



**St John's  
Pevensey Road  
Pews News  
and Service Sheet  
for Holy Cross Day  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

During the week  
**10am Wednesday: Mass  
in St Peter's Chapel  
Wednesdays at 10am:  
Online Zoom service\*  
Fridays 10 – 12 noon in  
Church: Morning Coffee**



***Welcome  
to Mass  
this  
morning***



**Giovanni Fantoni  
*The Brazen Serpent Monument*, 20th  
century, Bronze**

**Next Sunday 21st September  
– St Matthew, Apostle and  
Evangelist  
10.30am Sung Mass  
(NO 8am Said Mass)**



## St John's Prayer Cross



All are  
regularly  
prayed  
for by  
name

**Our prayers are asked for:** Gillian; Sue and Ken; Tim; Jenny;

**Please pray also for** the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Fr Andrew Perry...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, and all who mourn.

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.



### Urgently needed items for the foodbank include:

Toilet Rolls, UHT Milk, Coffee, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables.

Other needed items include:

Tinned fish, tinned potatoes, tinned rice pudding, toiletries.

If you are able to donate, please leave items in the container at the back of church and they will be collected by the Food Bank rep. Thank you.

*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:** Lead me, Lord – S. S. Wesley

## Opening Hymn

Christ is made  
the sure foundation,  
and the precious corner-stone,  
who, the two walls underlying,  
bound in each,  
binds both in one,  
holy Sion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,  
dearly loved by God on high,  
in exultant jubilation  
pours perpetual melody;  
God the one, in threefold glory,  
singing everlastingly.

To this temple,  
where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy wonted  
loving-kindness,  
hear thy people as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls for ay.

Here vouchsafe  
to all thy servants  
gifts of grace by prayer to gain;  
here to have and hold for ever,  
those good things  
their prayers obtain,  
and hereafter, in thy glory,  
with thy blessed ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,

laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
one in love,  
and one in splendour,  
while unending ages run. Amen.

*Latin c 7<sup>th</sup> Century tr J M Neale (1818-66)*

## The 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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*Deacon* God shows his love for us  
in that, while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us. Let us then  
show our love for him by  
confessing our sins in penitence  
and faith.

### *Silence is kept*

We are often slow to follow the  
example of Christ.

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

We often fail to be known as  
Christ's disciples.

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

We often fail to walk  
the way of the cross.

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

## Absolution

*Priest* God who loved the world so  
much that he sent his Son to be  
our Saviour forgive you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in

the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

***The Gloria in Excelsis is sung***

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.  
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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**The Collect**

***Priest*** Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly

suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **All Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word *all sit***

**A reading from the book of Numbers**

*Numbers 21. 4-9*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

For the Word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

**A Reading from the letter  
to the Philippians**

*Philippians 2. 5 -11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn during which the Gospel is  
brought amongst us.**

**The head that once  
was crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now:  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty victor's brow.**

**The highest place  
that heaven affords  
is his, is his by right,  
the King of kings,  
and Lord of lords,  
and heaven's eternal light;**

**The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,**

**to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.**

**To them the cross,  
with all its shame,  
with all its grace, is given:  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heaven.**

**They suffer  
with their Lord below,  
they reign with him above;  
their profit and their joy to know  
the mystery of his love.**

**The cross he bore  
is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope,  
his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.**

*Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)*

**Gospel Reading** *When the Gospel is  
announced the Deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me. **All Alleluia.**

**Deacon** The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

**Dcn** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 3. 13 - 17*

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may

not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### The Creed

*Dcn* Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

*All* Though he was divine,  
he did not cling  
to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God  
has raised him on high,  
and given him  
the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

*Priest* Once we were far off but  
now in union with Christ Jesus we  
have been brought near through  
the shedding of Christ's blood, for  
he is our peace.

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

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a  
sign of God's peace

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

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

I danced in the morning  
when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon  
and the stars and the sun,  
I came down from heaven  
and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.  
*Dance, then,  
wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance,  
said he,  
and I'll lead you all,  
wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance,  
said he.*

I danced for the scribe  
and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance  
and they would not follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen,  
for James and John –  
they came with me and the  
dance went on. *Refrain.*

I danced on the Sabbath  
and I cured the lame;  
the holy people  
said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped  
and they hung me on high;  
they left me there  
on a cross to die. *Refrain.*

I danced on a Friday  
when the sky turned black –

**it's hard to dance  
with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body  
and they thought I'd gone;  
but I'm the dance  
and I still go on. *Refrain.***

**They cut me down  
and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that will never,  
never die;  
I'll live in you  
if you'll live in me –  
I am the Lord of the Dance  
said he. *Refrain.***

*Sydney Carter (1915 – 2004)*

**Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar**

Blessed be God, by whose grace  
creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our  
sacrifice of praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**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 anointed Jesus Christ  
your only Son, as the eternal priest  
and king of all. As a priest he  
offered up his life on the cross, that  
by his one sacrifice he might present  
to you an eternal kingdom; a  
kingdom of truth and life; a kingdom  
of justice, love and peace.

Therefore with angels, 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** Jesus Christ is Lord

**All** Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

**Priest** And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; 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 be 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 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.*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

**All** we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.

*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.*

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

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

*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:** Thou knowest, Lord -  
Purcell

## Hymn

When I survey  
the wondrous Cross,  
on which  
the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt  
on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord,  
that I should boast  
save in the death  
of Christ my God;  
All the vain things  
that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head,  
his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love  
flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love  
and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose  
so rich a crown?

His dying crimson like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body  
on the Tree;  
Then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm  
of nature mine,  
that were a present  
far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul,  
my life, my all.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

## Prayers after Communion

*Priest* Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever. *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* May the Father who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. *All Amen.*

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. *All Amen.*

May the Spirit, who strengthens us  
to suffer with Christ that we may  
share his glory, set your minds on  
life and peace. **All Amen.**  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be  
amongst you and remain with you  
always. **All Amen.**

### **Final hymn**

**Christ triumphant, ever-reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King,  
Lord of heav'n,  
our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:**

***Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown,  
the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
*Chorus***

**Suffering servant,  
scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through  
the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
*Chorus***

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death  
and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:  
*Chorus***

**So, our hearts  
and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,**

**this shall be our song:  
*Chorus***

*Michael Saward (1932 -2015)*

### **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  
departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace **and rise in  
glory. Amen.**

***Deacon*** Go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord.

***All*** In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**Concluding voluntary: Allabreve  
BWV 589 – J. S. Bach**

*Do stay a while!*



Flowers in church today:  
in Loving Memory of  
Doris Haines and May Scoones



## EXPLORE THE FAITH with BISHOP LAURIE

**Starting at 2:30 pm on  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September in  
All Saints room  
(under St John's Church)**

**All welcome!  
Meeting weekly to learn  
about**

**Bible, Jesus, the Creeds,  
the Mass, the Church,  
Prayer, the Saints,  
Suffering, Confirmation,  
anything you want to  
discuss.**

**Tea, Coffee, biscuits  
provided**

**VILLAGE FORCE  
AFRICA** *need a new  
enthusiastic member of their  
team to take on the role of  
Treasurer. Our Treasurer,  
Alan Privett, retired from his  
post after two illustrious years  
in August. If anyone feels  
they would like to join this  
exciting forward-looking  
team, please contact Lesley  
Ann on  
[admin@villageforceafrica.org](mailto:admin@villageforceafrica.org)*

Commentary by [Mark Scarlata](#) Giovanni Fantoni's sculpture is located on the traditional site of Moses's death overlooking the Promised Land. At first it appears to be a cross, but upon closer inspection we see a tubular-like serpent with a cobra head wrapped around a pole. This, however, is no ordinary pole as the artist has crafted it from small, individual tubes that extend to its base reflecting the same fluid, serpentine feel. The wings of the serpent are outstretched and emerge from the pole itself. Though separate elements, the pole and serpent are bound together as one.

In the biblical story, God commands Moses to make a *saraph*, or a fiery serpent, and place it on a pole (Numbers 21:8) but does not specify what material to use. The choice of bronze (or possibly copper) relates to the sounds of the Hebrew words for snake (*nahash*) and bronze (*nehoshet*). The wordplay emphasizes the connection between the material and what is crafted which also influences the name later associated with the object, Nehushtan (2 Kings 18:4). We find a similar importance in the materials chosen by Fantoni. This is no burnished bronze, gleaming brightly in the Middle Eastern sun. Instead, it is burnt, rusted, and oxidized by the relentless elements of the desert. The russet-coloured patina evokes a sense of the physical and spiritual dryness of the wilderness wanderings and may remind us of the suffering of Christ on the cross who in the barrenness of the crucifixion proclaims, 'I am thirsty' (John 19:28). The cruciform motif is Fantoni's visual interpretation of Christ's words in John 3:14: 'And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up'. The artist has carefully blended the sign of the bronze serpent and the healing it symbolizes with the cross of Christ. The two symbols, cross and serpent, here brought together as one, offer a visual reminder of the unity Christians find within the whole of Scripture.\*\*

**Deanery Confirmation**  
**will be on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at**  
**7pm at All Saints' Church, Hastings.**

\*Please request a link to the Wednesday Zoom service by emailing [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto: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 Big Breakfast is back**



**Saturday 20th September**  
**8.30am St Johns Church**

All are welcome to enjoy  
croissants and coffee and then  
hear our very own Dr Patrick R-O  
talk about his early experiences  
in General Practice.

The Small Print : Some material included in this service is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000; Hymn words reproduced under CCLI Licence 219821.

Photo of hands by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash. Photo of flowers by James Day on Unsplash; Photo of coffee and croissants by montatip lilisanong on Unsplash. \*\* Mark Scarlata. 2023. 'A Serpent on Mount Nebo', in *The Visual Commentary Of Scripture* ed. by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 8.9.2025]  
<https://thevcs.org/bronze-serpent#serpent-mount-nebo>

### **St John's Personnel**

Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary: Lucy W  
[admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com); Parish Office: 07831904321  
Please contact Lucy also for **Church Hall Bookings**.  
Website: [www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk](http://www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk)  
Postal Address: St John the Evangelist, Pevensey Road,  
St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LF