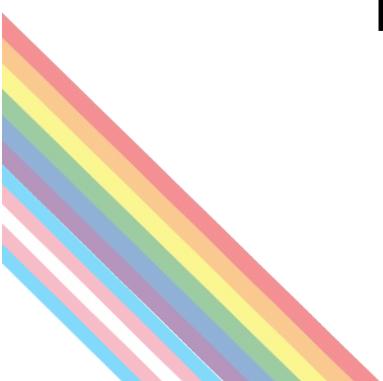


St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 2nd January 2022

The Feast of the Epiphany



Welcome to this Parish Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany

This week:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs, 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, Ana, Clive P, and Gwen B.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Thelma Riddle, Tony Levere, Vivienne Harvey, Peter Crighton, Arnold Kingsnorth, Bob Byrom, and Reg & Rita Burge,

... 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.

Bible verses of hope as a new year begins:

...if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you... *(Ezekiel 36:26a)*

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? *(Isaiah 43:19a)*

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. *(Jeremiah 29:11)*

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *(Philippians 4:6-7)*

Opening Hymn

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek they mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

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

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a
people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

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 for Epiphany

Let us pray:

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has
risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of
your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they
come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be
carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall
come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover
you,
the young camels of Midian and
Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankin-
cense,
and shall proclaim the praise of
the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3.1-12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Hymn

Bethlehem, of noblest cities
none can once with thee compare;
thou alone the Lord from heaven
didst for us incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth;
to the lands their God announcing,
seen in fleshly form on earth.

By its lambent beauty guided
see the eastern kings appear;
see them bend, their gifts to offer,
gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.

Solemn things of mystic meaning:
incense doth the God disclose,
gold a royal child proclaimeth,
myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
to the Gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit
endless praise to thee be paid. Amen.

Latin, Prudentius (348-410) tr. Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
We have seen his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.
All Alleluia.

Dcn The Lord be with you
All And also with you

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

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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.

**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

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

You have called us into the family of those who are the children of God. May our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ be strengthened by your grace.
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a temple where the Holy Spirit can dwell. Give us clean hands and pure hearts so that our lives will reflect your holiness.
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a light to the world so that those in darkness come to you. May our lives shine as a witness to the saving grace you have given for all.
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us members of the body of Christ, so when one suffers all suffer together. We ask for your comfort and healing power to bring hope to those in distress...
Jesus, Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be the Bride where Christ the Lord is the Bridegroom. Prepare us for the wedding feast where we will be united with him for ever...
Lord of the Church
All in your mercy hear us.

Jesus, Lord of the Church you have called us into fellowship with all your saints. We unite our prayers with theirs and ask for grace to serve you with joy where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for all eternity.
All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of Peace with those around us

Hymn

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

Behold, the great Creator makes Himself a house of clay, a robe of virgin flesh He takes which He will wear for aye.

Hark, hark, the wise eternal Word
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.

This wonder struck the world amazed,
it shook the starry frame;
squadrons of spirits stood and gazed,
then down in troops they came.

Glad shepherds ran to view this sight;
a choir of angels sings,
and eastern sages with delight
adore this King of kings.

Join then, all hearts that are not stone,
and all our voices prove,
to celebrate this holy One,
the God of peace and love.

Thomas Pestel (1584-1659)

Preparation of the Table

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All Amen.

The president 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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
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

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: Coventry Carol (trad.)

Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post Communion
for the day:*

Lord God, the bright splendour whom
the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have
been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in
your Son,
the Word made flesh,
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

Final hymn

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!

They looked up, and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far:
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell...

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far:
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell...

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay:
Nowell, Nowell...

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
fell reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
both gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell...

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of
naught
and with his blood mankind hath
bought:
Nowell, Nowell...

Traditional

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and
offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
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 seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Concluding voluntary: Processional (Mathias)



The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

Canon Paul Hardingham

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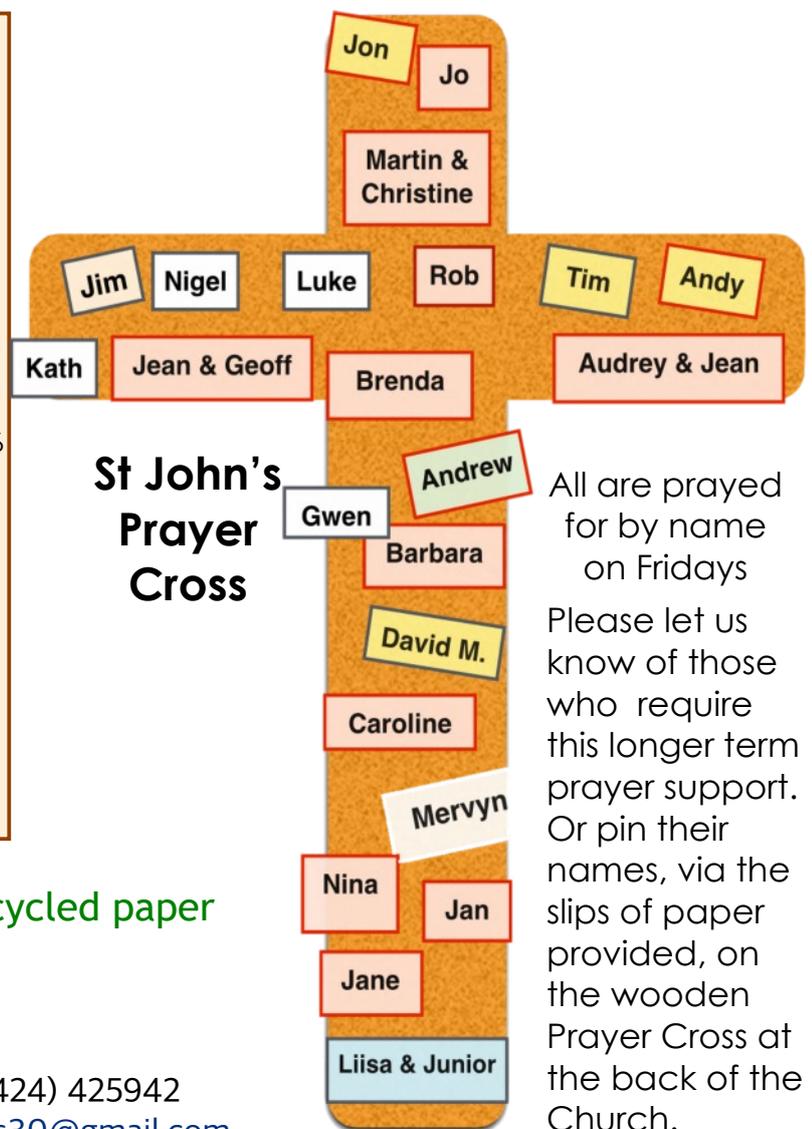
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Some items from *Parish Pump*, January 2022

*The cover photo is of a 6th century mosaic
depicting the Magi, in the Basilica of
Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy*



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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