

*Christmas isn't cancelled...
... We warmly invite you to
celebrate Christmas with us**



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

THURSDAY 17 – TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Festival

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER

2.00pm **Outdoor Community Carols around the Trees**
as part of the Christmas Tree Festival

St John's

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

4.30pm **Traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols †**
& 6.30pm *sung by the Parish Choir, joined by the St John's Ensemble.
Admission by Free Ticket.*

St John's

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER

6.00pm **Carols by Candlelight**
in aid of The Hospice of St Francis. Admission by Free Ticket.

St Francis'

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER

2.30pm **Christingle Service**
& 4.30pm *Admission by Free Ticket*
6.30pm **A Service of Carols at the Crib**
sung by the Parish Choir. Admission by Free Ticket.

St John's

St John's

CHRISTMAS EVE

2.30pm **Christingle Service †**
& 4.30pm *Admission by Free Ticket*
6.30pm **A Service of Carols at the Crib**
sung by the Parish Choir. Admission by Free Ticket.
11.30pm **Midnight Mass †**
sung by the Parish Choir. Admission by Free Ticket.

St John's

St John's

St John's

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am **Parish Christmas Eucharist †**
sung by the Parish Choir. Admission by Free Ticket.
10.00am **Mass of Christmas Day**

St John's

St Francis'

ST STEPHEN'S DAY - Thursday 26 December

10.00am **St Stephen's Day Holy Communion with Carols**

St Stephen's

Ticketing information

Free Tickets can be booked via our website
www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

*Services marked † will be streamed on our website.
All necessary Covid-19 Precautions will be in place.*



THE PARISH EUCHARIST DURING ADVENT

**First Sunday of Advent
Sunday 29 November 2020**

*Tickets available
from 1 December*

All sing

The Final Hymn

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
when thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for thy holy nativity:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
proclaiming thy royal degree;
but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
and in great humility:

The foxes found rest, and the bird had its nest
in the shade of the cedar tree;
but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,
in the desert of Galilee:

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
that should set thy people free;
but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
they bore thee to Calvary:

Margaret 250 AMNS

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Our worship has ended; let our service begin.

Thanks be to God!



Welcome to St John's for this on-line Service.

Whether this is your first time you have joined us virtually for this on-line Service at St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we give thanks to God for the new life with have in him through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power and comfort of his Holy Spirit. In faith and confidence we come before the God of love in assurance of his forgiveness and ask for his blessing on our lives. In this season of Advent we watch and wait for the coming of Christ - both celebrating his first coming among us as the babe of Bethlehem and awaiting his second coming when he shall come as judge at the end of all time. We look for the signs of his Kingdom already revealed among us and pray that the Lord may find in us a heart prepared for his dwelling.

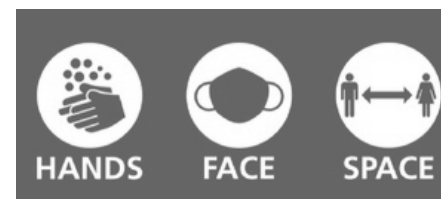
During these days of uncertainty, anxiety, and, for many, darkness we pray that the light of the risen Christ may bring peace, comfort, reassurance, and guidance. Although we are not able to gather together as a worshipping community at present we can still pray for each other, our community, the needs of the world and those in particular need.

You might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of the risen Christ shining among us.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type.

The recording of today's Service can be found at <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources>

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. A collection is normally received during the service. Due to the restrictions this is not possible. You might like to set aside your gift and bring it when the restrictions have lifted, or send-in/electronically transfer your offering. UK tax payers are encouraged to complete a GiftAid form which can be found on website.



Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

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THE GATHERING

*A period of quiet prayer precedes the service as the organ is played.
You may like to light a candle and place it in front of you at home.*

The Greeting

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Advent Wreath: Advent 1 – The Patriarchs

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.

Let us pray:
God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in our preparation to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
and to make his home among us.
We ask this through him who is the light coming into the world,
the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Hymn *is sung*

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Helmsley 28 AMNS

All say

The Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

or:

**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.**

THE DISMISSAL

All stand for

The Blessing

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.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The 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.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

A recording is played of the choir singing

Agnus Dei

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.

Please use the following words to make your Spiritual Communion.

A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live and die in your love. Amen.

The Anthem *is played*

I waited for the Lord: he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint;
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord:
that hope and trust in him.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)
Psalm 40: 1, 5



All say

The Prayer of Preparation

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.

Prayers of Penitence

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.

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

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.
Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64: 1–9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Christ is the bread of life

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with [*N and*] all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

My brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1: 3–9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

cf Isaiah 40: 3–5

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home

and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

St Mark 13: 24–37

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.

The Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy *or* Lord, hear us *or* Maranatha!
hear our prayer. Lord, graciously hear us. Come Lord Jesus.

At the end:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in the darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

The Offertory Hymn

during which the bread and wine are brought to the Altar table and a Collection for the work of the Church is received.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain:

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain:

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain:

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain:

Christ be our light 42 AM

The Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine
so, Lord, may your whole Church
soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
Amen.

