

# NEWSLETTER

## SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Gaudete Sunday

	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<i>St Francis'</i>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<i>St Stephen's</i>
Monday	9am-7pm	Christmas Trees to be decorated	<i>St John's</i>
	7.30pm	Baptism Prep	<i>Vicarage</i>
Tuesday	9.30am	Tiny Tots: Stay & Play, and Service – <i>last of term</i>	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	6.30pm	Concert: Dacorum Community Choir	<i>St John's</i>
Wednesday	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b> followed by coffee	<i>St John's</i>
	2.15pm	Carol Service: South Hill Primary School	<i>St John's</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
	7.00pm	Carol Service: Lockers Park School	<i>St John's</i>
Friday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	<i>St John's</i>
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Saturday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Outdoor Community Carols around the Trees</b>	<i>St John's churchyard</i>

## SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<i>St Francis'</i>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<i>St Stephen's</i>
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Baptism</b>	<i>St John's</i>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Traditional Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols</b> - admission by free ticket	<i>St John's</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, 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:** John Bery, Richard Berry, 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, 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:**

Society of Friends (Quakers) – Old Town area

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

Jimmy Moore, Enid Loake, Stuart Gray, Jez Baldwin; Jonathan King

### **those whose Years mind is this week: 11-17 December:**

Ruby Branson (12.12.21), Margaret Fricker (12.12.19), Jana Pick (14.12.17), Margaret Meyer (16.12.18).

The **Altar Flowers** this week have been sponsored by Jonathan Bradshaw in memory of his late Father Michael Bradshaw, a former member and Choir Boy at St. John's.

Parish Office: 01442 260299 [office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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 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.

**BOOKS:** Please bring a carrier bag to church on Sunday 11 to help with taking any remaining books to charity shops. Any questions, please speak to Marian Davies.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Over the Christmas period we are again planning to decorate St John's with Poinsettias. Would you be willing to help towards the cost? Please speak to Julie Boyce, Sue Brown, or Jean Frith if you can help.

**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:** Christmas Tree Festival – please sign up to act as a steward – help is still needed! The list is at the back of church. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored an outside tree and to the wonderful band that installed the trees on Friday. If you are a baker Lorraine and Di would be grateful for cakes (large and small) for the refreshments at the Festival. Di: 263669.

**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 are NOW AVAILABLE for delivery. Please can they be delivered by 15 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](http://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/christmas) or via the Parish Office. Do book early to avoid disappointment. If you are going away for Christmas please check [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) to find a place to worship our Saviour's birth.

**FRIENDSHIP TEA:** You are most welcome to join us for a joyful afternoon of tea, fellowship & friendship in the Hall at St Johns Church on Wednesday 21 December, 3-4.30pm. Tea and festive refreshments will be served. The next Friendship Tea will be on Wednesday 18 January.

**CHRISTMAS BAUBLES:** If anyone needs any red or gold baubles, please contact Janet Packe who has a surplus left over from previous events.

**SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers needed to help serve teas and coffees after the Sunday Services. Please feel free to add your name to the list on the board at the back or email Yolanda Porter ([yolandaporter.yp@googlemail.com](mailto:yolandaporter.yp@googlemail.com)). Thank you.

**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 en-suite 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 please speak to the Vicar.

**MUSIC PERCENTAGE CLUB:** Congratulations to the winners of the November draw: 1<sup>st</sup>: Sheila James, £15; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Richard Lyne, £8; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Garth Bridgwood, £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.

### **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.