

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

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| | 10.00am | Parish Christmas Eucharist <i>Bring an opened present and help the Vicar retell the Christmas story</i> | St John's |
| | 10.00am | Mass of Christmas Day | St Francis' |
| Monday | | St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) | |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion with Carols | St Stephen's |
| Tuesday | | St John the Evangelist, Apostle <i>No services – transferred to May</i> | |
| Wednesday | | The Holy Innocents | |
| | 10.00am | BCP Holy Communion followed by coffee No Evening Prayer today | St John's |
| Saturday | 11.30am | Music at St Johns Annual 5k Walk starts | St John's |
| (New Year's Eve) | 12noon | Music at St Johns Annual 10k Run starts | St John's |

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

THE NAMING OF JESUS (New Year's Day)

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| | 8.00am | <i>No Service</i> | |
| | 10.00am | Combined Parish Eucharist <i>No Services at St Francis' or St Stephen's today</i> | St John's |
| Wednesday | 10.00am | BCP Holy Communion followed by coffee | St John's |
| Friday | 7.00pm | Choir Practice | St John's Hall |

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 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:

All churches celebrating the birth of Jesus and our combined witness to the town for the 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 fortnight: 25 December – 7 January:

Marie-Anne Holmes-Walker (1.1.19), Peter Wing (2.1.21), Gladys Pearson (2.1.20), Sheila Charge (3.1.21), Mattie Crellin (4.1.19), Karen Smith (5.1.22), Michael Armstrong (5.1.19), Roland Walters (6.1.19),

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: A massive thank you to all who helped/supported/refreshed/decorated/attended our Tree Festival this year. Initial figures suggest we raised over £2250 which, considering the weather and the increase in the cost of living, is a tremendous amount. Well done everyone. The trees will remain in place until Epiphany (6 January). Please can a group of able bodied volunteers assemble at 9.00am at St John's on 6 January to dismantle the trees? Thank you.

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY: Please note the only service in the Parish on New Year's Day will be a combined Parish Eucharist at 10.00am at St John's. Thank you in advance.

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 will 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.

FROM THE VICAR: Thank you all for the cards, presents, and warm wishes for Christmas. After all the fun and busyness leading up to Christmas I will be taking some time off with the family at the beginning of the new year. During this time, please contact the Church wardens if you have a pressing concern between 2-7 January.

Thank you also to the many people who have helped steward Carol Services in the run-up to Christmas, and for those who have read and sung and played at them – particularly our own Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols (if you missed it find it on our website – it was a cracker!)

Thank you to all who joined us for outside Carols around the Trees in the snow. A cold but memorable occasion – warmed by some delightful Mulled Wine.

SUSTAINABLE PRESENT SWAP: Saturday 28 Jan 2023 - in St John's Church Hall. Drop off unwanted presents between 10 - 10.30 am - stay for a coffee and a chat. Swap shop opens from 11 - 12 noon. Exchange one for one. Maximum 5 items each. All free except refreshments. The Eco Team - Rosie Shaw, Mark Harbour and Dee Fisher.

NOTICE BOARD WANTED: Has anyone got a notice board they don't want which can be used to display Eco notices/events at the back of church? Contact Rosie Shaw, Mark Harbour or Dee Fisher via the office. Thank you. The Eco Team

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

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.

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. The office will be closed until 5 Jan 2023.