



**St John's
Pevensey
Road
Pews
News
and
Service Sheet for
Sunday 21st
December 2025**



*Welcome to
Mass this
morning -
Advent 4*

**Today! 6pm here
Christmas Carol Service**



During the week:

(Wednesday - Christmas Eve -
NO 10am Mass
NO Online Zoom service)

**Christmas Eve: 4pm
Christmas Crib Service
6.30pm - Carols in the
Churchyard
11 pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Morning -
10.30am Festival
Eucharist**

God fills me with joy.



NB. No meeting for coffee in church this Friday 26th or next week on 2nd January. Refreshments will resume on

9th January.



Next Sunday 28th – The Holy Innocents
(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, ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, 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 who are
pregnant

Zack
Theresa
Liisa
John
Jan,
Sarah

All Jews
and
Palestinians

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: *Creator of the stars of night*

Opening Hymn

Lo! he comes
with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints
attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought
and sold him,
pierced and nailed him
to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens
of his Passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on
those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power
and glory,
claim the kingdom
for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

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 fourth Advent Candle



Priest People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

All Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

All Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

All Come, Lord Jesus!

Priest We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

All Come, Lord Jesus!

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

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.**

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 7. 10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,
saying, Ask a sign of the LORD
your God; let it be deep as Sheol
or high as heaven. But Ahaz said,
I will not ask, and I will not put the
LORD to the test. Then Isaiah

said: "Hear then, O house of
David! Is it too little for you to
weary mortals, that you weary my
God also? Therefore the Lord
himself will give you a sign. Look,
the young woman is with child and
shall bear a son, and shall name
him Immanuel. He shall eat curds
and honey by the time he knows
how to refuse the evil and choose
the good. For before the child
knows how to refuse the evil and
choose the good, the land before
whose two kings you are in dread
will be deserted.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to Romans

Romans 1. 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set apart
for the gospel of God, which he
promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy scriptures,
the gospel concerning his Son,
who was descended from David
according to the flesh and was
declared to be Son of God with
power according to the spirit of
holiness by resurrection from the
dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom we have received
grace and apostleship to bring
about the obedience of faith
among all the Gentiles for the sake
of his name, including yourselves
who are called to belong to Jesus
Christ, To all God's beloved in
Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

Thou didst leave thy throne
and thy kingly crown
When thou camest
to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
For thy holy nativity:

Refrain:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room
in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth
didst thou come to earth,
And in great humility: **Refrain**

Though the fox found rest,
and the bird its nest
in the shade of the cedar tree,
yet the world found no bed
for the Saviour's head
in the desert of Galilee. **Refrain**

Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn
and with crown of thorn
They bore thee to Calvary: **Refrain**

When all heaven shall ring,
and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home,
saying, Yet there is room,
There is room
at my side for thee: **Refrain**

Emily Elliott (1836-97)

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 1. 18 - end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.*

**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.**

**Blessèd were the chosen people
Out of whom the Lord did come,
Blessèd was the land of promise
Fashioned for his earthly home;
But more blessèd far the Mother
She who bare him in her womb.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary,
full of grace.**

**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, Hail Mary, Hail Mary,
full of grace.**

**Let us weave our supplications,
She with us and we with her,
For the advancement
of the faithful,
For each faithful worshipper,
For the doubting, for the sinful,
For each heedless wanderer.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary,
full of grace.**

**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, Hail Mary, Hail Mary,
full of grace.*

V. S. Stuckey Coles (1845-1929)

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 It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise, 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: I saw a maiden (15th century Basque Noel)

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)

Prayers after Communion

Priest 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

Blessing of the Congregation

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he

sent his only Son give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **All Amen.** May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **All Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **All Amen.**

and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, be upon you all, now and always.

All Amen.

Final 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 the 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 (1926 - 2024)

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 With love and compassion,

All come, Lord Jesus.

Dcn With judgement and mercy,

All come, Lord Jesus.

Dcn In power and glory,

All come, Lord Jesus.

Dcn In wisdom and truth,

All come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

*Concluding voluntary: Prelude and
Fugue in A minor BWV 551 – J. S.
Bach*



*Flowers in church:
in remembrance of
Royston Hill*



*Do stay for
coffee!*

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.

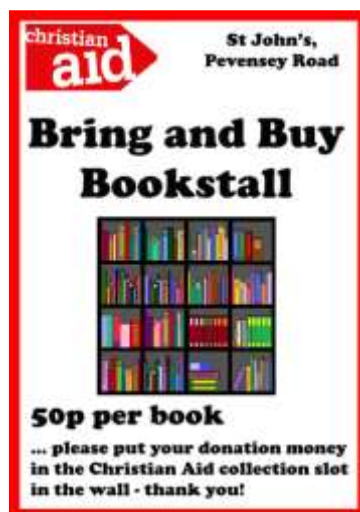
The Virgin Mother looks on with love. Joseph is a friend and guardian. Angels enchant us with music promising peace on earth. And all for your sake.

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



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STEP INTO THE BIBLE *at Ashburnham Place 10-13 February 2026*

Do you find the Bible a bit of a puzzle, a bit of a closed book? Then this short course is for you. It will help you get under the skin of the Bible and understand its world. It explains when and how the different books were written and how the Old and New Testaments relate to one another. It shows how the Biblical message developed over the many centuries of its writing, and explores the different levels of biblical truth, from the literal to the poetic.

Ashburnham Place is a Christian Retreat & Study Centre, close to Battle, (www.ashburnham.org.uk). The retreat is led by Canon Dr Peter Sills, and is based on his book, *Six Steps Into The Bible*. Those who have stepped into the Bible have found the experience fulfilling: "It was a joyful, sometimes serious, at other times very moving, experience. I feel quietly closer to God."

For further information about the course and to make a booking: www.peter-sills.co.uk/retreats.

**EXPLORE THE FAITH
with BISHOP LAURIE**

**NO MEETING AGAIN
THIS YEAR.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE
FOR OUR NEXT
GATHERING IN
THE NEW YEAR.**

*Please email pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com with any updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet, but please note the Pew Sheet will not now be updated until 4th January. Thank you. The Pew Sheet is printed on 100% recycled paper.