

# NEWSLETTER

## SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	8.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
		<i>This morning we welcome The Reverend Jos Perris to lead our service</i>	
	10.00am	Sung Mass	St Francis'
	11.30am	Holy Communion	St Stephen's
	12.30pm	Holy Baptism	St John's
	6.30pm	Traditional Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols – admission by free ticket	St John's
Monday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St John's
Tuesday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St John's
	6.00pm	Candlelit Carols in aid of The Hospice of St Francis'	St Francis'
Wednesday	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion followed by coffee	St John's
	12noon	Memorial Service	St John's
	3.00pm	Friendship Tea	St John's Hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Francis'
Friday	5.30pm	Junior Choir	St John's Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St John's Hall
Christmas Eve	2.30pm	Christingle Service – admission by free ticket	St John's
	4.30pm	Christingle Service – admission by free ticket	St John's
	6.30pm	Carols at the Crib – admission by free ticket	St John's
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass – admission by free ticket	St John's

## SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

## CHRISTMAS DAY

	10.00am	Parish Christmas Eucharist	St John's
		<i>Bring an opened present and help the Vicar retell the Christmas story</i>	
	10.00am	Mass of Christmas Day	St Francis'

## OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

**all who will find this Christmas hard** – through bereavement, illness, isolation, family dispute, abuse, financial concerns  
**the peoples of Ukraine** – those defending their land; those made refugees; those in positions of leadership

**those to be baptised today:** Miri Royle

**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:**

For God's blessing on his world as we prepare for Christmas and New Year

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

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

## **those whose Years mind is this week: 18-24 December:**

Vera Trustram (19.12.21), Ivy Johnson (19.12.17), Mary Jerram (23.12.21), Barbara Hall (23.12.17), Sheila Brown (24.12.18).

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. The office will be closed from 21 Dec-4 Jan 2023.

## 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.

**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:** The trees all look stunning – especially the outside trees in the snow! Thank you to everyone who has supported this event and has signed-up to steward/offer refreshments. This is a wonderful way for us to reach out to our community.

**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. There is currently availability at all our services. 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, 3.00–4.30pm. Tea and festive refreshments will be served. The next Friendship Tea will be on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

**MASJ – NEW YEAR'S EVE 10K RUN/5K WALK:** – Our annual **New Year's Eve Run/Walk** will be held on **Saturday 31 December**. The Church will be open from **11.00am** for registration, **Runners - £10** and **Walkers - £5.00**. The fun starts at **11.30** when the walkers set off, and the runners start at **12noon**. Please tell your friends and neighbours about the event. All proceeds go towards the work of our **Music at St John's** charity.

**TINY TOTS:** Tiny Tots has now finished for the year. We restart on Tuesday 10 January at 10.00am with the Christmas Party. All tots welcome. Contact Di (263669) or Yvonne (242543) if you have any questions.

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Tickets will go on sale for the next Quiz Night, to be held on Saturday 28 January in the church hall, from 1 January but you can reserve a table of up to 8 people now. Contact Alan Munford 01442 242543 or email [alan.munford@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.munford@btinternet.com)

**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.

### **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.

*The Vicar, Churchwardens, Administrator, and all the PCC, wish you all  
a joyful Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.*