

St John's, Pevensy Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Christmas 2021

Christmas Morning



Welcome to this Parish Mass for Christmas Morning

Tomorrow (Sunday 26th) - Mass at 10:30.
(Please note there is NO 8 a.m. Mass)

Next week:

Church open for private prayer, where possible.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Morning Coffee Friday 10 - 12, in church



**Drop in for
Morning
Coffee**

... and to spend some time in this
beautiful church

Fridays, 10:00 - 12:00

The graphic includes a Nescafé Dolce Gusto logo, a green coffee cup with a lid and a straw, and a small packet of coffee.

Our prayers are asked for:

Geraldine, Amber, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, Jenny H, Alison N, Ana, and Clive P.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Helena Quartey,
Thelma Riddle, Tony Levere, and Vivienne Harvey,

... and all who mourn.

Face coverings in church.

We need to remind everyone that it is a legal requirement for the congregation to wear a mask inside the building unless there is a medical exemption.

Thank you for your understanding. Mike and Barbara, Churchwardens.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace,
be born again into our world.

Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain,
wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope,
come, O long-expected one, with healing in your wings.

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb
beasts adored, be born again.

Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is fear of failure,
wherever there is temptation too strong to resist,
wherever there is bitterness of heart,
come, O blessed one, with healing in your wings.

Saviour, be born in each of us who raises our face to your face,
not knowing fully who we are or who you are,
knowing only that your love is beyond our knowing,
and that no other has the power to make us whole.
Come, Lord Jesus, to each of us who longs for you. Come quickly.
Amen.

Opening Carol

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

CF Alexander (1818-95)

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

Priest We meet to celebrate the coming
of Christ into the world.
The Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us
All and we beheld his glory.



The White Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,
King of Peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and
praise.

All Blessed be God for ever.

*The Priest and Altar Party then proceed
to the crib*

Blessing of the Crib

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

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

The Christ Child is placed in the manger.

Prayer of Confession

Dcn Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God, through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Silence is kept.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Christ, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

The Priest says the Absolution

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

All Amen.

Then Gloria in Excelsis is sung

All **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 Christmas Day

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

The Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

All Amen.

A reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness –
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of
Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping
warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his
kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for
evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

Titus 2.11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing
salvation to all, training us to renounce
impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-
controlled, upright, and godly, while we
wait for the blessed hope and the
manifestation of the glory of our great God
and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave
himself for us that he might redeem us from
all iniquity and purify for himself a people of
his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Carol

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

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

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

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

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

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Gospel Reading

Dcn Alleluia alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

Dcn The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Dcn Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.1-14(15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to

be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

The Deacon says :

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

**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.

We sit for our Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you ...

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of
your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and
righteousness ...

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Everlasting father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our
communities ...

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the
cross:
by your healing power give to all who
suffer ...
your gift of wholeness and peace.
Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
full of the Spirit,
All hear our prayer,
receive our praises,
and fill our lives. Amen.

We stand for The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is
given, and his name shall be called the
Prince 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 with
those around us***

Offertory Hymn

***During which the table is prepared and
bread and wine are placed upon it.***

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 breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him, whom angels
fall 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)

Preparation of the Table

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

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all
holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our
Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

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

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:
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 to communion.

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

The priest partakes of the consecrated bread - and wine on behalf of us all - to which we respond Amen.

Holy Communion is then distributed in one kind - The Body of Christ.

Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing.

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anon.

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion:

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the 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.**

Final hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest:"

O come...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

O come...

*Latin, 18th century, tr. Frederick
Oakeley (1802-80) and others*

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dcn Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

**Organ voluntary: Sortie in E flat
(Lefebure-Wely)**

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