

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

ADVENT SUNDAY

	8.00am	Holy Communion	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Sung Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>
	11.30am	Morning Worship	<i>St Stephen's</i>
	6.30pm	Deanery Advent Service	<i>St John's</i>
		<i>Sung by the combined choirs and voices of Hemel Hempstead Deanery</i>	
Monday	9.30am	Lockers Park School: Year 3 and 4 visit	<i>St John's</i>
	1.30pm	South Hill School: Year 3 visit	<i>St John's</i>
	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation	<i>The Vicarage</i>
Tuesday	9.15am	Hemel Hempstead School: Year 7 visit	<i>St John's</i>
	9.30am	Tiny Tots: Stay & Play, and Service	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	11.15am	Hall Committee	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Wednesday		St Andrew, Apostle & Patron Saint of Scotland	
	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>	<i>St John's</i>
	12.45pm	Hemel Hempstead School: Year 7 visit	<i>St John's</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
Friday	7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Saturday	3.00pm	Aeolian Singers Christmas Concert	<i>St Francis'</i>

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	8.00am	Holy Communion	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	All Age Eucharist – <i>sung by the Junior Choir</i>	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Sung Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>
	11.30am	Morning Worship	<i>St Stephen's</i>
	12noon	St John's Lunch	<i>St John's Hall</i>

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

all who are infected or affected by the Coronavirus pandemic

the peoples of Ukraine – those defending their land; those made refugees; those in positions of leadership

those who are ill: Lynsey Abbott, Andrew, Baby Bean, Becky, Matt Blake, Brenda, Catherine, Peter Clayton, Jean Dawkins, Michele Finch, Annetta Gray, Dave Harvey, Angie Jackson, Alan Kirtley; Lizzie, John Loria, Anne Lyne, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Pamela, Jane Rombout, Stanley Rose;

those with ongoing needs: Richard Berry, John Bery, Val Darvill, Peter Davis, Gill Dow, Pam French, Derek Frost, Josie Gower, Andrew Gunning, Margaret Gunning, Steve Hanwell, Jean Harries, Pam Hart, Anne Hosier, Elizabeth Jones, Chloë Lear, Sheila Lewis, Brian Laidlaw, Samuel & James Lockyer, Rev'd Rex Merry, Ruth Merry, Gladys Mimer, Steve Randall, Godfrey Rock, Marion Roff, Beryl Taylor, Jayne Taylor, Jim Taylor, Christine Wilson, John Wilson, Mike Winch;
If you wish to be remembered at Morning and Evening Prayer only, please contact the Vicar.

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead:

The Salvation Army

those who have died recently and we pray for their families and friends:

Stewart Gray, Simon Cowie, Jez Baldwin;

those whose Years mind is this week: 27 November – 3 December:

Vera Ewer (27.11.18), Jean Foy (28.11.19).

Parish Office: 01442 260299 office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk <https://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk>

The core office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-1.30pm.

PARISH NOTICES

LIVE STREAMING – THIS WEEK: The Parish Eucharist at 10.00am will be live streamed this week. This can be joined at: www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/live-streamed-services - we apologise in advance if our internet connection fails! A recording will be uploaded as soon as possible if this happens. Thank you for your understanding.

TIME FOR REFLECTION: During Advent – which starts today – we shall try to spend the 5 minutes leading up to each service in contemplative prayers as we watch and wait for signs of God's emerging Kingdom. This time will be triggered by the organ playing before the service.

ADVENT SUNDAY: To mark the beginning of Advent we will once again be returning to a special, in-person, service to help us prepare to welcome the coming of the Christ-child this Christmas. This year a Deanery Choir will come together to lead the singing. Come and join this lovely service. **This evening: 27 November, 6.30pm, St John's.**

UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZE: All of the unclaimed raffle prizes from the Countdown to Christmas Fair have been delivered except the star prize of a large hamper. The winner was Anna but the phone number given is temporarily out of order. Does anyone know who the lucky Anna is? There is a delicious hamper full of goodies waiting to be delivered to her.

CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD: As in pre-pandemic-years, a large Christmas Card will be placed at the back of St John's for members of the Church Community to exchange greetings, rather than sending individual cards. It is hoped, any monies you would have spent on individual cards you will donate to our charity *Bibles for Children* ensuring that every school aged child in Hemel Hempstead is given the opportunity to have a Bible in Yrs 3 & 6. Thank you in advance for using the card, and to Julie for designing the card.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: A reminder that the Christmas Tree Festival will take place 16-20 December at St John's. It can only be successful if we are prepared to properly resource it with stewards, installers, and caterers. Please sign-up or talk to Jean Garner/Alan Munford/Cathy Shaw to ensure the Festival brings some festive cheer to our community.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: Once again we will be sharing Christmas Greetings to all who live in the parish and services times on with our Parish Christmas Card. Please can you help to distribute these cards? A sign-up sheet is available at the back of St John's. Cards will be available for delivery from Sunday 4 December. Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Building on the last few years we shall once again be ticketing our most popular services over Christmas including the Parish Carol Service, the 2 Christingle Services, Crib Service, and Midnight Mass. These FREE tickets will be available from our website www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas on 1 December, from 9.00am. Do book early to avoid disappointment.

CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to Gary, Danielle, Sadie, and Maddie Mullery, and James, Catherine, and Lauren Duvall who – last Sunday evening, publicly affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ. Maddie was Baptised only, Danielle was Baptised and Confirmed, and everyone else (along with 5 others from the Deanery) were Confirmed.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2023: Friday 24-Sunday 26 March. A wonderful opportunity has opened up, in conjunction with the Parish of Hemel Old Town, to go on Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for the weekend, enabling pilgrims space to reflect and worship, as well as plenty of time for fellowship and friendship. The Shrine offers excellent facilities including ensuite accommodation, and close proximity for visits to Wells Next-the-Sea or Sheringham, nice food and great company. Cost to be advised. There are limited places for this event so if you are interested book now with the Vicar and pay your £10 deposit to secure your place. More details to follow.

MAGAZINE: The December/January edition of the Magazine is available for collection/delivery. As always, a huge thank you to Sally-Anne Bates for editing and creating the Magazine to such a high standard each month.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: Belated felicitations to Alan Proehl who celebrated his 60th birthday on Friday – we hope he had a lovely day.

MISSING KEY: One of the keys from the key store in the parish office has been missing for over six weeks. If you ever use the keys, please check your pockets and bags. It has a red tag on it. Many thanks.

COVID GUIDANCE:

- We have **re-introduced the chalice** within the parish. Receiving communion in both kinds is not compulsory (as our recent practice has shown). If you would like to receive the chalice the offer is there. If you would prefer not to receive from the common cup then simply receive the host and walk back to your places. It is an entirely personal decision.
- Intincting/dipping your wafer into the wine is not permitted.
- Mandatory Social Distancing has ceased, however, please be mindful when choosing somewhere to sit as some may still prefer to keep at a respectable distance and/or wear a face covering. If you would like some space no-one will be offended if you say so.