

NEWSLETTER

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 – doors open at 2.00pm - ticketed	St John's
4.30pm	Christingle Service 2 – doors open at 4.00pm - ticketed	St John's
6.30pm	Carols at the Crib – doors open at 6.00pm	St John's
11.30pm	Midnight Mass – Carols start at 11.10pm	St John's

Monday

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am	Parish Christmas Eucharist	St John's
10.00am	Mass of Christmas Day	St Francis'

Tuesday

ST STEPHEN'S DAY / BOXING DAY

10.30am	St Stephen's Day Holy Communion with carols	St Stephen's
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Wednesday

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST & APOSTLE

10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	St John's
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Thursday

Holy Innocents

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's
10.00am	Combined Parish Eucharist	St John's
	<i>No Services at St Francis' or St Stephen's today</i>	
12noon	MASJ New Year Walk begins	St John's
12.30pm	MASJ New Year Run begins	St John's

Happy Christmas & Blessings for the New Year!

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;

those who are ill: Lynsey Abbott, Andrew, Becky, Matthew Bloor, Brenda, Carl & 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, Mary, Ann & Paul Meeder, Pamela, John Poole, 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:

All churches celebrating the birth of Jesus;

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

Rosemary Carpenter, Steve Checkley, Sue McMorrnan, David Rose;

those whose Years mind is this week: 24-30 December:

Sheila Brown (24.12.18), Ann Lewis (30.12.21).

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.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: A fabulous Christmas Tree Festival has drawn to a close. Thank you to our organisers/helpers/decorators/attendees – it has been such a wonderful time. Early indications are that it raised over £2000 on-top of the invaluable witness and community engagement it engendered. Well done, one and all.

FESTIVAL OF 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS: A hearty congratulations to our musicians for another stunning Carol Service last weekend. Truly remarkable. A packed church enjoyed superb singing and playing and a wonderful atmosphere. Hats off to Keith our Director of Music. If you missed it, you can now join it via our Website (see above).

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.

PARISH OFFICE: The Office is now closed for the Christmas period and will re-open on Tuesday 9 January 2024 when our new administrator, Deniece Colley, begins. Any queries until 9 January should go directly to the Vicar or Churchwardens.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Thank you to everyone who has decorated our churches in readiness for Christmas.

CAROLS FOR ST FRANCIS HOSPICE: A lovely Carol Service at St Francis' Church in aid of the Hospice raised nearly £700 (when combined with Coffee money given throughout the year). Thank you for your generosity and to the folk of St Francis' for organising it once again.

THANK YOU FROM HILARY: Thank you so much for your generous leaving gift. We have a big garden in the new Vicarage so I think we will spend it on garden furniture. I will remember you all as I sit in the glorious Devon sunshine enjoying the view! Several of you have asked for our new address: The Vicarage, 7 Shepherds Meadow, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5BP. Do come and visit if you are in the area. My email address is revdhilarykemp@gmail.com. Thank you for all your support over the last 5 years, it has been a pleasure working with you. Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Hilary.

THANK YOU FROM THE VICAR: My family and I have been very touched by all the cards and gifts we have been given. Thank you very much. We wish you all a very happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year.

TINY TOTS PARTY: Tuesday 9 January in the Hall from **11.00am to 1.00pm**. Tickets price £3.50, from Annie Mitchell. **Please buy or order NOW** so there will be enough to go round! NO Tiny Tots until the Party! Regular meetings start again at 9.30am on **Tuesday 16th January**. New members always very 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.

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