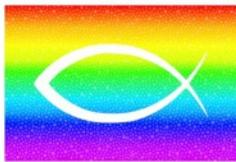


St John's, Pevensey Road

www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 6th December: Second Sunday of Advent

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Kath, Ali, Jackie F, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Marylyn, and Amber.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed,
especially Brian Webb, and Jean Broscheit,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,
especially Druscilla, Stephen Cockhill, Valerie Shaw, and Dan Rodney,

...and all who mourn.

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - whether you are here in person, or viewing via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listening via the Media/Audio page.
www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

This week:

Morning Prayer: is said in the main church at 9 a.m, Monday - Friday

The church is open for private prayer: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30, Monday - Saturday

Midweek Mass: celebrated in the main church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday

"Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will let you know how to join in.



The **St John's Christmas card** is once again at the back of the church for you to write your Christmas greeting to other members of the congregation, in return for a contribution for Christian Aid - to be put in the slot in the wall above.

There are socially distanced stars to write on and pins, or you might prefer to bring one already written to church with you.

Like other charities Christian Aid has had more crises to deal with this year and your support is much appreciated. Many thanks, **The Christian Aid team.**

We hope you are enjoying Rev Jill and Corinna's daily emailed "**Advent Windows**" picture and prayer resource. Thank you both for this.



This week's urgently needed items:

- Tins of: potatoes, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, and rice pudding.
- Boxes of 40 or 80 teabags
- Long-life milk (full fat or semi-skimmed)
- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life custard.
- Cereals.

They currently have plenty of pasta.

[Our collection box is at the back of church]

Thank you

Hymn of the Week

... is "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry", chosen and sung by Colin from the Choir.

John the Baptist's announcement "Prepare the way for the Lord" (Matt. 3:3, a quote from Isaiah 40:3) is the primary basis for this Advent hymn. Verses 1 and 2 apply that message to people today; verse 3 is a confession by God's people of their need for salvation; verse 4 is a prayer for healing and love; verse 5 is a doxology. This much-loved Advent text is laced with various scriptural phrases. In preparation for Christ's birth, and in preparation for his second coming, we are instructed to listen. Before we can prepare our hearts, we must know why and how we would do so. We must listen to the cry of the Holy Spirit with all of the rapt attention with which we listen to great peals of thunder and rustling winds. We must sharpen our senses so they are alive to the voice of God in our lives. As the hymnist writes, we must "awake and harken!" Laura de Jong, Hymnary.org



Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent

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.

*The Second Candle is lit on the
Advent Wreath*

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful
message of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate
his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
All Amen.

Prayer of Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things
now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of
the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ
let us confess our sins.

God, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the
churches:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes
again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's
hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of
the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway
for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the
field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows
upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for
ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Second Letter of Peter

2 Peter 3.8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that
with the Lord one day is like a thousand
years, and a thousand years are like one
day. The Lord is not slow about his
promise, as some think of slowness, but
is patient with you, not wanting any to
perish, but all to come to repentance. But
the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with
a loud noise, and the elements will be
dissolved with fire, and the earth and
everything that is done on it will be
disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved
in this way, what sort of persons ought
you to be in leading lives of holiness and
godliness, waiting for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, because of
which the heavens will be set ablaze and
dissolved, and the elements will melt with
fire? But, in accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new
earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and harken! For he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian
breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our
sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine..

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. John Chandler (1808-76)*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of
God.

All Alleluia

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 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus
Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”,
John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
And people from the whole Judean
countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and
were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins. Now John was
clothed with camel's hair, with a leather
belt around his waist, and he ate locusts
and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one
who is more powerful than I is coming
after me; I am not worthy to stoop down
and untie the thong of his sandals. I have
baptized you with water; but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and
comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and
distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of
our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus,
with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in
your new creation.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in
the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the
Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall
break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in
darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way
of peace.

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 'From heaven above
to earth I come' (J.S. Bach)**

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your
Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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 when he humbled himself to come among
us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the
foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and
archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
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

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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 during Communion:

*Chorale Prelude 'O Lord my God I cry to
thee' (J.S. Bach)*

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
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 the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before
your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

All Amen.

Concluding voluntary: Chorale
Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'
BWV 729 (J.S. Bach)

Christmas Services 2020

Sunday 20th December,

"Lessons and Carols for Christmas"

6 p.m. in Church, viewable online from 8 p.m.



Christmas Eve, Thurs 24th December

Church open all day for private prayer.

"Christmas Carols round the Tree"

4:30 p.m. outside the Church



Christmas Day, Friday 25th December

Christmas Mass

10:30 a.m. in Church, viewable online after
lunchtime



If you intend to come in person to either of the services being held **inside** the Church, please contact the Parish Office to book (tel. 01424 425942 or email admstjohns30@gmail.com) Our capacity with social distancing is about 60 worshippers. All of this is subject to change during the present Covid-19 situation, so please keep an eye on the Church website.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



A new awards scheme, designed to help people better care for God's creation, has just been launched. It is based around a website (creationcare.org.uk) that households can use to see how they are doing at caring for God's creation in the areas of worship & prayer, home, garden, travel, food, possessions, and community & global engagement.

Based on how they answer questions on the website, households score points. If they score enough points in each of these areas, they can reach bronze, silver or gold award level. Our Church is registering for the scheme, so you should shortly be

able to link to "St Johns Pevensey Road" if you do complete the questionnaire.

Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, says: "As Christians we understand ourselves as stewards of the earth's resources, and many of us have already made some changes to the way we live in the light of the climate crisis. But what next? This brilliant online audit helps us to assess the life of our households in ways that will inspire us with ideas, and challenge us towards achievable next steps. It's great for if you live alone or with others, in a flat or a mansion. Together we can make a real difference."

An optional webinar introducing the scheme is being held on Thursday 10th December, 7.30 p.m, featuring talks from Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Rev'd Dave Bookless (Director of Theology, A Rocha International) and Annabelle South (St Paul's Action on Climate and the Environment). To register for the webinar, visit <https://bit.ly/creationcarewebinar>



A message from Bishop Martin: International Development Aid – Lobbying your MP

i. You will have seen that in the Government's spending review there is a proposal to reduce our contribution to international development aid of 0.7% of Gross National Income.

ii. The commitment to this aid was a landmark cross-party achievement and it represented a moral imperative to work for the eradication of poverty as a source of conflict, in which women and children are the first casualties, and the environment is often the second.

iii. The present Government campaigned in the last election on the basis of commitment to this 0.7% contribution. Honouring that commitment should withstand the economic challenges of the pandemic, since we remain one of the world's wealthiest nations and have an important contribution to make to its peace, stability, and recovery of reverence for the earth, our common home.

iv. If you wish to register your support for this statement of moral commitment to international development, I encourage you to write to your MP.

v. This is the email that I have sent to all MPs whose constituency is within this diocese:

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been among those who have questioned the proposal to cut our commitment to overseas development aid. That commitment to 0.7% of Gross National Income was the fruit of cross-party consensus, and a substantial political achievement. The cut has rightly drawn criticism from across the political spectrum and beyond it. I write to ask you to resist this cut.

Justin Welby described this commitment as "one of the greatest achievements of the country". In moral and ethical terms, I hope you would agree. I believe it is also a statement of human solidarity, answering a Biblical question, "Who is my neighbour?" in a modern way that is informed by global awareness with all its environmental implications.

As we know, poverty is one of the causes of political instability, extremism, and the violation of law and human dignity, locally and internationally. Poverty can be a breeding ground for terrorism. At its best, investment in the eradication of poverty is investment in a safer world.

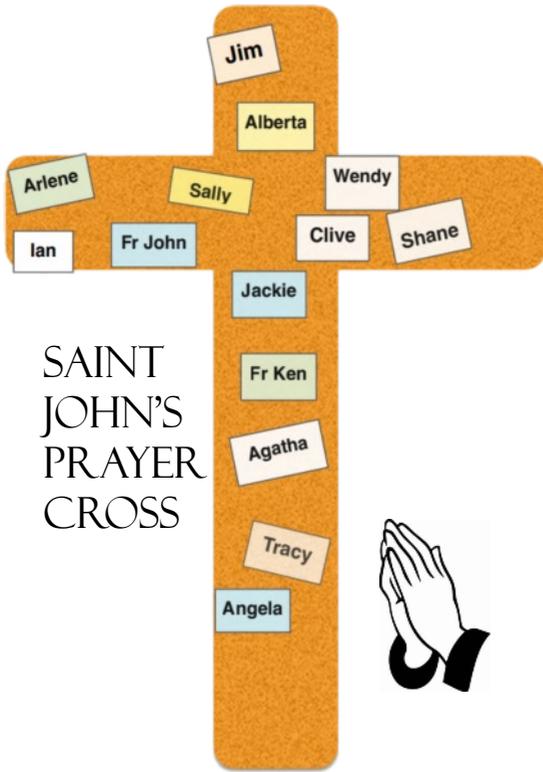
Nor can this work be short term. Over the past year, questions and debate in the House of Lords have repeatedly focused on the dire situation in Yemen. We know that a short-term response to the humanitarian crisis there will not solve its deeper causes. Our aid needs to be secure and consistent if it is to effect change. So it is important that we retain the focus on development as one of the objectives in this work.

A cut in our contribution to this global commitment to development will undermine work for a better and a safer environment and put at risk the benefits of our investment hitherto. For us as a nation it will signal departure from political consensus on a matter of moral principle.

I hope that because of the importance this matter has at home and abroad, you will feel able to withstand a decision to cut our 0.7% commitment.

May Jesus Christ, whose birth was heralded by the message of peace on earth among people of goodwill, gladden your hearth this Christmas with the reality of that hope.

+Martin



SAINT JOHN'S PRAYER CROSS

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