

NEWSLETTER

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

Monday

New Year's Day

Wednesday

The Naming of Jesus (tr)

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

Friday

by 5.00pm *Tree decorations removed*

Saturday

10.00am *Trees removed from Church*

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's
10.00am	All Age Eucharist for Epiphany	St John's
10.00am	Sung Mass	St Francis'
11.30am	Morning Worship	St Stephen's

Happy 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:

The combined witness of all Churches in Hemel Hempstead;

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

Rosemary Carpenter, Steve Checkley, Sue McMorrان, David Rose, Matthew Goode;

those whose Years mind is this week: 31 December–6 January:

Marie-Anne Holmes-Walker (1.1.19), Gladys Pearson (2.1.20), Peter Wing (2.1.21), Sheila Charge (3.1.21), Mattie Crellin (4.1.19), 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.

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 TREE DECORATIONS: Gentle reminder that all the trees are to be stripped by 5.00pm on Friday in preparation for tree removal on Saturday. Please help with this process if possible. Trees will be removed from 10.00am on Saturday.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: What a joy to be back celebrating the birth of Christ without restrictions and in such great numbers. Thank you to all who stewarded/ sung/ assisted at any of our Christmas services. The overwhelming response from worshippers is one of welcome, inclusion, and joy. Thank you. Numbers have risen year on year as we exit the pandemic and we are well on the way to being at pre-pandemic levels. Well done one and all.

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.

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: The Vicar will be on leave with family this week. If in need of pastoral care this week please contact Marian Davies (number below) and she will contact the Vicar/a priest. The Vicar returns next Sunday for The Epiphany.

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.

MATTHEW GOODE RIP: Many will remember Matthew – Duncan MacEwan's grandson – who used to attend St John's. After a very short illness, and a 10hr operation, he died peacefully in his parents' Katriona and Paul's arms. Matthew brought much joy to the world. We send love, prayers and condolences.

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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