

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 8th January 2023

The Feast of the Epiphany



Welcome to today's Mass at St John's

This week:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs, in Saint Peter's Chapel. Friday in Church.

Church open weekdays, where possible.

Midweek Mass: Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: Wednesday at 10 a.m. Please contact the church administrator on admstjohns30@gmail.com, to put you in touch with the organizer for a "link" to join in

Morning Coffee and Warm Space: Friday 10 - 12 noon in the Church Hall

Our prayers are asked for:

Andrew N, Holly H, Andy, Fr David F, Sue T, Don F, Helena, Ramona, Jackie N, Marie N, John T, Tilly, and Della.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Su,
... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Brian Reade,
and Maurice Harper,
... and all who mourn.

Home Group update from Pen W:

Our story group (home group for adults with a story then discussion) meets tomorrow, Mon 9th Jan, 7.30-9.00. This time: "Creation", a Godly Play story.

From Fr David F:

Dear friends at St John's
As you may know I was taken seriously ill, very suddenly, in France in October. I had severe breathing problems, thought to be a 'flare up' of my existing lung condition. After 19 days in Intensive Care in Clermont Hospital I was air lifted back to UK and after time in the Conquest allowed home.
For the present I am on continuous oxygen with limited mobility but hoping for improvement in due course.
Thank you for all your prayers for my recovery, please continue with them.
As it will be some time before I am likely to get to St John's I would welcome visits, messages or telephone calls.
With my love Fr David F.

Welcome to St John's

Coffee and Tea

Menu

- Hot chocolate
- White Coffee/decaff.
- Black Coffee/decaff.
- Tea

... with biscuits

IN THE CHURCH HALL FRIDAYS 10 - 12

Suggested donation
50p

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 they 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)

Welcoming of the people

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

All Amen.

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

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

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.

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.

Absolution

Priest May the God of all healing and
forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung:

**All 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 for Epiphany

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.

A reading from 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 of Saint
Paul to the Ephesians**

Ephesians 3.1-12

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

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. Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.

All Alleluia.

Dcn 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

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

You have called us into the family of those who are the children of God. May our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ be strengthened by your grace. Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a temple
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.
Give us clean hands and pure hearts
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a light to the
world
so that those in darkness come to you.
May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all.
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us members of the body
of Christ,
so when one suffers all suffer together.
We ask for your comfort and healing
power
to bring hope to those in distress...
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be the Bride
where Christ the Lord is the Bridegroom.
Prepare us for the wedding feast
where we will be united with him for
ever...
Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

Jesus, Lord of the Church
you have called us into fellowship with all
your saints.
We unite our prayers with theirs
and ask for grace to serve you with joy
where you live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for all eternity.
All 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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
*We exchange a sign of Peace with those
around us*

Hymn

*During which the table 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...

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 wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell...

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...

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell...

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 hath
bought. *Nowell, Nowell...*

Traditional

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

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.

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, 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.**

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 priest says the invitation to communion.

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Holy Communion is then distributed

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Anthem: *The Three Kings (Cornelius)*

Hymn

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.

Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we yield him in costly devotion
rarest of fragrances, tribute divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor 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 your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion for the day:

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

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship
and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his
grace;
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's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

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...

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...

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
'Alleluia! Alleluia!'
earth to heaven replies.
O star of wonder...

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 the 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.

Deacon We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: War March of the
priests (Mendelssohn)**



Please stay for coffee after today's
Parish Mass.

**A date for your diary:
Big Breakfast - Saturday 28th
January 8.30 a.m. at St Johns
Church.**

You are welcome to coffee and
croissants and an opportunity to
hear our own Peter [King] telling
us about his work and faith. He
was born a King and was a
Baptist minister for some years
and he will tell us more of his
story. Peter's current work is in
theological education.

MC

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for the Pews News? Please send to
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Thursdays. Thanks!

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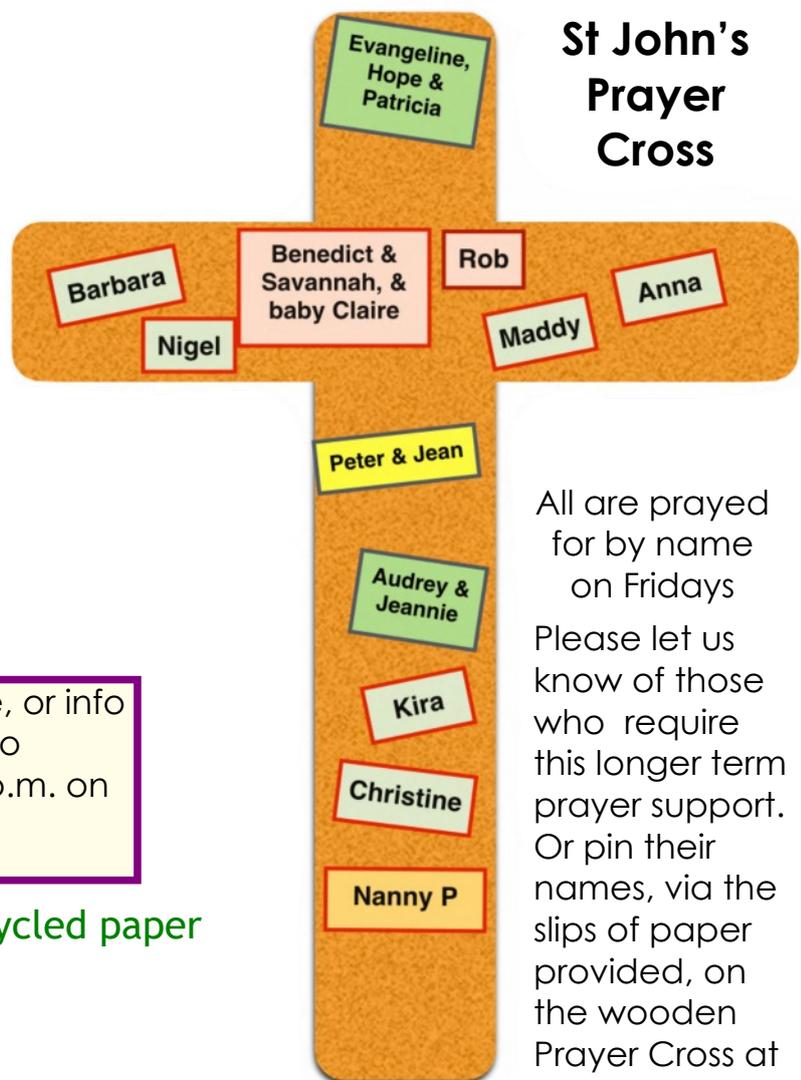
Tina is our Administrator.

Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.

Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

Website: www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk

St John's Prayer Cross



All are prayed
for by name
on Fridays
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
Prayer Cross at
the back of the
Church.
Thank you.