

**St John's
Pevensey Road
Pews News and Service
Sheet for Christmas
Night 2025**

*Welcome to
Midnight
Mass*

**ALLELUIA
♦
CHRIST IS
BORN**



**Next Sunday 28th: Feast
of the Holy Innocents
10.30am Sung Mass
(NO 8am Mass)**



Our prayers are asked for: Michael, Nigel,
Sue, Jenny, Gillian

Please also pray for the souls of the recently
departed, for those whose Years Mind falls at
this time, and for 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.

All who are
giving birth

Zack
Theresa
Liisa
John
Jan,
Sarah

All Jews
and
Palestinians

Rachel, my
daughter.
Kiss to
heaven.



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.
Names will be 'refreshed' in the New Year. Thank you.

Opening Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us, etc.

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us, etc.

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee
with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
O come, let us, etc.

Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold
and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
bring our heart's oblations:
O come, let us, etc.

Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens
of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest:"
O come, let us, etc.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us, etc.

Latin 18th century. Tr F Oakeley (1802-80)
et al

The Welcoming of the People

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

Priest `Do I not fill heaven and
earth?' says the Lord.

All Now the Word is made flesh
and laid in a narrow manger

Priest From eternity to eternity you
are God

All And now we see you as a
newborn child.

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.



The White Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Priest People of God: shout and
sing! Tell the good news of peace
on earth. Lord, bring us today into

Christ's peace.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all. Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God. Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

The Priest and Altar Party then proceed to the crib



Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this day your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of

life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **All Amen.**

The figure of the Christ child is placed in the manger

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

God our Father,
you sent your Son,
full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty
and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed
and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary
responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

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

The Priest and Altar Party return from the crib

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung

**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 sins 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 Christmas night

Priest Let us pray in the peace of
this Christmas celebration that our
joy in the birth of Christ will last for
ever.

Eternal God, in the stillness of this
night you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with
the light of salvation: give to the
earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of
heaven through our Saviour, Jesus
Christ. *All. Amen*

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings
good news, who announces
salvation, who says to Zion, "Your
God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
voices, together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the
return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem; for the
LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall
see the salvation of our God.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 1.1-4 (5-12)

Long ago God spoke to our
ancestors in many and various
ways by the prophets, but in these
last days he has spoken to us by a
Son, whom he appointed heir of all
things, through whom he also
created the worlds. He is the
reflection of God's glory and the
exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his
powerful word. When he had made
purification for sins, he sat down at
the right hand of the Majesty on
high, having become as much
superior to angels as the name he
has inherited is more excellent
than theirs.

5. For to which of the angels did
God ever say, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"? Or

again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep
and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears
of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing**

**to God the King,
and peace to all on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep,
the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

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

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

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 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing

came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Deacon Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**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 This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'.

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.*

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending
near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth,
good will and peace
from heaven's
all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn
stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

Still through the cloven skies
they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music
floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes
of sin and strife
the world has suffered long
beneath the angel-strain
have rolled
two thousand years of wrong:
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise
and cease the strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days
are hastening on,
by prophets bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling
years,
comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall
over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world
give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Sears (1810-76)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced
our poverty: by your Spirit may we
share in your riches. **All Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

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 glory and honour be yours
always and everywhere, mighty
creator, ever-living God. We give
you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for
love of our fallen race humbled
himself and was born of the Virgin
Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us. In this
mystery of the Word made flesh you
have caused his light to shine in our
hearts, to give knowledge of your
glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In
him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of
the God we cannot see. 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. 

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 Evangelist, Mary the Mother of God, St Peter 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 Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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 by all.

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.

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

All Lord give us this bread always.

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: What child is this? Timothy Hewitt-Jones

Hymn

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright;
round yon virgin mother
and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild:
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams
from thy holy face,
with the dawn
of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr J Young

Prayers after Communion

Priest God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star rises

in our hearts. To him be glory both 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

Blessing of the Congregation

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen

Priest May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen

Priest May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **All Amen.**

Priest and the blessing of God

Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **All Amen.**

Final hymn

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven
adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased in flesh
with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Hail the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

Charles Wesley (1707-88) et al

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.**

Deacon Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks
and praise to God.**

*Concluding voluntary: Toccata
from Symphony No 5 – C M Widor*



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for Carols in the care homes. The time, and joy given, was appreciated by residents and staff. Thank you for taking part. Jenny



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Nativity by Fra Angelico, Italian, 1440-1441

Florence, Convento di San Marco, from imaginemdei.blogspot.com

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*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. (The printed sheet will not now be updated until the new year)