

Covid-19 situation review: St John's is still closed for private prayer for the time being. And the Midweek Mass will not be restarting until further notice.

However, **Sunday Parish Mass** is now re-started with a socially-distanced congregation present, but will still be recorded and broadcast via our church website, by about Sunday lunchtime, 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, 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 Bernard Clarke,

... and those whose Years Minds fall around this time:

Eric Kingsnorth (Priest), Andrea Clarke, Martyn, Eloise Mann, Alan Horsburgh,
Margaret Masters, Edith Murrills, and Derek Alexander,

...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. If you would like to take part, please send him an email in order to receive the online signing-up details. The materials can also be accessed via this link: ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2021

Another set of Meditations for Lent that you may enjoy may be found at
<https://40words.dioceseofnorwich.org/40days/> *FM*

HYMN OF THE WEEK: "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"



This is an ancient chant of Eucharistic devotion based on words from Habakkuk 2:20, "Let all the earth keep silence before him". Originally written in Greek, it dates back to at least 275 AD. It also draws upon Luke 22:19-20, Revelation 19:16, and Isaiah 6:2-3.

It is known as a "Cherubic Hymn" in the Eastern Orthodox liturgy - a hymn which symbolically

incorporates those physically present at the Eucharist, into the presence of the angels gathered around God's throne. Usually chanted as the bread and wine for the Eucharist are brought forward. The version we hear today is a Ralph Vaughan Williams arrangement of a translation from the Greek by Gerard Moultrie, to the tune of "Picardy", a French medieval folk melody.

Mass for the Third 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:

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who

believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

*Liturgy of St James,
tr. Gerard Moultrie (1829-85)*

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 John
All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?'

But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence and trust let us pray to
the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic
Church ...
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach
the gospel
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation
may grow among nations and peoples,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick,
and all who suffer...
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or
offended,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives
and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have
walked in the way of holiness ...
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,
in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in
penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All 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.

Music: *Chorale Prelude for Lent* - J.L. Krebs (1713-80)

God of wisdom,
may the light of your eternal Word,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;
we ask this in his name.

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, 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

Music: *Chorale Prelude for Lent -
J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

Prayer after Communion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand
the temptations of the world, the flesh
and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds
to follow you, the only God;
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 and fugue in A minor BWV 551 -
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Our friend **Bernard Clarke's** funeral is being
held at St John's this 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.

History Corner: The Fourth Church - Foundation Stone



THE PRINCESS AND THE ARCHITECT AND FOREMAN



TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD THIS
STONE DEDICATED BY GEORGE LORD BISHOP
OF CHICHESTER WAS LAID BY HER ROYAL
HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH
DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH ON MAY 18 1951
H.S. GOODHART-RENDEL ARCHITECT



St John's was very privileged during its rebuilding in 1951, to have its foundation stone laid by the Queen - then H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh.

We are told that the Princess was due to visit the Borough on 18th May 1951 "to perform sundry public duties" and that she graciously consented to include the stone-laying as part of the day's itinerary.



Tomorrow, March 8th, the church commemorates Anglican priest and poet **Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC (1883-1929)**

Studdert Kennedy was serving as Vicar of St Paul's, Worcester, when World War One broke out, and he volunteered as an Army Chaplain on the Western Front. He was nicknamed "Woodbine Willie" for giving Woodbine cigarettes along with New Testaments and spiritual aid to the soldiers. He was intent on sharing the risks and hardships of the soldiers he served, and stood shoulder to shoulder with them in battle, despite being unarmed. In 1917, he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge after running into No Man's Land to help the wounded of both sides during an attack on the German front line. He wrote a number of poems about his experiences. After the War he served at St Edmund, Lombard Street, in London. He continued with his often outspoken writing, espoused pacifism and Christian Socialism, and finally worked as a missionary for Industrial Christian Fellowship, which released him from routine clerical duties to become an outspoken advocate for the working classes. It was on one of his speaking tours around Britain that he was taken ill. He died in Liverpool on 8th March 1929, exhausted at the age of 45. His funeral took place in Worcester, to which poor working people flocked to pay their respects.

Prayer Corner

Although we have come to the end of our month-long "Prayers for the Nation", the Archbishops are encouraging us to continue. Here is one of the Church of England prayers for the current situation:

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

Please pray for our schools, schoolchildren, and families ...

A colleague of Fr David has flagged up the terrible impact the pandemic has had on the the educational progress and general well-being of schoolchildren. As always the most disadvantaged have been most badly affected. We are asked to pray for all those in our local schools - students, teachers and support staff - for their well-being, safety and future. And also for all those parents and carers for whom the situation has created strained relationships, a sense of failure and despair. Let us pray for sustained investment in all of our futures through the education system, and also for the gift of wisdom for our political leaders. *DH*

Good news to report: Cynthia H, for whom we have been praying, is much improved, and has been released from hospital, to live with her relatives, along with her beloved dog and cat! Thanks be to God.

VG

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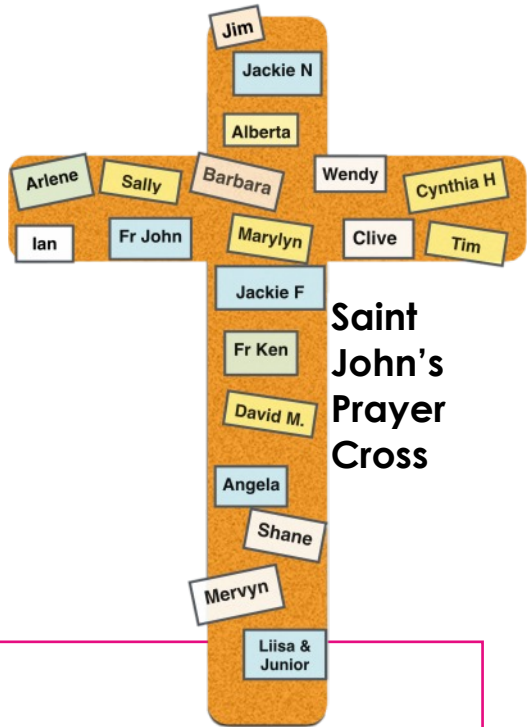
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Contact us...

St John the Evangelist
Pevensey Road
St Leonards on Sea
TN38 0LF

Parish Office: (01424) 425942

Email: admstjohns30@gmail.com

Tina is our Administrator.

Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.

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

Website: www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk

