

# NEWSLETTER

## ST JOHN'S & ST FRANCIS' OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

### SERVICES AT ST STEPHEN'S REMAIN SUSPENDED

#### SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER:

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (*Gaudete Sunday*)

	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
		<i>precautions in place and streamed from 12noon, Monday, on our website for those unable to join physically</i>	
	10.00am	Mass	St Francis'
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St John's
Monday-Friday	9.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (Wednesday at St Francis')	
Daily	9.30-5.30	Church open for Private Prayer	
Monday	2.00pm	South Hill Primary School Christmas Service	St John's
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
	11.00am	Zoom Coffee Morning – request link from Vicar	Zoom
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Francis'
Thursday 17-Tues 22	10.00-5.00	Christmas Tree Festival	St John's
Saturday	2.00pm	Carols round the Trees	St John's

#### SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
		<i>precautions in place and streamed from 12noon, Monday, on our website for those unable to join physically</i>	
	10.00am	Mass	St Francis'
	4.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols - Service 1 *	St John's
	6.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols - Service 2 *	St John's
		<i>* Admission by Free Tickets. Sung by the Parish Choir, accompanied by the S John's Ensemble. Readings given by Key Workers</i>	

#### OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

##### **all who are infected or affected by the Coronavirus pandemic:**

our hospitals and all health professionals  
our schools, shops, and other services

for all who are infected and their families  
for all who are anxious or struggling financially

**those who are ill:** Lynsey Abbott, Becky, Catherine, Sheila Charge, Derek Cordery, Beryl King, Baby Chloë Lear, Lizzie, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Pat Moran, Daphne Pullen, Marion Roff, Stanley Rose, Pauline Webb;

**those with ongoing needs:** Richard Berry, John Bery, Trevor Boyce, Val Darvill, Margaret Delph, Rev'd Ivor Dowse, Michele Finch, Derek Frost, Gerda, Josie Gower, Andrew Gunning, Margaret Gunning, John & Debby, Steve Hanwell, Jean Harries, Pam Hart, Anne Hosier, Ian, Catherine Keppel, Sheila Lewis, Brian Laidlaw, Samuel & James Lockyer, Rev'd Rex Merry, Ruth Merry, Steve Randall, Godfrey Rock, Jean Stevens, Beryl Taylor, Jayne Taylor, Jim Taylor, Ken Warby, Christine Wilson, Rory Wilson, Mike Winch, Peter Wing;

*If you wish to be remembered at Morning and Evening Prayer only, please contact the Vicar.*

##### **those who have died recently and we pray for their families and friends.**

Alan French, Margareta Bower, Roger Penton, Doreen Carter, Yvonne Ward

**Years mind 13-19 December:** Jana Pick (14.12.17), Doreen Reeves (14.12.15), Barbara Smith (15.12.16), Margaret Meyer (16.12.18), Reginald Bouttell (17.12.15), Ivy Johnson (19.12.17),

**Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead:** Society of Friends (Quakers) – Old Town area.

## PARISH NOTICES

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

- Tier 2 Restrictions mean:
  - Public Worship has resumed with the following restrictions in place:
    - No mingling/socialising in church with those outside your household/bubble
    - Face covers to be worn throughout services
    - Social distancing to be observed and regular hand sanitising
    - Track & Trace details will be sought on arrival
    - Maximum attendance for non-ticketed services will remain at 65 people at St John's.
    - Indoor congregational singing remains prohibited
- St Stephen's will remain closed until we drop to Tier 1 or below. It is harder to maintain social distancing and the law not to socialise in that context.
- St John's is open for Private Prayer 9.30am-5.30pm every day (Saturdays 10.30am-5.00pm). Please follow the guidance in church regarding distancing. Prayer resources will be available.
- Funerals can also be conducted in church.
- The Eucharist will be celebrated and broadcast from St John's each Sunday. Worship resources remain available on our Website [www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources](http://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources)
- Please keep praying for our Key Workers, each other, and all those infected and affected by this horrible virus.
- Please keep phoning/writing to each other and helping where there is need.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** Starts this week – 17-22 December. Our plans for the Christmas Tree Festival have taken into consideration Tier 2 restrictions and we are busy gearing-up for it. **If anyone is able to help set-up the trees on Monday 14 December, 8.30am, at St John's your help would be appreciated. Please let the Vicar know. Only help if you are not shielding/vulnerable.**

- **Community Carols round the Trees:** Saturday 19 December, 2.00pm in the churchyard. Regulations permitting we'll be selling Glühwein and Hot Dogs, Jams and Cakes.

**CHURCH DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS:** This year we would like to decorate all the windowsills with Poinsettias. Would you be willing to donate some money to help make our churches look festive and rich with colour? If yes, please speak to Sue Brown or Jean Frith, or give your donation to the Vicar. Thank you.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Many have asked in recent days if it is possible to make financial offerings online. This is now possible via our website [www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/donate](http://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/donate) We have also installed a card reader for contact card donations since cash/plate giving is trickier at the moment. Thank you for your generosity in funding the Mission of the Church.

**CHRISTMAS TICKETS & PUBLICITY:** Free Tickets for our Christmas Services are available via our website [www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas](http://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas). If you are not online please contact the Office or the Vicar to arrange tickets.

Services requiring tickets are:

- |               |  |                          |                        |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • 20 December | Festival of Lessons and Carols         | 4.30pm and 6.30pm        | St John's              |
| • 22 December | Candlelit Carols at St Francis         | 6.00pm                   | St Francis'            |
| • 23 December | Christingle Services 1&2, Crib Service | 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm   | St John's              |
| • 24 December | Christingle Services 3&4, Crib Service | 2.30pm*, 4.30pm*, 6.30pm | St John's              |
|               | Midnight Mass                          | 11.30pm                  | St John's              |
| • 25 December | Parish Christmas Eucharist             | 10.00am                  | St John's & St Francis |
- \* sold out

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS:** Next Sunday afternoon, sung by our fabulous Parish Choir, accompanied by the St John's Ensemble and organ. This year as a homage to their tireless work during the pandemic Key Workers will read the Lessons. Sadly we are not able to offer refreshments after the service this year.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Rebecca and Steven on the birth of Gordon this week. All out doing well. Older brother Bruce is very proud. Rebecca and Steven were due to wed at St John's this year and Bruce is a member of our Junior Church.

**MUSIC PERCENTAGE CLUB:** Congratulations to the winners of the November draw: Gill Williams 1<sup>st</sup> £15, Gina Harbour 2<sup>nd</sup> £8, Sheila James 3<sup>rd</sup> £4. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Music Percentage Club and supporting Music at St John's in this way there are forms in church or please contact Mark Harbour on 01582 841019 or see him in church.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE RUN/WALK:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year's MASJ event on 31 December will become a 'virtual' experience. You can still go for a run or walk and distance is not important. We would ask that afterwards you make a donation of £5 or £10 or whatever you can afford to Music at St John's via the 'Just Giving' page. Please use the following link:- <https://justgiving.com/campaign/MASJ/-RUN-or-WALK> Thank you.

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