

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
	10.00am	Sung Mass	St Francis'
	11.30am	Holy Communion	St Stephen's
	6.30pm	Traditional Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols <i>with the St John's Ensemble</i>	St John's
Monday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St John's
Tuesday	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St John's
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight <i>supporting St Francis Hospice</i>	St Francis'
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>	St Stephen's
	3.00pm	Friendship Teas	St John's Hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Francis
Thursday	11.00am	Mountbatten Communion	Mountbatten Lodge
Friday	5.45pm	Junior Choir rehearsal	St John's Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Rehearsal	St John's Hall

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
	10.00am	Sung Mass	St Francis'
	11.30am	Morning Worship	St Stephen's

CHRISTMAS EVE

	2.30pm	Christingle Service 1	St John's
	4.30pm	Christingle Service 2	St John's
	6.30pm	Carols at the Crib	St John's
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St John's

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

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

for peace between Israeli and Palestinian;

for our schools and all others coming into our churches this Advent and Christmas;

those who are ill: Lynsey Abbott, Andrew, Becky, Matthew Bloor, Brenda, Carl and Justine, Catherine, Marion Cowe, Hugh Cumberland, Eve Davis, Jean Dawkins, Annetta Gray, Dave Harvey, Angie Jackson, Janice, Kevin, Alan Kirtley, Anne Lyne, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Sue McMorrان, Mary, Ann & Paul Meeder, Pamela, John Poole, David Rose, Stanley Rose;

those with ongoing needs: Richard Berry, John Bery, Peter Clayton, Val Darvill, Gill Dow, Michele Finch, Pam French, Josie Gower, Angela Green, Andrew Gunning, Margaret Gunning, Jean Harries, Pam Hart, Anne Hosier, Elizabeth Jones, Paul Kessell-Holland, Carole Lewis, Sheila Lewis, Rev'd Rex Merry, Ruth Merry, Gladys Mimer, Sharon & family, Steve Randall, Marion Roff, Jane Rombout, 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:

Mark Jefferson, Rosemary Carpenter;

those whose Years mind is this week: 17-23 December:

Vera Trustram (19.12.21), Mary Jerram (23.12.21).

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.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS: A not to be missed service! TONIGHT, 6.30pm. The Choir – joined by the St John's Ensemble – will lead us in carols as we here again of our Saviour's birth. No tickets required. Followed by refreshments.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: A Massive THANK YOU to all who have helped set-up and dress the trees this year – they look fabulous. Likewise, huge thanks to all who have helped steward and run the festival and to all who will continue to help in the coming days. Special thanks to the team who enabled the Outside Carols on Saturday to be such a roaring success. And finally particular thanks to all who have sponsored the festival – your contribution is really helping us witness to the community – Thank you.

CHRISTINGLE TICKETS: If you would like to come to our Christingle Services don't forget to book tickets via our website – they are very popular!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Christmas is the ideal time to invite friends and family to one of our services. We look forward to welcoming you to any and all of our services – why not see if someone who doesn't normally come with you to church might like to join you?

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at ST FRANCIS': Tuesday 19 December, 6.00pm, and evening of Carols in aid of the Hospice of St Francis. All welcome. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

FAREWELL TO HILARY: This week we say farewell to Hilary Kemp as our administrator. We wish her every blessing in her new ministry in Devon. The Office will be closed from Tuesday 19 December 2023 – 9 January 2024 when our new administrator begins. Any queries during this time should go directly to the Vicar or Churchwardens.

HEMEL ROTARY SANTA SLEIGH IN BOXMOOR, 19 DECEMBER, 5.30PM - 7.30PM: We are very privileged to be invited to take part in this charity event; and help up to 50 local charities distribute up to £17,000. It's great fun and very uplifting but we are looking for two helpers this year to walk by the sleigh and help collect the money. There is no knocking on doors. You have to be able to walk a couple of miles and for two hours! We have split the shift in half before so you can do just one hour! Your help is very much appreciated and we couldn't do this without your help. If this is something you'd like to do please speak to Dee Fisher (07748 307979), Noel James or Alan Munford for further info. Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS MORNING @ ST JOHN'S: Please bring an opened present with you as a visual aid to help the Vicar tell the Christmas Story. See if he can incorporate all the gifts on the spot – or can you stump him?

GOING AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS? If you are going away this Christmas, don't forget to check out www.achurchnearyou.co.uk to discover your nearest church so you can make your Christmas Communion.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY: This Parish is blessed in having a church dedicated in the name of the deacon and first martyr, Stephen. His feast falls on Boxing Day, 26 December. Come and join in celebrating his witness during the Patronal Eucharist with Carols, 10.30am, St Stephen's Chaulden, 26 December. All welcome.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A QUIZ MASTER? We need an extra Quiz Master to join the team who organise our popular quizzes. Could this be you? Are you a Quizzer? Do you like devising puzzles? Or would you be happy to help set up the Hall and organise prizes for these occasions? If so, please contact the Vicar or Alan Munford who can brief you on what is required. Don't be shy!

SERVING CHRIST BY SERVING EACH OTHER: There are lots of ways we can serve each other and our worshipping community. Sadly, at present, we are wholly reliant on the same few helpers to ensure that our services or events take place. Please consider being a sidesperson/welcomer, a reader or leader of Intercession, a server/Eucharistic minister. The more who take on these ministries the less burdensome they become to all of us.

COVID GUIDANCE:

- 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.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: If you wish to receive the weekly Newsletter by Email please send your Email address to stjohnchurchnews@btinternet.com and you will be added to the distribution list.