

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Christmas 2021

Midnight Mass



Welcome to "Midnight Mass"

Tomorrow (Christmas) morning there will be:
Said Mass here at 8 a.m.

Parish Mass here at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday (26th) - Mass at 10:30. (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



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.

We stand for our **Opening 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.F. Oakley
(1802-80) & others*

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 lighting of the White Candle on the Advent Wreath

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

Priest 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 night
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.
Priest and Deacon return to the nave*

Prayer of Confession

Deacon Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

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 Absolution

Priest 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.

The 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 Night

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

Silence is kept.

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light
of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

We sit for our Bible readings

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good
news,
who announces salvation, who says to
Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the
prophets, but in these last days he has
spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through
whom he also created the worlds. He is
the reflection of God's glory and the
exact imprint of God's very being, and
he sustains all things by his powerful
word. When he had made purification
for sins, he sat down at the right hand
of the Majesty on high, having

become as much superior to angels as the
name he has inherited is more excellent
than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you'?

Or again,

'I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into
the world, he says,

'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,

'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,

'Your throne, O God, is for ever and
ever, and the righteous sceptre is the
sceptre of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated
wickedness; therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond
your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded
the earth, and the heavens are the work of
your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end.'

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

We stand for the Gradual Hymn

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 blessèd 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 This night Christ is born:
All Alleluia.

Dcn This night the Saviour comes:
All Alleluia.

Dcn This night the angels sing on earth:
*All Alleluia. Glory to God in the
highest.*

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

John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

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 peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand [... and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field
heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of
Christ's redemption.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the
Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down
to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [... and] all those who
have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world
over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in
us today.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

Father,
in this holy night
angels and shepherds
worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellow-
ship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made
flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

We stand for The Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he
delights.'

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.***

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious king!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Sears (1810-76)

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,
and on this night 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, to indicate this to the priest.

Anthem: O Holy Night (A. Adam)

Hymn

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild:
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Priest: God our Father, in this night
you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on
him, until the day dawns,
and Christ the Morning Star rises in
our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for
ever.

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

Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald...

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald...

Charles Wesley (1707-88) & 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: Toccata from
Symphony no. 5 (C.M. Widor)**

To contact us...

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



Website: www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk

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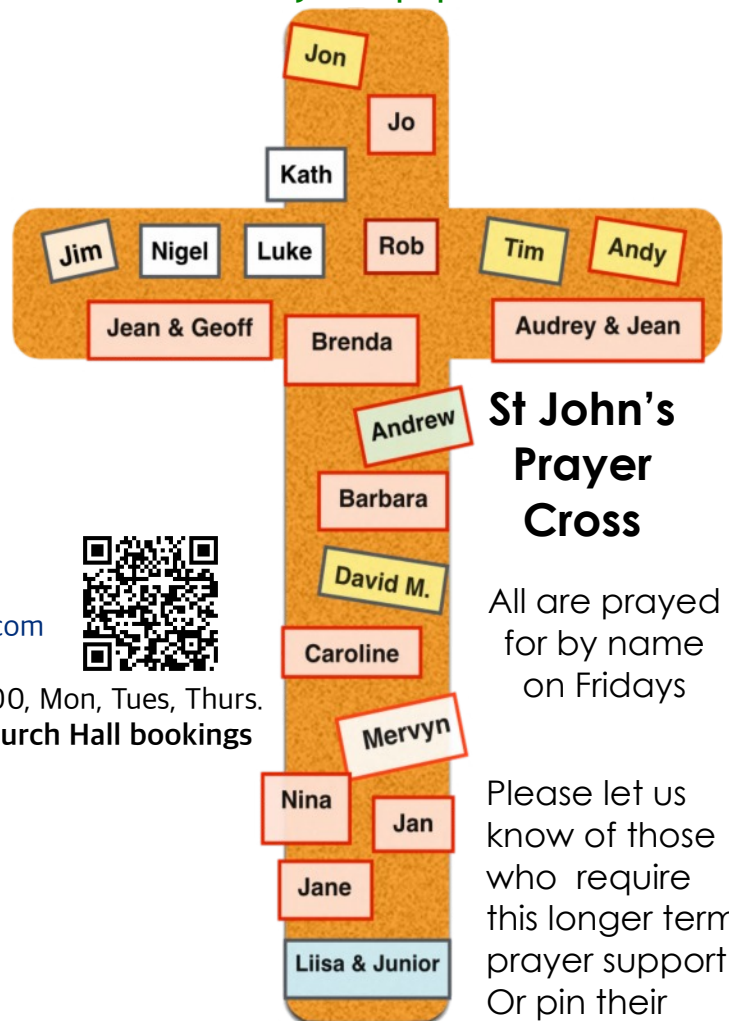
Advent Wreath Prayers Christmas Day: Prayer 1
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Prayer by Frederick Buechner, from *Listening to your Life*, HarperCollins 1992 (Alt.)

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St John's Prayer Cross

All are prayed
for by name
on Fridays

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
Prayer Cross at
the back of the
Church.
Thank you.