



DIOCESE OF  
CHICHESTER

TO KNOW • LOVE • FOLLOW JESUS



One Body One Faith



St  
John's  
Pevenssey  
Road

Pews News and Service  
Sheet for Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Welcome to  
Mass  
on the  
Feast of the  
Baptism of  
Christ

During the week:

Wednesday : 10am

Midweek Mass -

in St Peter's Chapel;

10am Online Zoom

worship\* ask for a link.

Friday 10am – 12noon

Coffee morning in church



Next Sunday 18th:

8am Said Mass

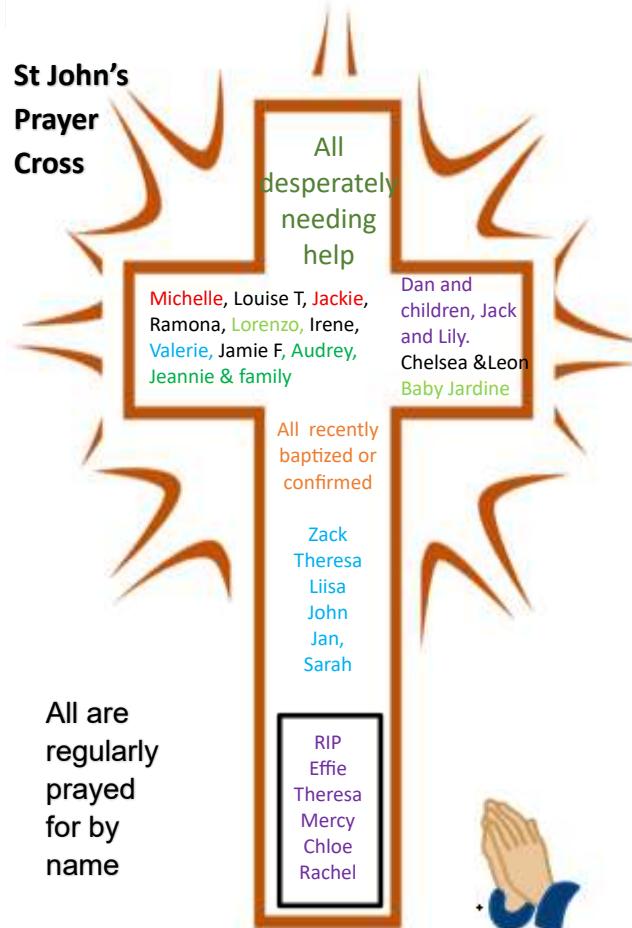
10.30am Sung Mass



**Our prayers are asked for:** Nigel, Xander, Michael, Sue, Gillian, Jenny

**Please also pray** for the souls of the recently departed, for those whose Years Mind falls at this time, especially the Revd David Fentiman, and for all who mourn.

**St John's  
Prayer  
Cross**



All are regularly prayed for by name

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

This Epiphany-tide, please spare a thought for the million-strong invisible workforce of seafarers who endure long lonely months, separated from their loved ones, in order to bring us over 90% of everything we consume. Please consider donating to the Mission to Seafarers, who minister to them in 200 centres in over 50 countries, providing a welcoming space; helping with personal or family problems; advocating to obtain justice in unfair work situations like abandonment or unpaid wages.

MtS envelopes are at the back of church. Just put money in the envelope and place in the round wooden box. If paying by card reader, put a note in one of their envelopes to say how much you have given so that funds are directed to the right place.

Thank you.

*Prayer at the altar said by the choir:*

.... grant that what we sing with our lips may we believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts may we show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Introit: Lead me, Lord – S. S. Wesley*

## Opening Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!  
Great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned  
and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down  
like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down  
before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing

and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is Love.

*James Montgomery 1771-1854) based on Ps 72*

## The Welcoming of the People

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

*Priest* Blessed are you,  
Lord our God, King of the universe.  
*All* To you be glory and praise  
for ever.

*Priest* From the rising of the sun to  
its setting your name is proclaimed  
in all the world. *All* To you be  
glory and praise for ever.

*Priest* When the time had fully  
come you sent the Sun of  
Righteousness. In him the fulness  
of your glory dwells. *All* To you be  
glory and praise for ever.

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

**The blessing of the children and  
the lighting of the candle as they  
go to Godly Play.**

*The Gloria in Excelsis is sung*

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.**

earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Acts 10. 34 - 43*

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and

### **The Collect**

**Priest** 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 your Son our Lord.

**All. Amen**

### **The Liturgy of the Word *all sit***

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah Isaiah 42. 1-9**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the

healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.**

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 – 1997)

**Gospel Reading** *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. **All Alleluia.**

**Deacon** 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 3. 13 - end**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

*Water is poured into the font with these words*

**Priest** God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**All Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.**

**Priest** Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**All who keeps his promise for ever.**

**Priest** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**Priest** Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in creation; for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life; for your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan. We bless you for your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit, and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,

washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters. Restore through them the beauty of your creation, and bring those who are baptized to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement, anoint your children with power from on high, and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom. For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours, now and forever:

**All Alleluia. Amen.**

*The Prayer over the Water is followed by this act of penitence and dedication.*

**Deacon** God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us; look in mercy on your people. From all our sins, O Lord: **All wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have broken the pledges of our baptism, and failed to be your disciples.

From all our sins, O Lord: **All wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Though we are saved by Christ and dead to sin through the deep waters of death, we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

From all our sins, O Lord: **All wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have shown indifference to those in need and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth. From all our sins, O Lord:

**All wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember your repeated forgiveness of our sins. From all our sins, O Lord:

***All wash us, and we shall be clean.***

Today we rejoice and give thanks because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan. Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism for the remission of our sins. From all our sins, O Lord: ***All wash us, and we shall be clean.***

Through water and Spirit you give us new life as the people of God, and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant. From all our sins, O Lord: ***All wash us, and we shall be clean.***

**Priest** Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith, and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ. ***All Amen.***

***The water may be sprinkled over the people***

**Priest** 'Come', say the Spirit and the Bride. 'Come forward, you who are thirsty, receive the water of life, the free gift to all who desire it.'

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***All Amen.***

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **The Peace**

**Priest** God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to

come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

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

**Deacon** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

***All may exchange a sign of peace.***

**Offertory hymn** *during which the altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

**From the eastern mountains, pressing on, they come, wise men in their wisdom, to his humble home; stirred by deep devotion, hastening from afar, ever journeying onward, guided by a star.**

**There their Lord and Saviour as an infant lay, wondrous Light that led them onward on their way, ever now to lighten nations from afar, as they journey homeward by that guiding star.**

**Thou who in a manger once hast lowly lain, who dost now in glory o'er all kingdoms reign, gather in the peoples who in lands afar ne'er have seen the brightness of thy guiding star.**

**Gather in the outcasts, all who've gone astray, throw thy radiance o'er them, guide them on their way; those who never knew thee, those who've wandered far,**

guide them by the brightness  
of thy guiding star.

Onward through the darkness  
of the lonely night,  
shining still before them  
with thy kindly light.  
Guide them, Jew and Gentile,  
homeward from afar,  
young and old together,  
by thy guiding Star.

Until every nation,  
whether bond or free,  
'neath thy star-lit banner, Jesu,  
follows thee.

O'er the distant mountains  
to that heavenly home,  
where nor sin nor sorrow  
evermore shall come.

Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)



### Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

Open the heavens, Lord our God,  
and send your transforming Spirit  
on us and on these gifts. May we  
who are baptized into Christ be  
ready to share his cup of suffering  
and strengthened to serve him for  
ever. **All Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give your thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. You celebrated your new gift of baptism in signs and wonders at the Jordan. Your voice was heard from heaven to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh. Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant, and anointing him with the oil of gladness to preach the good news to the poor. Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven, we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is

given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me. 

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them 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. 

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**Dcn** Great is the mystery of faith  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St John the Evangelist, Mary the Mother of God, St Peter and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **All Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Deacon** 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 by all.*  
**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.*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

**All Amen.**

*Communion is received. Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing.*

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

**Anthem:** *O Saviour of the world - Goss*

### **Hymn**

**Soul of my Saviour,  
sanctify my breast,  
body of Christ,  
be thou my saving guest,  
blood of my Saviour,  
bathe me in thy tide,  
wash me with water  
flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection  
may thy passion be,  
O blessed Jesu,  
hear and answer me;  
deep in thy wounds, Lord,  
hide and shelter me,  
so shall I never,  
never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me  
from the foe malign,  
in death's dread moments  
make me only thine;  
call me and bid me  
come to thee on high  
where I may praise thee  
with thy saints for ay.**

*Latin, 14<sup>th</sup> century translation anonymous*

### **Prayers after Communion**

**Priest** 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**

#### **Blessing of the Congregation**

**Priest** The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you**

**Priest** May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**All Amen.**

May God the Son who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

**All Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you  
always. **All Amen.**

### Final hymn

**Lead us, heavenly Father,  
lead us  
o'er the world's  
tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us,  
keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour,  
breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness  
thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth  
before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
self-denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion  
blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned,  
guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

*James Edmeston (1791-1867)*

### The Dismissal

**Priest** The Lord be with you.  
**All** And also with you  
**All** May the grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, and love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all, evermore.

**Amen.**

**Priest** May the souls of the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace...

**All** and rise in glory. Amen.

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

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

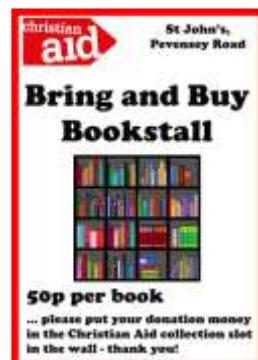
**Concluding voluntary:  
Processional - Mathias**

*Do stay a while*



\*Please request a link to the Wednesday Zoom service by emailing  
[pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com)

Also to this email address please send any  
updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet  
**this week by 4pm on MONDAY**, please.  
(Normally 4pm on Tuesdays. Printing,  
folding and stapling is done on  
Wednesdays) Thank you.



## St John's Personnel

Rector: Fr David Hill;

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07340 268598

[safestjohns40@gmail.com](mailto:safestjohns40@gmail.com)

Parish Administrator and PCC

Secretary: Lucy W

[admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com); Parish

Office: 07831904321

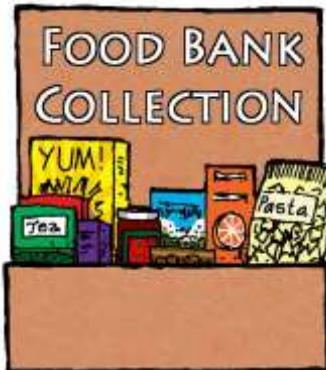
Please contact Lucy also for **Church Hall Bookings**. Website:

[www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk](http://www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk)

Postal Address: St John the

Evangelist, Pevensey Road,

St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LF



## Urgently needed items for the foodbank include:

Toilet Rolls, UHT Milk, Coffee, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables.

Other needed items include: Tinned fish, tinned potatoes, tinned rice pudding, toiletries.

If you are able to donate, please leave items in the container at the back of church and they will be collected by the Food Bank rep. Thank you.

This pew sheet is printed on 100% recycled paper.

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Picture on front page: Baptism of Christ From the *Rabbula Gospels*, Detail of a Canon Table with Miniature scenes, Syrian, Completed 586 Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana MS Cod. Plut. I, fol. ; Picture after hymn The Magi Follow the Star From the *St. Alban's Psalter* (aka *Psalter* of Christina of Markyate) English (St. Alban's Abbey), First Half of the 12th Century Hildesheim, Dombibliothek. fol. 24 Both from <https://imaginemdei.blogspot.com/>