust, provides individuals and families with three days' worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food. Our donations, at the back of church, are collected by them fortnightly. Can you help by donating? Their current "Urgent" list is shown below.. Toiletries and household cleaning products are also very welcome.



Bach's Christmas Oratorio



THE FLOOD St John's, Pevensey Rd: New Year 2024 event:

Join the FLUDGE! 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

The Diocesan Living Faith course is for lay Christians to find and develop their gifts and explore what discipleship and calling means for them. The course (which also counts towards the Authorised Lay Ministry course) is a blend of input from inspirational speakers and group work facilitated by a lay mentor.

St Helen's Hastings hopes to host this course beginning in the New Year.

For more information see www.chichester.anglican.org/living-faith