

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - viewable via the Broadcast Page of our church website. www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 situation, St John's Church is closed for public worship services & private prayer until further notice.

Sunday Parish Mass will be online only - recorded in the closed church and broadcast via our church website at 10:30 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Liisa & Junior, Libby V, and Kath Q.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Lilian,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially
Brian Reade, Maurice Harper, and Jeremy Lee,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: Immortal, invisible, God only wise

The main scriptural reference for this hymn is 1 Timothy 1:17: *'Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen'* (King James Bible). The reference to *'the Ancient of Days'* in verse one comes from Daniel 7:9, while the third line of verse two echoes Psalm 36:6, *'Thy righteousness is like the great mountains'*.

The last verse as we know it, was formed from culling and combining the original two final verses, as written by Scottish church minister Walter Chalmers Smith in 1867. Perhaps edited because some of the lines as written don't seem to span very well!

Great Father of glory, Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, veiling their sight;
But of all Thy good graces, this grace, Lord, impart
Take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.



All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee,
And now let Thy glory, to our gaze unroll,
Through Christ in the story, and Christ in the soul.

This hymn is usually sung to the Welsh tune "St Denio", and seems to be very popular on state occasions, being sung at the weddings of Prince Charles and Camilla, Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank, not to mention the 2020 Commonwealth Day service, when we saw the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in their last official role.

Mass for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome

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 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.

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

Priest Let us pray

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory,
hidden through past ages
and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord
All Amen.

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me.

May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before ♦
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦
so high that I cannot attain it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you, ♦
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦
already in your book were all my members written,

16 As day by day they were fashioned ♦
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to
me, O God! ♦
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in
number than the sand, ♦
and at the end, I am still in your
presence.

**All Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever.
Amen.**

Gradual Hymn

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
in light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the ancient of days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest,
to both great and small;
in all life thou livest,
the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish;
but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render:
O help us to see
'tis only the splendour
of light hideth thee.

W. Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

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 1.43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.
He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'
Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of
Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael
and said to him, 'We have found him about
whom Moses in the law and also the
prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from
Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can
anything good come out of Nazareth?'
Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When
Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him,
he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in
whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked
him, 'Where did you come to know me?'
Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig
tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael
replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You
are the King of Israel!'

Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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. *cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

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

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
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 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 declare 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.**

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

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.

Communion is received

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion:

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of 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

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the
image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good
news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

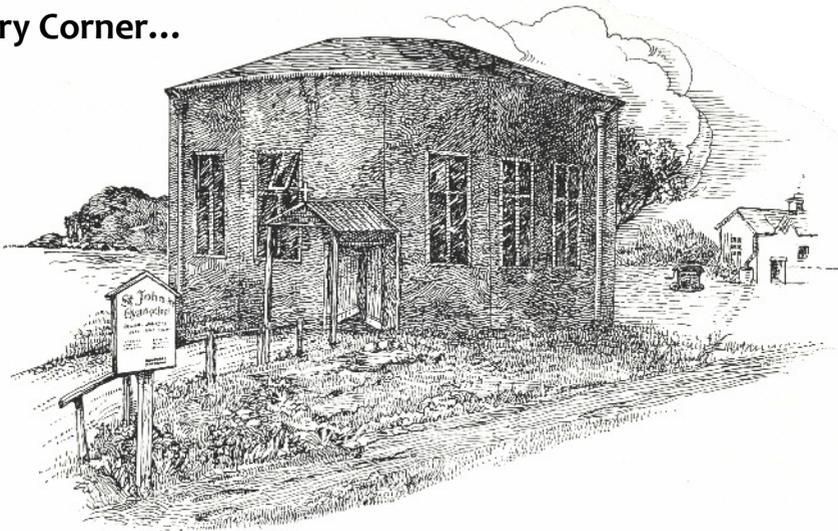
All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: Prelude and fugue
in E minor BWV 533 - J.S. Bach**

History Corner...



THE ROUND CHURCH

Drawn by Bernard J. Palmer

The editor is indebted to Clive from the choir, who has kindly sent through a copy of the booklet “St John the Evangelist - The First Hundred Years”, published in 1965 by Mr W.H. Dyer, a then choir member and former churchwarden of St John’s, and keen local historian. I’m sure many of you have seen it anyway, but as a relative “newbie” to this town I’m finding it a fascinating read, about this church, which is surely unique in having had four different incarnations, building-wise, on the same site, within its first hundred years. We can explore some of this rich history from time to time in the Pews News.

The first St John’s is shown in the drawing above, built in 1865 by the Rev’d Charles Lyndhurst Vaughan, Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church. Mr Vaughan was greatly concerned about spiritual provision for the then fast-developing population in the town. He secured land on the site of the old Gensing Farm, and built the approximately round-shaped church from iron, at a cost of £2000, as a daughter church of Christ Church. The *Hastings and St Leonards Chronicle* reported on the dedication service held on 20th April 1865 - that it was attended by all the clergy of the town, and that the singing was led by a choir of forty “all attired in surplices”, accompanied on the “powerful organ”. We are told that the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Durnford, preached from the text 1 Chronicles 29:15, as he was trying to raise money for the Chichester Cathedral Restoration Fund at the time, but if you look that up I think that may be a mistake or misprint - I’m thinking that the following verse, 1 Chronicles 29:16, was probably the one used for the occasion: *O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own (NRSV)*. Whatever the text, the good Bishop raised £27.5.6 for his cathedral, and Mr Vaughan meanwhile placed on the St Johns altar a gift he had received from parishioners at his former church - a “beautiful and costly service” of communion plate.

The Round Church was only ever meant as a temporary building, but its demise was brought about even more quickly than envisaged - a gale caused the roof to collapse in October 1866. The indefatigable Mr Vaughan temporarily relocated the congregation, and set about building a second, permanent, structure, close to the derelict one. *To be continued...*



Starts tomorrow: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at: ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/



17th January: we remember St Anthony - a hermit-monk with a reputation for healing.

Anthony was born in Coma (Upper Egypt) in 251, and at 20 became an ascetic. He settled down in the complete solitude of a deserted fort in Pispir, where he spent the next 20 years busy fighting the whole range of usual hermit temptations, such as fending off marriage proposals from queenly devils.

In 306 Anthony started facing the outside world again, along with some other hermits. One was named Paul, and the story goes that the day they met, a raven provided lunch for them by dropping a loaf of bread nearby.

Anthony was a godly man, praying for those in need. Stories went round that those he prayed for were healed from their ailments, and so he became known as a miracle-worker. He was certainly brave: when in 311 the Roman Emperor Maximinus was persecuting the Christians, Anthony went to Alexandria to encourage the church there to stand firm. Later he stoutly defended the Christian faith in disputes with heretics.

Anthony died in 356, but even hundreds of years later he was not forgotten. A group of medics adopted his name, and founded The Order of Hospitallers of Saint Anthony (c.1100, in La Motte). It became a pilgrimage centre for those suffering from ergotism (called St Anthony's Fire – a serious form of fungi poisoning).

Anthony was a popular saint throughout the Middle Ages, seen as the patriarch of monks, and a healer of both people and animals. Anthony even gave us the word 'tantony', referring to the smallest pig in a litter, and the smallest bell in a peal of bells.

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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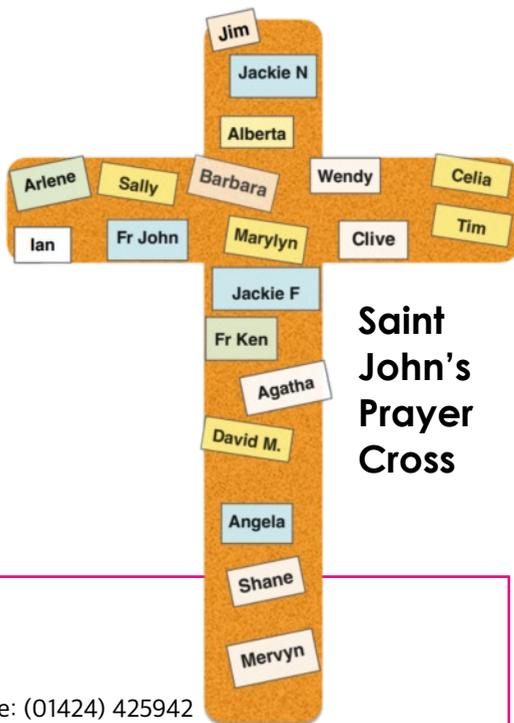
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Hymn of the week extra verses published in *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (1867) by Walter C Smith



Saint John's Prayer Cross

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