

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 28th February 2021

The Second Sunday of Lent



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - viewable via the Broadcast Page of our church website. www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, St John's is closed for public worship services & private prayer until further notice.

Sunday Parish Mass is online only - recorded in the closed church and broadcast via our church website at 10:30 a.m, all being well.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Libby V, Kath Q, Linda, and Jude.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Agatha, Barbara Missin, John Caira and Bernard Clarke,

... and those whose Years Minds fall around this time:
Frank Jenkins, Jack Sampson, Charlie Menzinger, Eric Kingsnorth (Priest), Andrea Clarke, Martyn, Eloise Mann, and Alan Horsburgh,

...and all who mourn.

This year's Lent Course, or Pilgrimage, is being presented by Fr David via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. He is following the *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* course. If you would like to take part, please send him an email in order to receive the online signing-up details. Alternatively, he is endeavouring to get printed versions for those not online to use at home as individual households. If you are online, but cannot make the Tuesday 7 p.m. time slot, then the materials can be accessed via this link: ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2021
... or search for *CTBI*, and then for *Lent Course 2021* on their website.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: Be Thou my Guardian and my Guide

... was written by Isaac Williams - academic, cleric, and writer of prose, poems, hymns and translations. According to the Dictionary of Hymnology (1907), it is based on the petition in the Lord's Prayer, "And lead us not into temptation", and correspondingly was originally written in the plural - "our Guardian", "our Guide". This particular petition in the Lord's Prayer has given rise to a variety of interpretations - we might wonder if it is suggesting that God leads us into temptation/trial/testing? However, Christians look to the words of James 1:13, "God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no-one". So it is generally interpreted to mean "do not let us be led (by ourselves, by others, by Satan) into temptation".

The hymn words reflect 1 Corinthians chapter 10, where Paul reminds us of the consequences of various historical sinful actions of the Israelite people, and goes on to warn us "if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall" (1 Cor.10:12). Whatever the cause of the temptations or trials, the words of the hymn exhort God's help to aid us when faced with them.

Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Prayer of Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord,
who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions
in penitence and faith.

**All Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to
your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and
cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your
salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The priest says the Absolution

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's
sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 4.13-25

The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from

the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.

Isaac Williams (1802-65)

Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his
voice.
Harden not your hearts.

**All Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Mark
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 8.31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world...

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus

bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

All give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace...

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

All give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels,
strife and jealousy
in our families, neighbourhoods and
communities...

May the presence of the risen Jesus,
his body once broken and now made
whole,
bring peace and direction as we live
with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
**All give us strength and hear our
prayer.**

Give us the courage
to give up our selfishness as we live for
others,
and to give time, care and comfort to the
sick...

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring
his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill their
rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
**All give us strength and hear our
prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear
of death
and to rejoice with those who have died
in faith...

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus,
once nailed to the cross,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
**All give us strength and hear our
prayer,
here and in eternity. Amen.**

The Peace is introduced

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with
you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine
are placed upon it.*

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of
obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your
glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and
discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of
service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in
the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter
feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.

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 Saint John
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Saint David,
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

Trusting in the compassion of God,
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

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.**

Agnus Dei is said:

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace**

Giving of Communion

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

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may
assault and hurt the soul;
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

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,
and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.

All Amen.

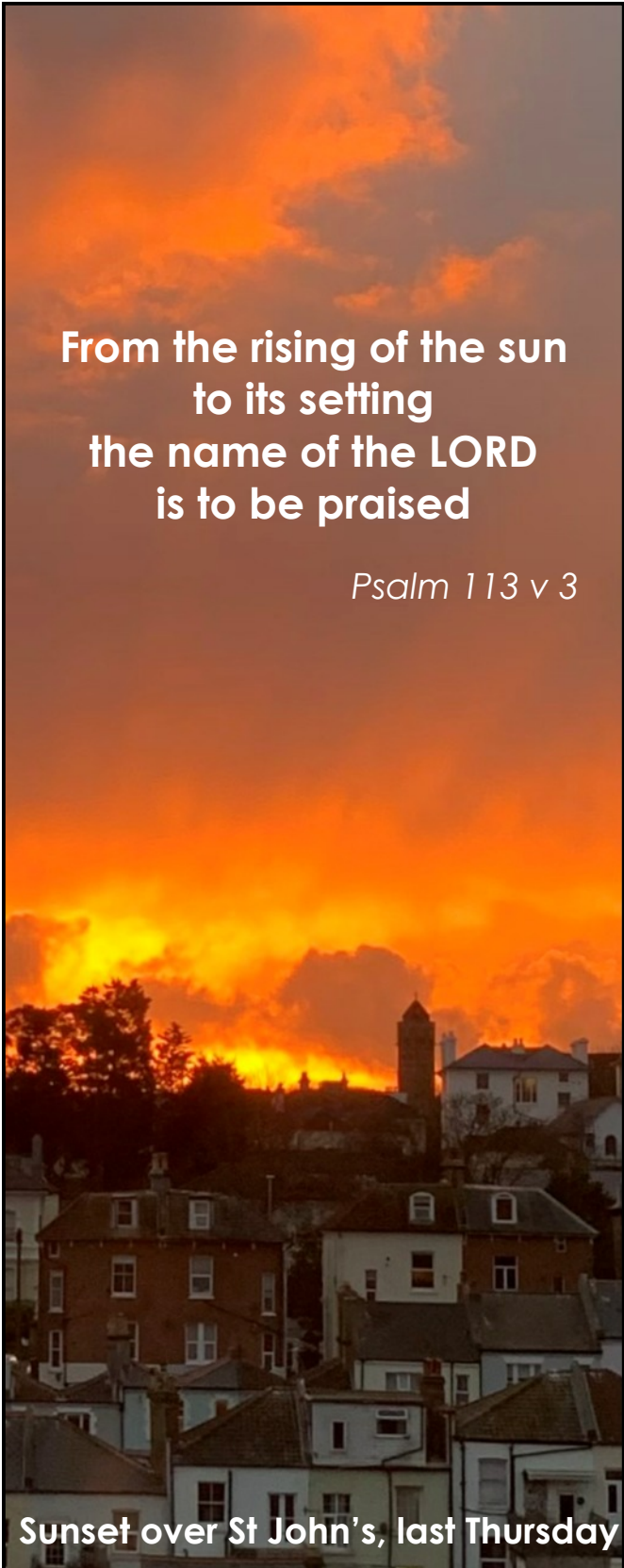
Priest Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Concluding voluntary: *Prelude for Lent
'Through Adam's fall'* - D. Buxtehude

Our friend **Bernard Clarke's** funeral
is being held here at St John's on
Thursday 11th March, at 11:30 a.m.

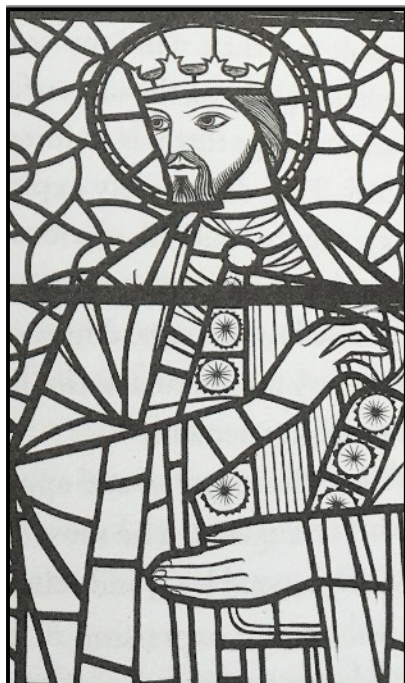
If you would like to attend, please
notify Fr David, as we are restricted
to a maximum of 30 attendees.



From the rising of the sun
to its setting
the name of the LORD
is to be praised

Psalm 113 v 3

Sunset over St John's, last Thursday



Tomorrow, 1st March, is St David's Day - Patron Saint of Wales

He features in one of our lovely windows here at St John's, because he was "the name-saint of the first rector".

Here are ten factoids about Saint David:

- 1) An angel foretold his birth to St Patrick, 30 years before it happened. Some say he lived more than 100 years and died on 1st March 589.
- 2) He was born to his mother, Non, on a cliff top in Pembrokeshire during a storm: a nearby well is said to have healing powers as a result.
- 3) He had royal heritage. His father was Sant, the Prince of Powys, and his grandfather King Ceredig, who founded Ceredigion.
- 4) He was baptised with the name David. But Non named her son Dewidd, or Dewi to the locals.
- 5) He took centre stage at Glastonbury! Educated at a monastery, he became a missionary - spreading Christianity, preaching, and founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and south-west England. He visited Glastonbury to rededicate the abbey, and donated a travelling altar that included a great sapphire - which was stolen some 1,000 years later.
- 6) He brought a stone back from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem - that stone now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.
- 7) He was a teetotal vegetarian - he and his monks led a very simple and austere life, living off only leeks and water. They even ploughed their fields by hand, rather than use oxen.
- 8) He is associated with miraculous events - he is said to have cured his tutor of blindness with the sign of the Cross, and brought a dead boy back to life by splashing the child's face with tears. It is also said that the ground beneath his feet rose up to form a hill, so people at the back of a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi could hear him speak. Then a white dove settled on his shoulder.
- 9) He has been the patron saint of Wales since the 12th century, at a time when there were more than 60 churches in Wales dedicated to him. His shrine was so important that Pope Callistus II said two pilgrimages to St David's were worth one to the Vatican.
- 10) His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do". The phrase "*Gwnewch y pethau bychain*" - "*Do the little things*" - is still well known in Wales.



Editor: The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham looks back on the year that changed the world.

'One Year On'

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly two million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith, as we look back over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the **reality of our situation**. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain!

As the apostle Paul writes: '*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus*' (2 Cor 4:8-10).

The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find **new faith and hope in Jesus**. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: '*so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*' (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, as we anticipate the events at Easter, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them to Jesus? May the hope of Easter Day take us forward into the coming year.



Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.



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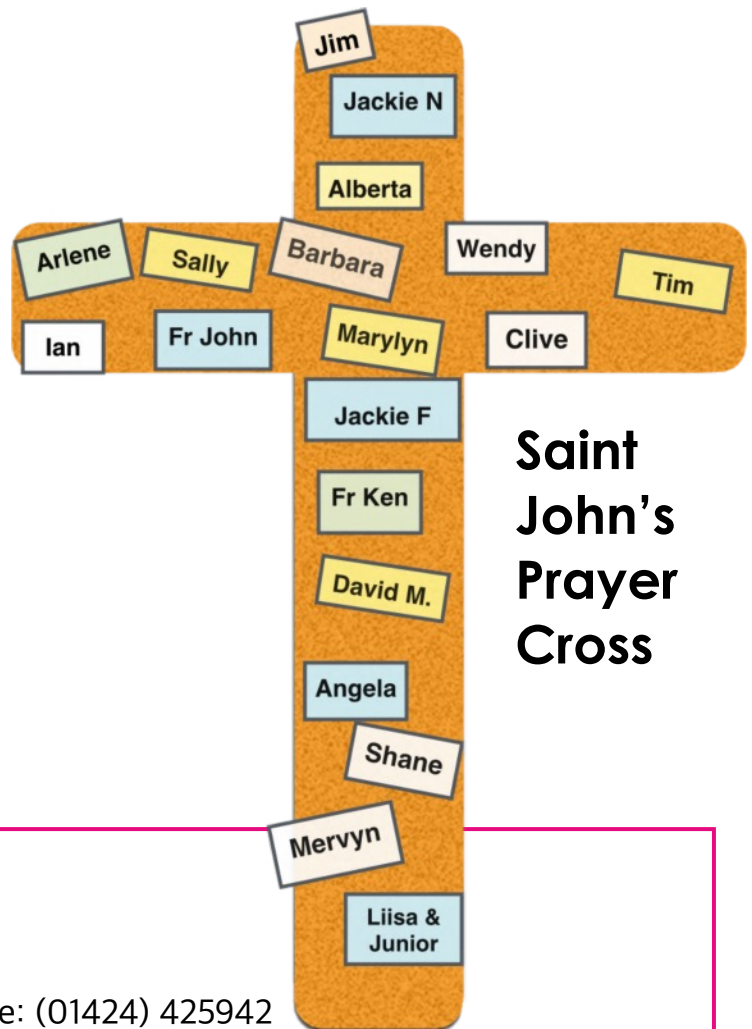
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St David information from BBC News website, 1st Mar 2020



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Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

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