

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 13th December: Third 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, Amber, Shirley, and Andrew N.

Please pray also for...

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

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,
especially 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, Mon, Tues, Thurs, 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 (please use your own pen!) and pins, or you might prefer to bring one already written to church with you. Your support is much appreciated. Many thanks, **The Christian Aid team.**

We now have a series of **banners in the church grounds**, displaying the Christmas message to passers-by in these difficult days. Many thanks to all involved in the project in any way - you know who you are!



This week's urgently needed items:

- Tinned potatoes,
- Sweet treats
- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life custard.

Also welcomed:

- Toiletries, loo rolls
- Tinned veg, fish, meat, rice pud, fruit.

They currently have plenty of pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, baked beans

Thank you

Hymn of the Week

... is **“Hark! A herald voice is calling”**, sung by Pam from the Choir.

The words are by Edward Caswall, (1814 – 1878), an Anglican clergyman and hymn writer who converted to Roman Catholicism. He wrote many original poems/hymns, but is best known for his translations from various Latin sources, which are noted for their faithfulness to the original. *Hark, A Herald Voice is Calling* is a translation of 5th century Latin hymn, *Vox clara ecce intonat*. Caswall's translations are credited with being easy to set to music and easy for congregations to sing (if only!). It is usually sung to the tune *Merton*, by William H. Monk (1823-89), who is best known for composing the tune to *Abide with me*.

Scripture references relating to each hymn verse are:

verse 1: Romans 13:11-12; **verse 2:** 2 Peter 1:19;
verse 3: John 1:29; **verse 4:** Luke 21:25-28; **verse 5:** Revelation 5:13.



Mass for the Third 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 Third Candle is lit on the
Advent Wreath*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,
just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was
witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
All Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather
the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
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:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare
the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

The servant of the Lord said:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of
ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint
spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display
his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former
devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among
the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD
has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments
of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe
of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with
a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself
with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,
and as a garden causes what is
sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice
always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Do not quench the Spirit. Do not
despise the words of prophets, but test
everything; hold fast to what is good;
abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify
you entirely; and may your spirit and
soul and body be kept sound and
blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Hark! A herald voice is calling;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! The lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.
From the Latin, tr. E. Caswall (1814-78)

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 John
All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1.6-8,19-28

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with
confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.
That God may bring in his kingdom with
justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the
bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen...
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow
of death...
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom
we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly
Father:

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
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: *Siciliano from Flute Sonata
no.2 (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.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love
beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find
us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending 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

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:

Sarabande from Cello suite in D
(J.S. Bach)

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for
these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns
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.

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: *Allabreve in D*
major BWV 589 (J.S. Bach)



A message from Deacon Michael

Josephine and I wanted to say huge thank you for the thoughts, prayers and good wishes we have received in memory of Brian and Peter.

I went to see my dad, at St. Dominic's, straight after church last Sunday and spent all afternoon with him. He died peacefully at 4 p.m.

He loved coming to St John's and in particular enjoyed the singing, the music; he came to several concerts over the years, and especially appreciated the warmth of the hospitality he found here each Sunday. He was never happier than when chatting with members of the congregation

and being a new boy in the "90 + club".

He learnt to play the organ as a schoolboy and played the piano all his life, so it was always a treat for him to listen to Richard after the service each Sunday.

My family took him out on his 90th birthday in February this year. He enjoyed more than 80 years of good health and loved driving. He played golf regularly for over 70 years.

My brother Stephen and I are planning a funeral/ celebration of his life, which will take place here in Church in January 2021. May God bless you all,

Dea Michael

Christmas Services 2020

Sunday 20th December,

"Lessons and Carols for Christmas"

6 pm in Church, view online from 8 pm

Christmas Eve, Thurs 24th December

Church open all day for private prayer.

"Christmas Carols around the Tree"

4:30 p.m. outside the Church

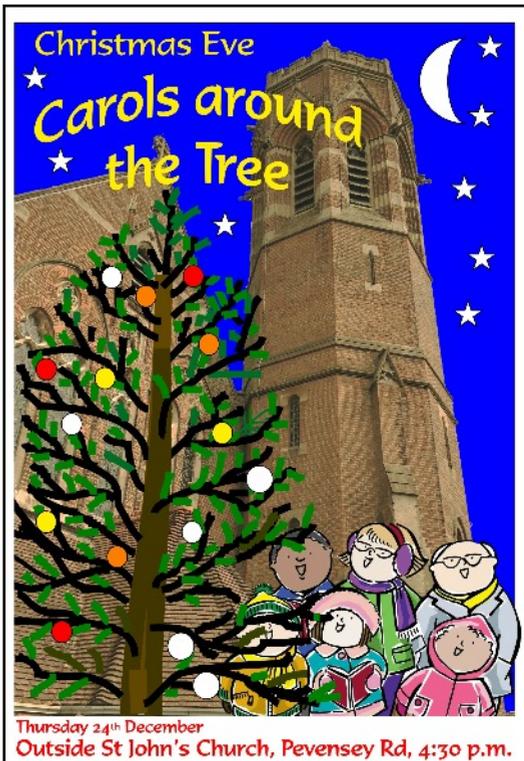
Christmas Day, Friday 25th December

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.



Thursday 24th December
Outside St John's Church, Pevensey Rd, 4:30 p.m.

There are "flyers" for the above outdoor carol service, available in church today.

This Thursday, 17th December: We commemorate Eglantyne Jebb – founder of ‘Save the Children’

Here is a modern-day saint whose compassion and determination has saved literally millions of lives.

Eglantyne did not begin as an obvious ‘mover and shaker’ of people. Born in Shropshire in 1876, she grew up in Ellesmere, studied history at Oxford, taught at Marlborough, and then resigned as she was not physically robust, going to live with her mother in Cambridge. By now she had developed a passion for social concerns, and in 1906 she published research on the poverty she’d found in Cambridge.

Then in 1912 the Balkan Wars broke out, and Eglantyne left Cambridge for Macedonia. Her months among the refugees led her to decide that long-term constructive aid was more effective than short-term handouts.

The First World War left Eglantyne horrified by the prolonged Allied blockade on Germany and Austria-Hungary, which even after Armistice meant starvation for millions of civilians, especially children. And so in 1919 Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton helped found the ‘Fight the Famine’ Council, which wanted to end the blockade and establish a League of Nations.



One day during a rally in Trafalgar Square, Eglantyne was arrested for distributing a leaflet showing starving children. She ended up in court and was fined, but the judge was so impressed with Eglantyne’s commitment to children that he himself paid her fine. His money became the first donation to the Save the Children Fund, the new charity just set up by Eglantyne and Dorothy.

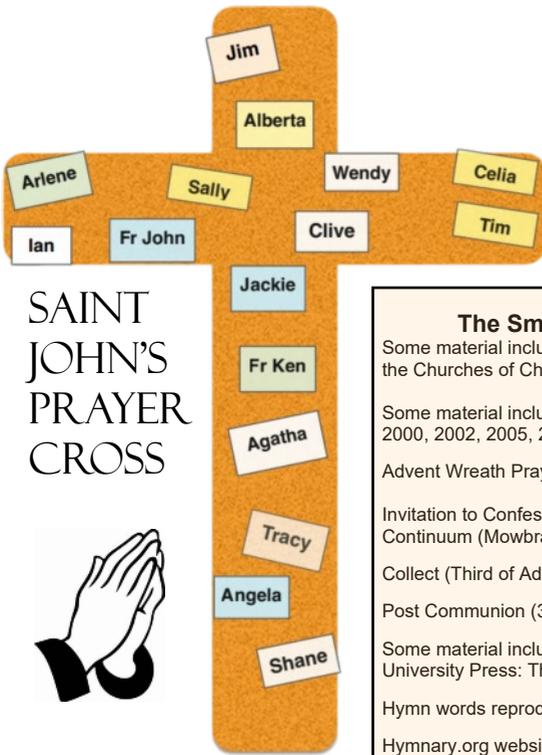
Save the Children was officially launched at the Albert Hall in May 1919, with the aim of helping the starving civilians of central Europe. It was a success, raising £400,000 in that first year alone.

When in the autumn of 1921 Russia was facing famine, Save the Children chartered a cargo ship, the *SS Torcello*, to carry 600 tons of lifesaving food and medical supplies to Russia – saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

By 1922 Save the Children had become one of Britain’s biggest charities. Eglantyne’s *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, written in 1923, was adopted by the League of Nations the following year. The present-day UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is derived from it.

But ten years of running Save the Children had sapped Eglantyne’s fragile strength, and she died in Geneva in 1928, aged only 52.





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