

NEWSLETTER

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

SERVICES AT ST STEPHEN'S REMAIN SUSPENDED

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER:

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) St John's

10.00am Combined Parish Eucharist St John's

No virtual Service this week. Please use the material on the website to offer your own prayers and praises or join the Abbey Community today.

Monday-Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer St John's

5.00pm Evening Prayer (Wednesday at St Francis')

Daily

9.30-5.00 Church open for Private Prayer

Wednesday

NO Service of Holy Communion today

11.00am Zoom Coffee Morning Zoom

New Year's Eve

MASJ virtual Fun-Run/walk

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY:

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) St John's

10.00am Parish Eucharist St John's

- Service will be streamed on our website from 12noon on Monday

10.00am Mass St Francis'

- dependent on availability of clergy

6.30pm BCP Holy Communion St John's

Wednesday The Epiphany

10.00am Holy Communion St John's

11.00am Zoom Coffee Morning Zoom

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) St John's

10.00am Parish Eucharist St John's

10.00am Mass St Francis'

6.30pm Choral Evensong St John's

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

all who are infected or affected by the Coronavirus pandemic:

our hospitals and all health professionals

for all who are infected and their families

our schools, shops, and other services

for all who are anxious or struggling financially

those who are ill: Lynsey Abbott, Baby Gordon, Becky, Catherine, Sheila Charge, Derek Cordery, Beryl King, Baby Chloë Lear, Lizzie, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Pat Moran, Daphne Pullen, Baby Christopher Rhoden, 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.

Doreen Carter, Yvonne Ward,

Years mind 27 December – 9 January: Sheila Brown (24.12.18), Vera Parkin (30.12.15), Zoe Young (31.12.16), Marie-Anne Holmes-Walker (1.1.19), Gladys Pearson (2.1.20), Martha Crellin (4.1.19), Stan Campbell (4.1.17), Michael Armstrong (5.1.19), Randall Hyde (5.1.16), Roland Walters (6.1.19), Lilian Howard (6.1.17), Rasha Crombie (8.1.18), Emily Beebe (8.1.16)

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead: Pray for God's blessing on his world as we prepare for a New Year.

PARISH NOTICES

VICAR'S LETTER: Sorry, **no letter to Parishioners this week** – the Vicar's brain has given-up after all his exertion in the run-up to Christmas. Please continue to assured of his love and prayers for you all. Stay well and safe.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

Tier 4 Restrictions mean:

- Public Worship may continue 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-5.00pm 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 (except this week). Worship resources remain available on our Website 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.

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER: **NO SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION TODAY.** Priestly cover not available while the Vicar takes a well-deserved week off. All Services resume from next Sunday.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: We hope you had an enjoyable, albeit different, Christmas Day. Over the 12 days of Christmas let us continue to rejoice in the light, life, and love of God made visible in the face of Jesus Christ. If you have lights up outside your house or in your window why not keep them up until 2 February (Candlemas) and continue to radiate the light of Christ in our community.

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 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.

PARISH OFFICE: The office will be closed until 5 January.

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.

THANK YOU:

- ... to all who contributed to the Christmas flowers this year. St John's looked stunning in its simplicity.
- ... our musicians for their phenomenal effort over Christmas in singing our services, and especially to Keith for masterminding our musical offerings and being responsible for our recorded services. The highlight has to be the Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols – a real triumph – it can still be viewed on our website.
- ... to our sidespeople for welcoming so many people to our services in a safe environment and for ensuring our churches were clean and presentable for each service.
- ... to the organisers and donors of our Christmas Tree Festival for the message of light and hope this has given to our community, and especially to those who organised the *Carols round the Trees* – a very powerful and public witness to our community and much appreciated by all who came and distanced themselves to sing once again.
- ... to all who helped with our publicity this year, and the ticketing of services.
- ... for all the cards and gifts given to the Ministry Team – very generous and wholly undeserved, but much appreciated!

Happy New Year.
Every Blessing for 2021.