

# NEWSLETTER

## **SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER** **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** – *Gaudete Sunday*

	8.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
	10.00am	Mass	St Francis'
	11.30am	Morning Worship	St Stephen's
	12noon – 5.00pm	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL	St John's
Monday	10.00am – 5.00pm	CHRISTMAS TREES FESTIVAL	St John's
Tuesday	10.00am – 5.00pm	CHRISTMAS TREES FESTIVAL	St John's
	6.00pm	Carol Service: Carols by Candlelight	St Francis'
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	St John's
	2.00pm	Carol Service: South Hill School	St John's
	3.00pm	Friendship Teas	St John's Hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Francis'
Thursday	10.00am	Funeral: Irene Rumbold	St John's
	11.45am	Mountbatten Communion	Mountbatten Lodge
	2.00pm	The Lodge Communion	The Lodge Care Home
Friday	5.30pm	Junior Choir Practice	St John's
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St John's Hall

## **SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

	8.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St John's
	10.00am	Mass	St Francis'
	11.30am	Holy Communion	St Stephen's
	6.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols	St John's

### **OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:**

**for peace between Israeli and Palestinian, and for the peoples of Ukraine;**

**those who are ill:** Lynsey Abbott, Alison, Andrew, Becky, Stewart Blake, Matthew Bloor, Brenda, Rev David Brooke, Arthur Brown, Sarah Bush, Carl & Justine, Michael Collins, Hugh Cumberland, Jean Dawkins, Emily Gager, Annetta Gray, Dave Harvey, Angie Jackson, Kevin, Alan Kirtley, Alex Labern, Chris Loake, Pamela Macey, Paul McCormick, Elizabeth McDonald, Mary, Ann & Paul Meeder, John Poole, Mavis Rhoden, Stanley Rose, Claire Smith, Cathy & Trevor Stone, Penny Williams;

**those with ongoing needs:** Richard Berry, John Bery, Joan Claridge, Peter Clayton, Marion Cowe, Sandy Cutts, Val Darvill, Gill Dow, Eve Davis, Angela English, Ken Farmborough, Michele Finch, Pam French, Josie Gower, Andrew Gunning, Margaret Gunning, Pam Hart, Anne Hosier, Elizabeth Jones, Paul Kessell-Holland, Sheila Lewis, Anne Lyne, Ruth Merry, Gladys Mimer, Steve Randall, Marion Roff, Jane Rombout, Beryl Taylor, Jayne Taylor, Jim Taylor, Gill Williams, Christine Wilson, John Wilson, Mike Winch;

### **Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead:**

Prayers 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:**

Irene Rumbold funeral: Thursday 19 December 10.00am St John's

Mark Myatt, Leslie Ames, Vincent Kelly;

### **those whose Years mind is this week: 15-21 December:**

Parish Office: 01442 773990 [office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk) <https://www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk>  
The core office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am–12noon.

## PARISH NOTICES

**TIME FOR REFLECTION:** During Advent we shall try to spend the 5 minutes leading up to each service in contemplative prayers as we watch and wait for signs of God's emerging Kingdom. This time will be triggered by the organ playing before the service.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES:** This week join us for **Carols by Candlelight @ St Francis** on Tuesday evening, 6.00pm, or at the spectacular **Festival of Lessons and Carols** next Sunday evening, 6.30pm, where we will be joined by the St John's Ensemble and the parish choir. Everyone is invited and welcome to these services. Followed by refreshments.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** A big thank you to all those who came to help to set up the Christmas Trees last Monday, it was very hard work but with everyone in good spirits, and bacon sandwiches to help us along, the church and grounds are now alight with Christmas cheer. Thank you to all who sponsored this event enabling us to have a total of 50 trees this year. Thank you, too, to all who have volunteered to help at the Festival. Without your help the Festival would not be the success it is proving to be. Thank you, Jean Hammond.

**CHURCH FLOWERS:** The Christmas Poinsettias in church have been kindly donated by Roger Taylor in grateful thanks for the supporting ministry of St John's and in loving memory of his parents.

**TICKETS FOR CHRISTINGLE SERVICES:** Once again we will be issuing FREE TICKETS to these services on Christmas Eve. These can be obtained from our Website from Today. Please share with family and friends – these services are very popular and tend to "sell out" very quickly. 450 of the nearly 800 went last Sunday!!! We are the new Glastonbury!

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** A massive thank you to all who have delivered and shared our Christmas Card with parishioners. There are still some routes to be delivered – please can you help and deliver them this week? Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNION:** Going away for Christmas? Find out where you can make your Christmas Communion at a nearby Church – you may find this site helpful: <https://www.achurchnearyou.co.uk>. Or are you unable to make it to church due to illness or infirmity? Please contact the Vicar to arrange Communion at Home.

**TOGETHER ON MONDAY:** At last Monday's 'Together on Mondays' pre-Christmas meeting, it was agreed by the members to hold our New Year's festive lunch at Little Hay Golf Club. Please will members who indicated that they will be attending or those wishing to attend let Ian Packe have their menu choices either in church or by email ([toms@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk](mailto:toms@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk)) or text to 07905 418851 or 'phone (01442 214126).

**ECO CHURCH NEWS:** We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Bronze Eco Award for St John's Church - more details on how we got there in the next church magazine. Dee, Rosie, and Mark.

**SAFEGUARDING SURVEY:** Thank you to all who have completed the Survey so far. Completed forms for folk at St Francis' to be submitted by Sunday 22 December. The survey has 20 questions and is anonymous. We would appreciate as many people as possible completing it so that we get as full a picture as possible. Paper Copies available if you are not able to access the link online. You can access the survey here: <https://forms.gle/Bz9NkPu7CwYXn21D7>

**MUSIC PERCENTAGE CLUB:** Congratulations to the winners of the November Music Percentage Club draw: 1<sup>st</sup>: Catherine Holness, £15; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Zoe Proehl, £8; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Carole Lewis, £4. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Music Percentage Club and supporting Music at St John's in this way there are forms in church or please contact Mark Harbour on 01582 841019 or see him in church.

**TINY TOTS:** We resume with our PARTY on Tuesday 14 January, 11.00am–1.00pm (please note later times). Please buy your tickets as soon as possible, price £3.50 from Annie Mitchell, so we know how many little ones to cater for. Normal weekly meetings begin again on Tuesday 21 January from 9.30 in the Hall. New children always welcome.

**HARDSHIP FUND:** The church has a hardship fund. Should anyone be struggling with fuel bills the parish may be able to help. Please speak to the vicar.

**LIVE STREAMING – THIS WEEK:** We finally think we have cracked our technical issues with the Live Streaming. This week, we will therefore attempt to live stream our Parish Eucharist. If this fails, we will upload the recording after. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

**SAFEGUARDING NOTICE:** Should anyone need advice or help concerning a safeguarding matter, please approach the Vicar or Rosie Akeroyd, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

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

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