



# St John the Evangelist – a beacon on the hill



## St John's Newsletter for December 2024


Inspiring a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, sharing our faith, pastoral care, making disciples and by being the heart of the community



### Verse of the Month

Luke 2:9-11 "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" Luke 2:9-11

### Services at St John's 10.00am unless otherwise stated

Date		
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	Morning Worship
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Community Carol Service <b>Sat 4.00pm</b>	Community Carol Service
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	Morning Worship
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Eve <b>Tuesday 4.00pm</b>	Christingle Service
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Midnight Service <b>11.30pm</b>	Holy Communion
		
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	First Sunday of Christmas	Morning Worship

### Refreshments following Sunday Service

Do stay for refreshments after the Sunday Service. A great time for a chat and to get to know each other.





The Parish of  
St. John the Evangelist

## **CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S**

### **DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S**

#### **DURING DECEMBER 2024**

#### ***Thursday 12th December***

7.30pm           **Concert "Music for Christmas"**  
A performance by the Crescendo choir from Bexhill.

#### ***Saturday 14th December***

10.00am           **Christmas Tree Festival**  
– 4.00pm           Numerous Christmas trees on display and craft tables with items for sale. Common Ground Coffee Café will be open for the duration serving their usual drinks, cakes and savouries plus cheese and ham rolls for lunch.

4.00pm           **Community Carol Service**  
Come and join in singing well known carols and hearing the Christmas story. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

#### ***Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve***

4.00pm           **Christingle Service**  
Christingle is a popular and joyful celebration bringing families and communities together to make Christingles and to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Donations support the work of the Children's Society.

11.30pm           **First Communion of Christmas**  
The traditional "Midnight" celebration of Holy Communion.

#### ***Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day***

10.00am           **Celebration of Holy Communion**

## WEEKLY EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

**Monday - Singing for Fun** – Do come along and join this friendly group.

Opens at 10am for coffee/tea and biscuits and time for a meet up before the singing starts at 11am. You will sing a variety of popular songs *just for fun* with Stephen Page. Cost £5.00 per session which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit.

**Last meet before Christmas will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Restarting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Tuesday and Thursday - Common Grounds Coffee Café** - Open from 10am to 12noon



Have you visited the cafe yet?? If not do come along and try out.

Café sells a variety of coffees (filter, latte, cappuccinos), teas and hot chocolate plus cakes and savouries. There are also cold drinks

There is a free top up of filter coffee and tea.

Do come along and visit the café and perhaps bring a friend. There is always someone to chat to. Dogs and children welcome.

Books and puzzles on sale plus a table with varying items and craft items

**Last opening before Christmas will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen in New Year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Tuesdays 10am to 12noon – The Chatty Craft Club** – Takes place in the Church

Come along, have a chat and make new friends. Bring your own materials/crafts or use the materials which are already in the Church. Come and use your skills or learn new ones. Free to attend.

The Common Grounds Coffee Café is open at the same time for drinks and food.

Do look at the craft club display of Christmas Items at the back of the Church. There is a lovely selection of Christmas cards. Do purchase and support the Chatty Craft Club



**Last session before Christmas will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and will restart in New Year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Music at St John's** returns on **Thursday 12th December** with "**Music for Christmas**" by the *Crescendo Choir* from Bexhill.



The concert starts at 7.30pm in St John's Church and will be followed by refreshments.

Admission is free but donations are invited and will be divided equally between Warming up the Homeless {Bexhill} and St John's Building Fund.

We look forward to your support.

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Tree Festival 10.00am – 4.00pm

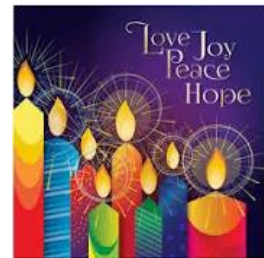


Church and Common Grounds café will be open for usual coffees, savouries and cakes from 10.00am. Craft Club will have a stall selling their Christmas items.

At 4.00pm following the Christmas Tree Festival the annual Community Carol Service. This will be followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Do come along and join in

### Church family Christmas Cards

Cards can be left in the Church for those friends who attend on a regular basis. Please leave at the back of the Church.



### Fundraising Updates from November

The very successful and great fun Quiz, which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> November raised £506. This was run by Marilyn Holdstock. We thank her for all her hard work in putting the quiz together and running it on the day. Also to Amanda and team who organized the selling of tickets and refreshments plus Cliff, Bill, Andrew and others who set up the tables on the day and cleared up after the event. It is hoped that another quiz will be taking place in February next year.



The Chatty Craft Club stall at P&P on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November raised £40. Many thanks to Tina for running the stall.

### 'St John's Holy DustBusters'



Please Note :- The next 'St John's Holy DustBusters' will be on **Friday 6th December from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**, so that the church will be cleaned before Christmas.

Look forward to seeing you on the 6th December. We shall not be cleaning on the 27th December - so look out in the January Newsletter for the date of the next Session *Maureen*

**Contact** by speaking with me, or by email - [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com)



## Diocesan Family Support Work

### Extract from recent newsletter from Family Support Team

Dear Friends,

The end of the year is hurtling towards us, and our focus is on what we can do to support our families during what can be a very stressful few months. Many of our families are currently living in very unsuitable conditions so our practitioners are spending a lot of time liaising with the housing departments of the local council. We would love to see all of our families able to enjoy a safe and warm Christmas. Our usual Winter Fuel campaign has not been able to run this year because of the changes imposed by the new Government, but we have been blessed by many donations from individuals throughout the Diocese who want to help those in more difficult circumstances.

Our calendar is full with end of year treats including pantomime trips and visits from Santa, and our foodbank is filling with the incredibly generous donations we have received from all over Sussex. We are so grateful to everybody for their generosity in supporting us with donations of food, presents and volunteering time to make this a memorable time for our children. We received some lovely feedback recently from a parent who said:

*"We had a fun-packed day and the staff go above and beyond to make it special for us"*

Finally, we hope to see you at our carol service in Fletching on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, where our new Chair of Trustees will be commissioned by the Bishop of Lewes.

With many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

## Collection of food items for Diocesan Family Support



Very many thanks to those in the congregation and the Singing for Fun Songsters who generously donate items for the families supported by the Diocesan Family Support team. All items collected go to the Diocesan food bank where they are sorted and distributed to families in need.

Items requested for this month are Christmas items as per below:-

**Christmas**

**FOODBANK WISHLIST**

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE IN DATE THANK YOU!**

BREAD SAUCE	GRAVY GRANULES
CHRISTMAS CAKE	HOT CHOCOLATE
CHRISTMAS PUDDING	MINCE PIES
COFFEE	STUFFING MIX
CRANBERRY SAUCE	TINNED HAM
CUSTARD	TINNED HOTDOGS
FAMILY SIZE BISCUITS	TINNED MEATBALLS
FAMILY SIZE SWEETS OR CHOCOLATES	TINNED NEW POTATOES
FAMILY SIZE SAVOURY SNACKS	TINNED SALMON
	TINNED VEGETABLES (NOT PULSES)



## **Luke's farewell**

Luke the vicarage on Tuesday 19th and following an overnight stay in a hotel near Heathrow and finally arrived at his new home in Colorado



Luke leaving The Vicarage



Hello from Colorado

## **Postscript from Luke:**

As the deadline for the last newsletter was before my final service, I couldn't say: thank you very much for the very thoughtful, generous and unusual gifts I received at the final service. Thank you, and to so many for all the support. I felt quite emotional leaving the vicarage for the last time.

After a smooth flight, I arrived safely in Colorado, on 20<sup>th</sup> of November, and of course, it was great to be reunited with Jane, Leo and Nate. As I write/type this – it is snowing steadily, so far there is about 2" on the ground. Retirement is very strange: not having to work, or, without a US visa (still), not being allowed to work! However, I do have plenty of jobs to do in the house! Every blessing.  
Luke, Jane, Leo & Nate

## **P&P PLAYERS PRESENT – MOTHER GOOSE**



**At, The church of St. Peter & St. Paul Parkstone Road  
Friday Jan 24th at 7pm. Saturday 25th at 2pm & 7pm. Sunday 26th at 2pm**

**Tickets £5. Available from the church or text / call 07553814758 or 07710121096**



Help to raise money from your online Christmas Shopping

**PLEASE sign up to easyfunding to help raise funds for the Church**

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to St Johns Hollington, including all the big names like Amazon, eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, M&S and Just Eat!

Its quick and easy way to give our fundraising a boost

You can find our easyfundraising page here: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshollington/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-rbd21-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshollington/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1)

This form of fund raising is fully supported and encouraged by the Diocese.

Thank you to those who have already signed up – the amount raised is slowly increasing. This is a great way to raise funds at no cost to yourself. Please sign up.

### **Hastings Sierra Leone Friendship Link (HSLFL)**

If you like crosswords, you may well enjoy this year's fundraising quiz from the HSLFL. It is on the theme of 'listening to music'. The Hastings Sierra Leone Friendship Link is a charity that connects the peoples of Hastings, UK and Hastings, Sierra Leone to promote reconstruction and friendship. It raises money through events and donations to help rebuild Hastings, SL following its devastation in 1997 during Sierra Leone's Rebel War.

The Link also promotes official twinning, informal exchanges and school-to-school links. To find the quiz online, go to [www.hastingshastings.org.uk](http://www.hastingshastings.org.uk) where the quiz is advertised on the front page. This year the money raised will go toward providing a decent water supply and toilets for all partner schools in Sierra Leone.

Entries are £2 each, not much for hours of endless fun.....and head-scratching, and the chance to win a small cash prize. Closing date is 11th January 2025. Details of how to return your completed entry are on the website. If you'd prefer to have a paper copy, do contact me and I'll arrange to drop a copy into you. God Bless, Tom Collins (07919080703).



### **Local Morning Prayer Group (Everyone Welcome)**

Do join in for Morning Prayer. Log in and try this new group meeting for Morning Prayer.

Takes place every **Wednesday and Friday at 8am on zoom**

Sessions are led by parishioners and open to anyone regardless of the church attended.

Morning Prayer takes the form of bible readings, followed by a very short reflection on one of the readings, Thought for the Day, open prayers followed by the Lord's Prayer and closing with the Grace. Lasts for approx 20/25mins.

You can either log on *via the calendar on St John's website*  
<http://stjohnshollington.co.uk/stjohns/> or use the zoom link below  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9055256447?pwd=aFn25c6K5prf9w4RJKlumWuiZILTLo.1>

The daily plan can be requested by emailing [tommotompkins@aol.com](mailto:tommotompkins@aol.com) or can be found via link on St John's calendar under Morning Prayer.



**Please remember in your prayers**

Unitarian Church; Quaker Meeting; Hastings Mosque; The Bible Society;  
Greek Orthodox Church; St Mary & St Theodore Church;  
St John's Worship and Pastoral Team; St Michael's Hospice;  
Mission Aviation Fellowship; Warrior Square Baptist Church;  
St Luke's United Reformed Church; Hastings Interfaith Forum;  
All Saint's Anglican Church, Belmont NSW, Australia;  
Church Together; Royal National Lifeboat Institution;  
The ARK Academy Chain of Schools

Please also remember those who are named in the St John's Prayer Leaflet

**SUPPORTING THE WORLDWIDE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PRAYER**



Please pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for following Jesus.

Dear God, be with all those Christians who are forced to hide their faith for their own safety. Protect them and keep them safe from those who seek to harm them.

Dear God, thank you for the charities and organisations who are working to serve the persecuted Church around the world. Bless their work, protect all those who put themselves in dangerous situations in order to share the good news of Jesus and to support secret churches and Christians around the world.

Dear God, Reveal to those who persecute those who follow your Son Jesus, the truth about your love, your majesty and all that you have done for mankind so that they will come to know You and will turn away from their past acts of persecution.

Dear God, above all we pray for the growth of Your kingdom in every country around the world. Even in the midst of persecution and danger, give people the strength and courage to continue sharing Your good news with those around them. In Jesus' name, Amen.



We thank You dear Lord for the answer to much prayer that UNICEF Nurse Alice Loksha, who was abducted by Islamic militants in 2018, has escaped captivity in West Africa. (She had been forcibly married twice and had a son, who escaped with her. Her future is not straightforward as her husband thought she had died and has since remarried. There is also a lot of shame and stigma around Christian women who were kidnapped and forced into marriage.)

Praise You Dear Lord for Alice's escape from captivity. We do pray for her and her son to be united with her family and community, without stigma, covered with God's peace.  
We do pray Father God for all who remain in captivity that they may know Your strengthening love and care. Amen.

In absence of a Vicar - Please contact [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com) for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Funerals

The Diocesan website can be accessed via this link:- <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/>

You can subscribe to the Diocesan e-news via this link:-

<https://diochi.us4.listmanage.com/subscribe/post?u=7a86e90c11bd11bb3e7fe22e6&id=1b2e7005c3>

Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Please send Items via email to [newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk)

[Wishing everyone a very Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas](#)

