



**St John's
Pevensey
Road**

**Pews News and
Service Sheet for
Sunday 14th
December 2025**



*Welcome to
Mass this
morning -
Advent 3*

During the week:



Wednesday 10am -

**Midweek Mass in St
Peter's Chapel**

Online Zoom service*:

Wednesdays at 10am.

**Thursday 4pm: Requiem
Mass for Tim M**

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



Next Sunday – Advent 4 – 21 December
(NO 8am – Said Mass)
10.30am – Sung Parish Mass

Our prayers are asked for: Our prayers are asked for: Nigel; Gillian; Sue; Jenny; Michael; **Please pray also for** the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Tim M, ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Richard Smallman, and all who mourn.

St John's Prayer Cross

All
desperately
needing
help

Michelle, Louise T,
Jackie, Ramona,
Lorenzo, Irene,
Valerie, Jamie F,
Audrey, Jeannie &
family

Dan and children,
Jack and Lily,
whose Mum,
Chloe, has died,
aged 31yrs.

Rachel, my
daughter.
Kiss to
heaven.

All
affected
by
HIV/AIDS

Zack
Theresa
Liisa
John
Jan,
Sarah

All are
regularly
prayed
for by
name

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.



The Food Bank really needs more donations. If you are able to bring even one item, everything helps, so please do donate something if you can. Thank you.

Instead of our usual Christmas Card scheme here at St Johns we are simply asking throughout Advent for donations to

The Christian Aid Christmas 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.

Prayer said by the choir: ...grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Introit: *Gaudete – 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 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All** and also with you.

Prayer at the lighting of the third Advent Candle



Priest People of God: return!
You are called to be God’s own.
From the mountains and the
seashore announce the good
news. God comes in justice and
peace, to all who follow his ways.
You are God’s children.

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

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon A voice cries out in the
wilderness, ‘Make straight the way
of the Lord’. So let us listen, and
turn to the Lord in penitence and
faith.

In a dark and disfigured world we
have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world we
have kept the love of God to
ourselves:

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*,
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

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son: give
us courage to speak the truth, to
hunger for justice, and to suffer for
the cause of right, with Jesus
Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land
shall be glad, the desert shall
rejoice and blossom; like the
crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be
given to it, the majesty of Carmel
and Sharon. They shall see the
glory of the LORD, the majesty of
our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and
make firm the feeble knees. Say
to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is
your God. He will come with
vengeance, with terrible
recompense. He will come and

save you." Then the eyes of the
blind shall be opened, and the ears
of the deaf unstopped; then the
lame shall leap like a deer, and the
tongue of the speechless sing for
joy. For waters shall break forth in
the wilderness, and streams in the
desert; the burning sand shall
become a pool, and the thirsty
ground springs of water; the haunt
of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and
rushes. A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no
traveller, not even fools, shall go
astray. No lion shall be there, nor
shall any ravenous beast come up
on it; they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD
shall return, and come to Zion with
singing; everlasting joy shall be
upon their heads; they shall obtain
joy and gladness, and sorrow and
sighing shall flee away.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter of
James

James 5. 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until
the coming of the Lord. The farmer
waits for the precious crop from
the earth, being patient with it until
it receives the early and the late
rains. You also must be patient.
Strengthen your hearts, for the
coming of the Lord is near.
Beloved, do not grumble against
one another, so that you may not
be judged. See, the Judge is

standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

**Jesus shall reign
where'er the sun
does his successive
journeys run;
his kingdom stretch
from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax
and wane no more.**

**People and realms
of every tongue
dwell on his love
with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings
on his name.**

**Blessings abound
where'er he reigns;
the prisoners leap
to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the humble poor
are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend
with songs again,
and earth repeat the long amen.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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 Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11. 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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.**

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

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

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.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

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

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

The priest introduces 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.**

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.*

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned
and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down
like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down
before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;**

**his name shall stand for ever;
that name to us is Love.**

*James Montgomery 1771-1854) based on
Ps 72*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

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, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna,
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, St 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

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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us 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 earth - Praetorius

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 Sion, 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
the new Man all 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)*

Prayers after Communion

Priest We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts; kindle in
us the fire of your Spirit that when
your Christ comes again we may
shine as lights before his face; who
is alive and reigns now and for
ever. **All Amen.**

All Almighty God, we thank you
for feeding us with the body and
blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our
souls and bodies to be a living
sacrifice. Send us out in the
power of your Spirit to live and
work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Notices

Blessing of the Congregation

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest May God himself, the God
of peace, make you perfect and
holy, and keep you safe and
blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ; and the blessing of God
Almighty, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, be upon you all, now and
always. **All Amen.**

Final hymn

**Ye servants of the Lord
Each for your Master wait,
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame;
Gird up your loins,
as in his sight,
For awful is his name.**

**Watch! 'tis your Lord's
command,
And while we speak, he's near;
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.**

**O happy servants they,
in such a posture found,
who share their Saviour's
triumph day,
with joy and honour crowned.**

**Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise
each faithful servant's head
amidst the angelic band.**

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

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: The road to Glory
– Shuko Sakamoto*



*Do stay for
coffee!*

**Remembrance Flowers
in church today -
for Richard
with all our love. XX**



Care Home Carol Singing Timetable

Tuesday 16th December

2.00pm Meet at Bethune Court,
Boscobel Road

2.50pm Whitebeach, Upper
Maze Hill

3.45pm Healey House, The Green

4.30pm Park Beck, The Green

Wednesday 17th December

2.00pm Meet at Whitecliff,
Charles Road

2.45pm Blair House, Pevensey
Road

3.30pm Glenmuir House,
Branksome Road

The timings above are approximate allowing for us to get from one care home to another. Many thanks in advance for your participation. All the care homes are looking forward to seeing us, but please do not feel obligated to come to every home. Many thanks, Jenny.

R.I. P.

There will be a Requiem Mass
for Tim M in St John's at 4pm
on Thursday 18th December



*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 on Tuesdays. (Printing, folding and stapling is done on Wednesdays) Thank you. The Pew Sheet is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Do you use Facebook?

There are some good things happening at St Johns and we would like to be better at informing people about these events.

We are working on improving the church website and keeping it up to date. We are also hoping someone could post things on our Facebook page. If you could help with this in some way please speak to Fr David or contact Lucy our administrator at admstjohn30@gmail.com

St John's Personnel

Rector: Fr David

Hill rectorstjohns30@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Beryl H;
07340 268598

safestjohns40@gmail.com

Parish Administrator and PCC

Secretary: Lucy W

admstjohns30@gmail.com; Parish
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Please contact Lucy also for **Church
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www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk

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The Bishop's Christmas Message 2025

A new generation attending Chichester cathedral have shifted the atmosphere. Buggies now take their place alongside the Zimmer frames, to the delight of everyone. We are being reminded what it's like to be a baby. The needs are basic: warmth and security, food, sleep, and clean clothes. In early childhood we need people to notice us, and we need one or two people who always do this. That's how we know that we are loved. We need things to play with, capturing our imagination and teaching us communication and how to work with what we see. We never really grow out our earliest needs which guarantee our human dignity. I was reminded of this at the joyful celebrations of baptism and confirmation just before Christmas. Candidates spoke of their need of being loved, feeling safe, finding kindness and knowing that you can be forgiven. Some of the most moving testimonies came from our asylum seeker and refugee brothers and sisters. They spoke of how the local church has shown them the kindness of God our loving Father, which we see in the face of his Son, Jesus Christ. This kindness has done much to restore their sense of dignity as the children of God. And because words can sometimes be a barrier, the symbolic gestures of worship become more important as a form of communication. The washing with water in baptism, like the laying-on of hands and anointing in confirmation speaks powerfully. It says that the love of God is as tender and reassuring as the gentle touch of a parent is to a new-born child. So, with Christians young and old we rejoice this Christmas that what God the Father sees and loves in the new-born Christ, he sees and loves in you and me. The Virgin Mother looks on with love. Joseph is a friend and guardian. Angels enchant us with music promising peace on earth. And all for your sake.



A celebration of Christmas music
with Watlington Singers.
Monday 15th December. 7:00 pm
Saint Mary's Church, Battle.
Directed by Lucinda Sheppard.
Admission by donation-profits to
UNICEF

Christmas Gala

Christmas classics with
Orchestra, Hastings
Philharmonic Choir, the HPO
Singers and the Songbirds
children's choir.
Book early to get in.
Sat 20th Dec 7:00 pm. Christ
Church, St Leonards.
Tickets from TicketSource.