

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

NB: Gade Valley Harriers training run this morning.

	8.00am	BCP 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>
Monday	7.45pm	Together on Monday Club AGM and Supper	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Shrove Tuesday	9.30am	Tiny Tots – Stay & Play & Service	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	11.30-4.00pm	Warm-Space – Open and warm church	<i>St John's</i>
	4.00pm	Pancake Party	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	7.30pm	Wine & Cheese Social	<i>St John's Hall</i>
ASH WEDNESDAY	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes <i>followed by coffee</i>	<i>St John's</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
	8.00pm	Parish Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>St John's</i>
Thursday	11.00am	Mountbatten Lodge Holy Communion	<i>Mountbatten Lodge</i>
Friday	7.00pm	Choir Rehearsal	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Saturday	7.30pm	Concert: Lumina Choir	<i>St John's</i>

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	8.00am	BCP 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	Holy Communion	<i>St Stephen's</i>

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

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

those who are ill: Isabel Abbot, Lynsey Abbott, Delia Aylott, Andrew, Becky, Matt Blake, Brenda, Catherine, Peter Clayton, Jean Dawkins, Michele Finch, Ruth Goatly, Annetta Gray, Dave Harvey, Angie Jackson, Janice, Paul Kessell-Holland, Alan Kirtley, Lizzie, Anne Lyne, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Pamela, Jane Rombout, Stanley Rose, Guy Wyatt;

those with ongoing needs: Anthony, John Bery, Richard Berry, Val Darvill, Peter Davis, Gill Dow, Pam French, Derek Frost, Josie Gower, Andrew Gunning, Margaret Gunning, Jean Harries, Pam Hart, Anne Hosier, Elizabeth Jones, Sheila Lewis, 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:

St Mary's Apsley (Anglican) – Mthr Alice, the Churchwardens & PCC, and congregation;

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

Jennifer Sears funeral: 27 February, 1.00pm, St John's Church

John Loria, Steve Hanwell, Brian Laidlaw, Bob Reiss - priest;

those whose Years mind is this week: 19-25 February:

William Scott (19.2.22), John Jones (22.2.20), Lilian Ibbett (23.2.19), Sylvia Shreeves (23.2.18), Marjorie Hunt (24.2.18), Barbara Potts (25.2.20),

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.

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER: Most of you will have seen the harrowing images coming out of Turkey and Syria this week. The Disasters Emergency Committee have launched an appeal to help the victims and we will be supporting this with bucket collections after our services this Sunday. If you no longer carry cash, please use your card at the Goodbox device at the back of St John's - Donations received that way will be added to our collections.

WARM-SPACE: The PCC has committed to warming St John's each Tuesday during the winter for people to find a warm place to be.

LENT COURSE: Images of Christ: The story of Jesus in the Arts: Explore how the Gospel narrative has been interpreted in Art, Word, and Music and the response we have to it. 5 sessions, repeated twice each week (St John's on Monday evenings and St Stephen's on Thursday mornings). See poster and Magazine for more details. All welcome.

TOGETHER ON MONDAY CLUB: Tom's AGM will be on 20 February at 7.45pm, followed by a buffet. All welcome. Di Tovey 263669.

SHROVE TUESDAY: 21 February

For Children: We will once again hold our children's **Pancake Party** at 4.00pm in the church and hall. £1 per child. Races and pancakes. Lots of fun!

For Adults: Wine and cheese evening (with something sweet too!) at 7.30pm in the hall. £5 per person. Another chance for us to 'build back better' as we socialise and get to know each other again.

ASH WEDNESDAY: 22 February. Start Lent well by coming to a service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes. 10.00am and 8.00pm at St John's. A chance to reflect on how we (as people who get things wrong) can walk a closer life with God and know we are his children – loved and redeemed.

DEFIBRILLATOR: Did you know the Church now has a Defibrillator? Thanks to your fundraising it hangs in the Hall corridor ready for use (as required). Training is being organised for all interested persons.

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: £145. There are limited places for this event so if you are interested please speak to the Vicar. Time is running out to book!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Today is the 9th anniversary of Fr Mike being installed as our Vicar. For all that has been: Thanks be to God; For all that is to come: Yes. We hope he enjoys a Sunday off celebrating his mother's 70th birthday.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU: It has become increasingly difficult to provide sidespeople and helpers at our services – not helped by the pandemic! This is a vital task in helping regular and new worshippers feel welcome and safe whilst in church. Some Sundays we have either been operating on the bare minimum or, looking to the future, have not been able to create a rota. Please would you consider helping with this ministry. The more who help the less often you would be required to do it. We also need more readers and intercession leaders. Please see the Vicar if you are willing to help. Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

MOZART'S REQUIEM: Sunday 12 March, 6.30pm As part of our Lenten devotions we will be performing, within a liturgical context Mozart's Requiem. Our choir, accompanied by the St John's Ensemble, with fabulous soloists will sing the Mass whilst the Eucharist is offered. Do put it in your diary – it will be well worth attending.

CAMERATA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT: Saturday 11 March, 7.30pm Music including Symphony no 8 by Joseph Haydn. Free admission with a retiring collection, all proceeds to St John's 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.