

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 9th January 2022

**The First Sunday of Epiphany:
The Baptism of Christ**



Welcome to this Parish Mass for the Baptism of Christ

This week:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. Friday

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, Clive P, Ana, and Pat.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Gwen Beecher and Tony Murton,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Peter Crighton,
Arnold Kingsnorth, Bob Byrom, Reg & Rita Burge, Brian Reade, and Maurice Harper,

... and all who mourn.

Today, in place of the sermon, *Christian Voices* are presenting their play, "*Finding Hope*". The Census was taking place and a group of friends living in Bethlehem were unaware that the birth of Jesus was about to happen.

Mark, one of the group, had recently become a widower. He was trying to come to terms with the loss of his wife. What would give him hope that his life still had meaning...?

Happy New Year!

January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year. In many churches, however, the Crib scene is left up until the beginning of February – the Feast of Candlemas. That celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - yet another moment of 'illumination'.

As you pack away your decorations, think about where you will store them ready for use next Christmas – and also, how carefully you will put them away.

Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a Crib Set that it is easily lost and then the Crib Set rather loses its meaning!

Have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling cute baby we miss out on his teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with his massive love and compassion for each of us on the Cross – and most importantly his Resurrection.

Death is not the end. Not for him. Not for us. And not for our loved ones.

Introit: Past three a clock (trad.)

We stand for the Opening Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)

Welcoming of the people

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

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

By the mercies of God,
let us confess our sins
and present our bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to him,
which is our spiritual worship.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

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

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your
Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved
children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

We sit for our Bible readings

A reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 43.1-7

Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are
mine.
When you pass through the waters, I
will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not
be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for
you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the
east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of
the earth –
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8.14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

We stand for the Gradual Hymn

The sinless one to Jordan came
To share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
And chose the path his Father willed.

Uprising from the waters there,
The voice from heaven did witness bear
That he, the Son of God, had come
To lead his scattered people home.

Above him see the heavenly Dove,
The sign of God the Father's love,
Now by the Holy Spirit shed
Upon the Son's anointed head.

How blest that mission then begun
To heal and save a race undone;
Straight to the wilderness he goes
To wrestle with his people's foes.

Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
Go forth with you, a world to win,
And send the Holy Spirit's power
To shield them in temptation's hour.

On you shall all your people feed
And know you are the Bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
That with you died, and with you rose.
G.B. Timms (1910-97)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.

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 3.15-17,21-22

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

Finding Hope presented by
Christian Voices

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of
baptism, let us pray that we may live
the life to which he has called us.

*The prayers may include the
response:*

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

The prayers may end with

Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace is introduced

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit
we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for
peace and builds up our common life.

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*

Hymn

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

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the
ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Preparation of the Table

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;
may we be willing to share his baptism,
ready to share his cup
and strengthened to serve him for ever.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created
all things
and all your works echo the silent
music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us
in your image,
the crown of all creation.

And now we give you thanks
because, by water and the Holy Spirit,
you have made us a holy people
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you renew that mystery in bread and wine
to show forth your glory in all the world.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands,
O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our
Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of
wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the
cross;
we remember his dying and rising in
glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us
at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring
before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood
of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in
your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your
glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every
land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the
Mother of God, and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth
and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in
songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises 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

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.

Anthem: The Three Kings (Cornelius)

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion for the day:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
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

We stand for our Final hymn

We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship Him, God most high.
O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder...

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
'Alleluia, alleluia!'
Earth to heaven replies.
O star of wonder...

John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

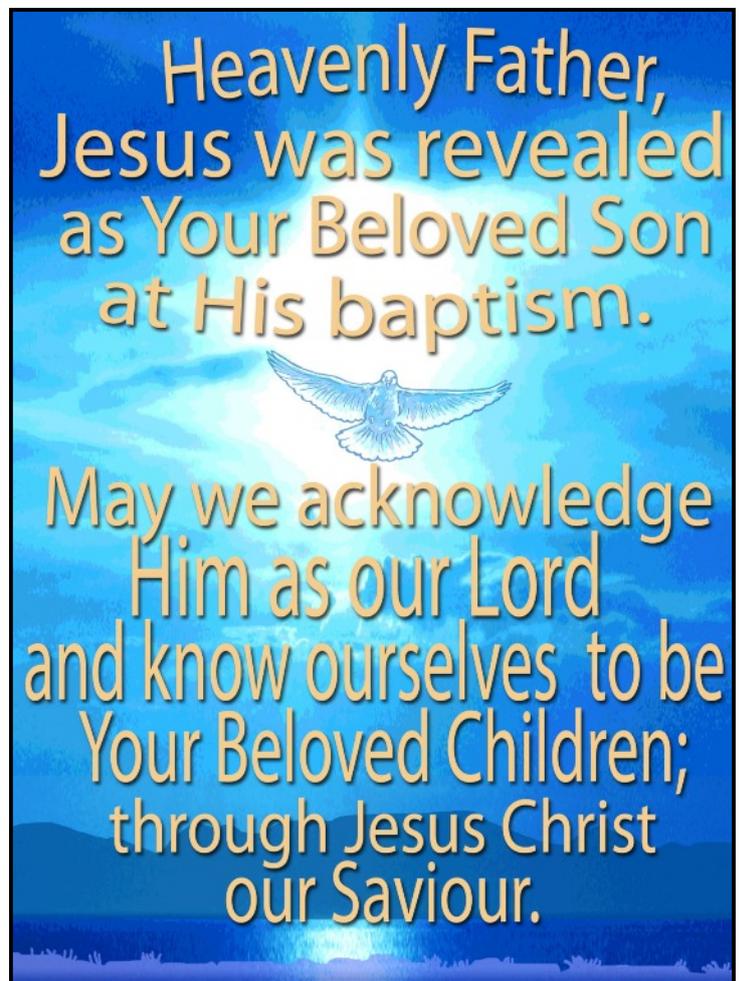
May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We have come to Christ, the living water. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Concluding voluntary: War March of the priests (Mendelssohn)



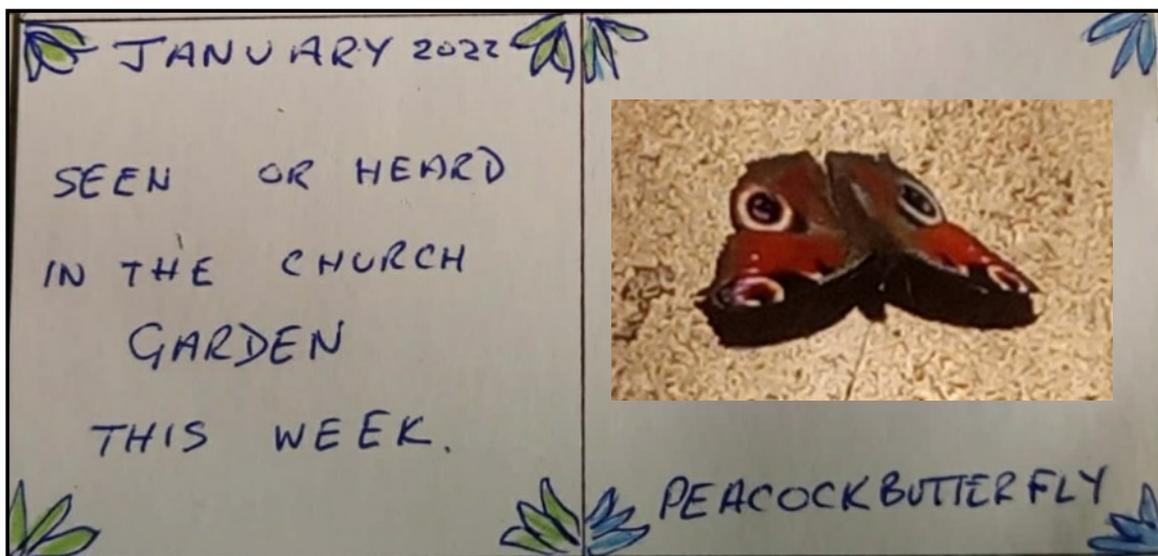
The waiting is over, St John's Big Winter Entertainment is back!

All aboard for a Mediterranean cruise with comic opera *The Widow of Ephesus*, and cabaret, washed down with your favourite tippie and excellent food, all Covid safe.

February 25th and 26th at 7.30 p.m. Booking opens soon.

This professional fundraiser is not to be missed!

LAD



Thank you to Sally for this Gardening Team update, and Mary for the pic of this beautiful visitor to our church!



The recent death of **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

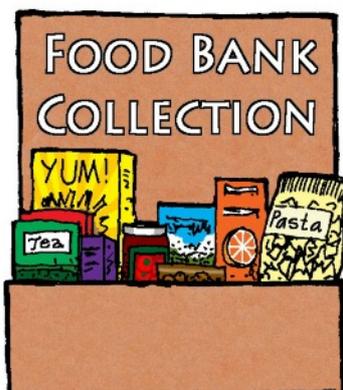
“Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

“Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don’t want to repeat what happened.”

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”

We’ve had an update from the organisers of the **Community Compost bins** in the church grounds, who say “The scheme is going from strength to strength: our first bin is now full and has been locked to fully mature! Thanks are due to Fr David for his enthusiasm, which enabled us to get going so well, and to Mary, Sally and Libby. We are about to open another site at the community garden at Warrior Square station with bins made by our team, and another hub will be opening in the Spring at The Yard near Morrisons.” The St Johns compost scheme is now fully subscribed.

Do you have an item, prayer list update, or info for the Pews News? Please send to pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com or phone/text 07525 186205 by 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Thanks!



The Hastings Foodbank, run by the Trussell Trust, provides individuals and families with three days worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food.

A typical food parcel contains: Breakfast cereals, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Pasta sauce, Tinned beans, Tinned meat, Tinned fish, Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit, Tea or coffee, UHT milk, Sugar, Biscuits, Snacks. If you can help by donating some of these items, via our collection container at the back of church, this would be much appreciated.

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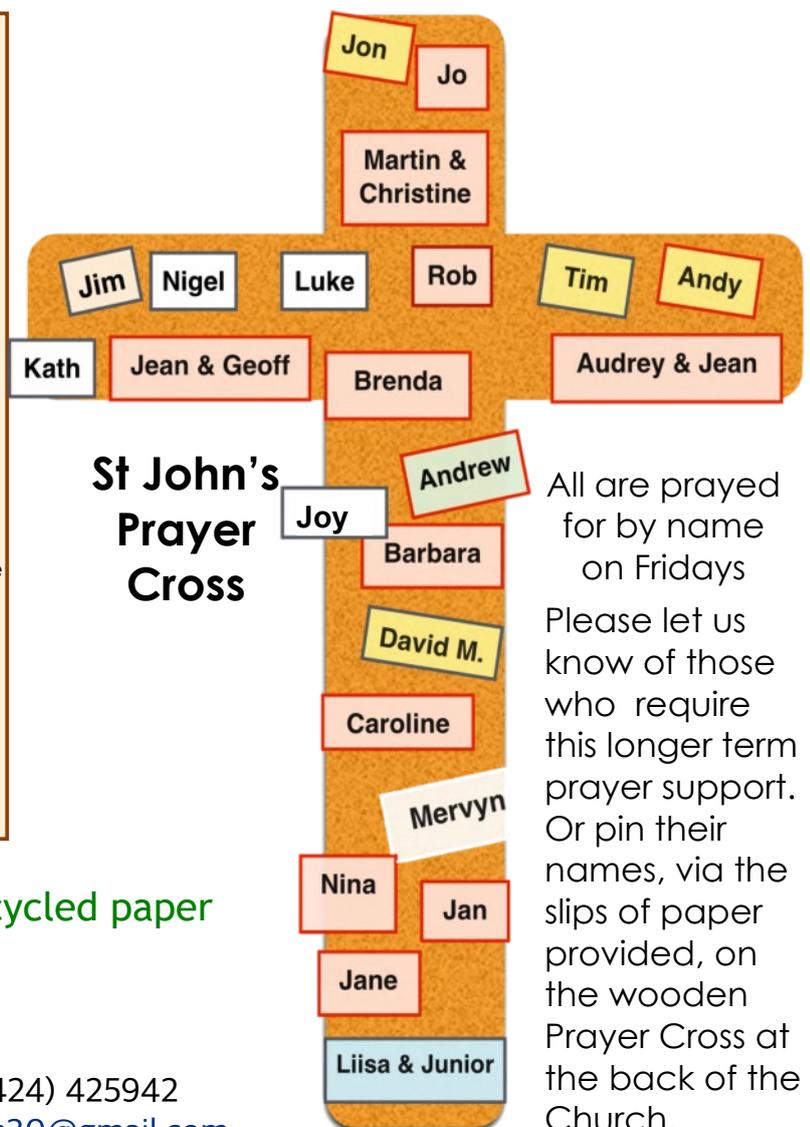
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Some items from *Parish Pump*, January 2022



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.

This pewsheet is printed on 100% recycled paper

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