



DIOCESE OF  
CHICHESTER

TO KNOW • LOVE • FOLLOW JESUS



OneBodyOneFaith



St  
John's  
Pevensey  
Road



Pews News and Service  
Sheet for Sunday  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

*Welcome to  
Mass  
on the  
Feast of the  
Epiphany*



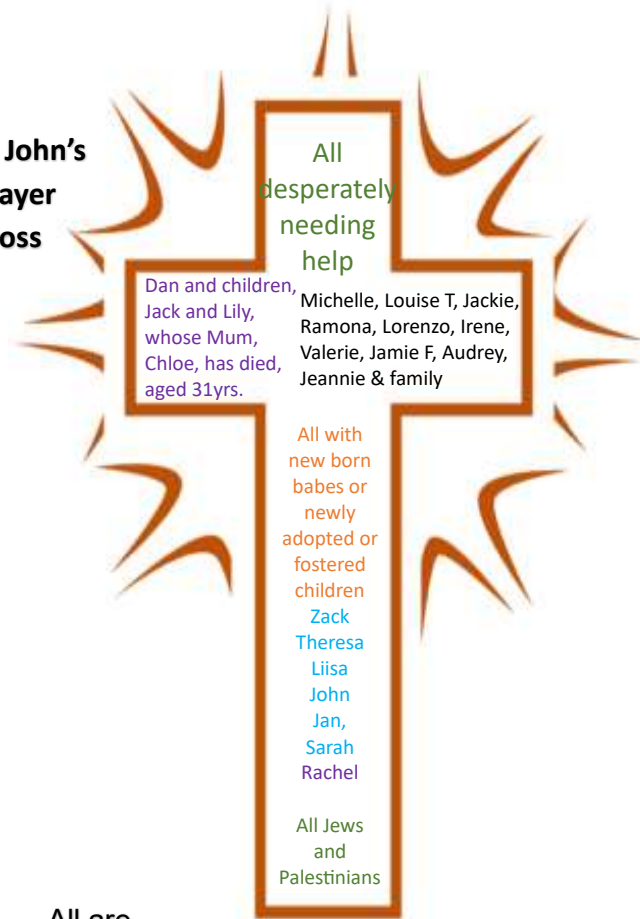
During the week:

Wednesday : 10am Midweek  
Mass - in St Peter's Chapel;  
Wednesday 10am Online  
Zoom worship\* ask for a link.  
Friday 10am – noon  
Coffee morning in church

Next Sunday 11th:  
The Baptism of Christ  
8am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

**Our prayers are asked for:** Nigel, Xander, Michael, Gillian, Sue, Jenny  
**Please also pray** for the souls of the recently departed, for those whose Years Mind falls at this time, especially David Spice, and for all who mourn.

**St John's  
Prayer  
Cross**



**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.

This Christmas-tide and New Year, please spare a thought for the million-strong invisible workforce of seafarers who endure long lonely months, separated from their loved ones, in order to bring us over 90% of everything we consume. Please consider donating to the Mission to Seafarers, who minister to them in 200 centres in over 50 countries, providing a welcoming space; helping with personal or family problems; advocating to obtain justice in unfair work situations like abandonment or unpaid wages.

MtS envelopes are at the back of church. Just put money in the envelope and place in the round wooden box. If paying by card reader, put a note in one of their envelopes to say how much you have given so that funds are directed to the right place. Thank you.



*Prayer at the altar said by the choir:*

.... grant that what we sing with our lips may we believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts may we show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Introit: Past three o'clock (trad)**

## **Opening 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 plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again:  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
etc.*

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, star of night,  
etc.*

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, star of night,  
etc.*

**Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice.  
“Alleluia”, “Alleluia”,  
earth to heaven replies.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
etc.**

*John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)*

## **The Welcoming of the People**

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

**Priest** Blessed are you,  
Lord our God, King of the universe.

**All** From the rising of the sun to  
its setting your name is  
proclaimed in all the world.

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

## **Prayers of Penitence**

**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.

**Silence is kept**

God be gracious to us and bless  
us, and make your face shine upon  
us: Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the  
earth, your saving power among  
the nations: Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your  
salvation, and reveal your justice in

the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy. **All Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest** 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 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 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**

**Priest** O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 prophet 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 to the Ephesians**

*Ephesians 3. 1-12*

This is the reason that 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 during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.***

**O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him,  
the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet  
lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart  
he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps  
as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter His courts  
in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth  
thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty,  
and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings  
to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept  
for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy  
give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling  
and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him,  
the Lord is his name!**

*J. S. B. Monsell. (1811-75)*

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

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. **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 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.**

*The three figures of the Magi may be placed at the crib.*

*The priest prays:* Bright Morning Star, your light has come and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago may we be drawn to you, and offer you such gifts as we are able.

**All Amen.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**Deacon** We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**All We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

**Dcn** God, of the being of the Father, the only Son from before time began; human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**All fully God and fully human; human in both mind and body.**

*Dcn* As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

*All* **Although he is both divine and human, he is not two beings but one Christ.**

*Dcn* One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

*All* **truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead, but by being one person.**

*Dcn* For as mind and body form one human being so the one Christ is both divine and human.

*All* **The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*(from the Athanasian Creed)*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **The Peace**

*Priest* 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.**

*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.*

**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, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

**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  
wheresoever it went.**

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

**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, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

**Then entered in  
those Wise Men three,  
fell reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there**



in his presence  
both gold and myrrh  
and frankincense:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!***

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 has bought:

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!***

*Traditional*

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar**

Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in  
praise of Jesus Christ, our light  
and our salvation. **All Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer (E)**

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving  
Father, through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord; and as we obey his  
command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine  
outpoured may be for us the body  
and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had  
supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to  
them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is  
given for you;

do this in remembrance of me. 🕯️

When supper was ended he took  
the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to  
them and said:  
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. 🕯️



So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**Dcn** Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St John the Evangelist, The Holy Innocents, Mary the Mother of God, St Peter and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving 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.*

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 Christ died for you and feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

**All Amen.**

*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: The three Kings – Peter Cornelius**

### **Hymn**

**In the bleak mid-winter  
frosty wind made moan,**

earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter,  
long ago.

Our God, heaven  
cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him,  
whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breast full of milk,  
and a manger full of hay:  
enough for him,  
whom angels bow down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air -  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -  
give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

## Prayers after Communion

*Priest* Lord God, the bright  
splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we, who with the magi 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

### Blessing of the Congregation

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* And also with you

*Priest* May God the Father, who  
led the magi by the shining of a  
star to find the Christ, the Light  
from light, lead you in your  
pilgrimage to find the Lord.

*All* Amen.

May God, who has delivered us  
from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in  
light in the kingdom of his beloved  
Son. *All* Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, those whom you love and those for whom you pray today and always. **All Amen.**

### **Final hymn**

Joy to the world,  
the Lord has come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart  
prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven  
and nature sing.

Joy to the earth,  
the Saviour reigns!  
your sweetest songs employ,  
while fields and streams  
and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
the wonders of his love,  
the wonders of his love,  
the wonders, wonders  
of his love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

### **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** We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

**Organ voluntary:** *War March of the priests - Mendelssohn*

*Do stay a while*



St Johns LGBT+ Group will be meeting after Mass 12.30, in the All Saints Room, today, Sunday 4th January. Further details from Barbara.

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

## St John's Personnel

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Please contact Lucy also for **Church**

**Hall Bookings.** Website:

[www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk](http://www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk)

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St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LF

*Today!*



## The traditional New Year

### LOAF Prayer Walk

will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January starting at Wellington Square Baptist Church at 2pm weather permitting. Two Miles over the Old Town and Hills East and West. Very steep in places and muddy on the East Hill. Adequate footwear essential.

We stop at a number of places to pray about aspects of the life of the Town.

If anyone who cannot join the Walk itself but would like to use the route and prayer pointers with members of their fellowships and others I can provide instructions but ask for a contribution to the current LOAF Project supporting a centre for profound educational needs in Pakistan.

My email address

is [avvk28@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:avvk28@dsl.pipex.com)

Roger M

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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.**