

DECEMBER 2024



**Parish Magazine of
St. JOHN THE DIVINE**

50p



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SUNDAY MASS READINGS

1st December

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 *Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

8th December

Baruch 5:1-9

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11 *Luke 3:1-6*

15th December

Zephaniah 3:14-18

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Philippians 4:4-7 *Luke 3:10-18*

22nd December

Micah 5:1-4

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hebrews 10:5-10 *Luke 1:39-45*

29th December

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

THE HOLY FAMILY

1 John 3:1-2,21-24 *Luke 2:41-52*



Monthly Statistics for October

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Home Communicants
6th	48	57	10
13th	37	46	2
20th	37	43	2
27th	40	46	3

Thoughts for December

At Bible study we were looking at the coming season of Advent and discussing how we can use this time of waiting for the coming of Jesus to earth at Christmas to consider if we are ready for Him, on a daily basis.

As wardens we are working to make the building fit and in good order for the day. The lightning conductor has been serviced and safety ensured. The statue of St John, sited on the northwest corner of the tower, has had a repair carried out to the statue platform, as highlighted in the quinquennial inspection. While access was available to the statue Bennetts also gave the statue two coats of preservative, it looks great.

The resurfacing of the south entrance to the church is giving a better journey to the church for those who use walking aids as well as wheelchair users. Thank you all for your patience during the time the work was being carried out.

The bigger repairs are obvious but many minor repairs go on as and when the need occurs. They give the church a well ordered, cared for feel and all the above give hope for the time we are in and the time to come for the future of St John's in this parish. We have cause to be very grateful to members past and present for their generosity which enables the parish to stay relevant (and solvent!) in these times.

We do not know when Our Lord will return but we can be happy that the building will stand firm in this community to remind all that we are here and not going anywhere soon. For the people who do gather, there will be more guidance on making ourselves ready for the Advent of Our King.

The Churchwardens



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

ELM GROVE

CHRISTMAS FAIR

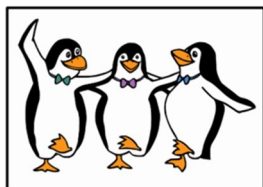


**SATURDAY 7TH
DECEMBER**



10AM – 1PM

**Children's Activities Santa's Grotto Raffle
Bottle Stall Café Cakes and more**



ALL WELCOME!



**SUPPORTING CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE AND
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

CHRISTINGLE 4 PM

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

CAROL SERVICE 4 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICE 4 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS 11.45 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH MASS 10 AM





CHURCH FLOWERS

Don't forget that you need to fill in the list at the North Door to arrange and pay for your special flower bouquets for those dear departed relatives and friends whom you miss. I need your help to prepare something astonishing! **Lyn**

PLASTIC MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Please collect Red, Blue, Green and Clear milk bottle tops for the charity Chestnut Tree House.....

There is a glass jar on the table by the South door of the Church for the tops you have collected.

Thank you.

Sharron

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



**A lamp burns daily at Our Lady of Walsingham,
the lamp is lit for special prayer intentions.**

If you would like the lamp lit for a special occasion, anniversary, a departed loved one or any other request, please add the request to the list by the North door and place a donation of £3 in the candle box.

NOTICES FROM St. JOHN'S

Do come to join us for Sunday Mass at 8am or 10am. If you are new to St. John's please introduce yourself to a sides person or a member of the clergy. The Peace will be carried out remotely, but there will now be an opportunity to receive sacrament of both kinds, at each Mass, for those who wish to.

Please stay for refreshments after the 10am Sunday Mass. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the back of the church and on the first Sunday of each month the 100 Club winners will be drawn.

Thank You to all who support our 100 Club at St. John's, which raises vital funds for our church. If you would like to join please see Lyn (See also Page 16).

Please remember that contributions for church flowers are always desperately needed by Lyn Gough!

If anyone wants to book the Hall for an event in the New Year, please see Caroline soon as dates are being blocked out now.

Parish Bible Study happens on Mondays, but please watch the pew sheet for times and locations.

Special Anniversaries will be celebrated in 2025. The Diocese and Cathedral are 950 years old, but also it will be 1700 years since the arrival of the Nicene Creed. More details to follow.

Note that Friday Mass is 10-30am at St Andrews, unless a special Mass is held at St. John's (See Page 20 and below!).

Ed.

Patronal Festival Mass on Friday December 27th

There will be a joint (St. John's and St. Andrew's) 10am Mass at St. John's for The Patron of our Church. It will be a sung Mass followed by Coffee. Please make a special Friday effort to be there in support of our clergy.

Ed

A New Year

‘How appropriate’ I said when I discovered the date of Fr Tim’s birthday - St Cecilia’s Day. Not very much is known about this saint. She was born into an aristocratic family, lived in Rome, and is thought to have been put to death because she was a Christian sometime towards the end of the 2nd century. She is the patron saint of musicians - which is why I said ‘How appropriate’ when I discovered Fr Tim’s birthday date. Cecilia was probably adopted by musicians as their patron saint because of a story which tells how as music was played at her wedding she ‘sang in her heart to the Lord’. In art she is usually portrayed with an organ or organ pipes in her hand. St Cecilia devoted her life to telling people about Jesus and bringing them to faith. Indeed, the first converts she made were her husband and his brother. All three of them eventually died as martyrs.

Music has always played a significant part in Christian worship. In one of his sermons St Augustine reminds us of a verse in Psalm 33, ‘Sing to the Lord a new song’, and encourages us to sing as we pray and worship. And in another sermon he tells us that ‘amidst the dangers and the trials we must sing Alleluia’. ‘Sing as travellers sing along the road’ says Augustine. ‘Sing up - and keep on walking’.

St Cecilia’s feast is celebrated in the second part of November. That is when our Church year is drawing towards its close; when the days are getting progressively shorter and darker; and we have even darker days to look forward to as December progresses. So perhaps it’s a time of year when we need to be reminded that if in our hearts we can ‘sing joyfully to the Lord’ (and we don’t need wonderfully trained voices that bring pleasure to the human ear!) then the joy of our faith will shine more brightly through our daily lives. And wouldn’t it be wonderful if through us and our example of joyful faith God would use us, as he used St Cecilia, to bring another person to faith in his Son.

Our Church year is coming to an end. But without a pause a new year will begin. What do you expect? ‘Same old, same old’ say some, the glass-half-empty brigade. But that can’t be the Christian’s reply, surely. A new year. So for the Christian something to embrace with joy, anticipation, excitement even. For the new year begins with Advent, the season when day by day (the Advent calendar warns us) our celebration of the birth of Jesus is coming close (‘coming *close*’ is what the word ‘advent’ means).

There's lots of music in Advent. My regular supermarket shop (usually quiet apart from the occasional request for Jean or Gary to 'come to customer services') is accompanied by popular Christmas music, even some carols. Scrooge-like I mutter and scowl. But should I? Maybe hearing 'Away in a manger' will remind someone scurrying towards the check-outs that Christmas is about the greatest gift God has given to his children, the gift of his Son. And maybe, even, nudge him / her towards a church on Christmas Day.

That Son's birth was accompanied by music - the music of heaven. Frightened shepherds heard the singing of angel voices, and having heard it had the courage to 'go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened'. In the darkness there was dazzling light, the light of God's love breaking through the sadness and sins of the world. Instead of fear there was joy, the joy of God-with-us.

Can we, this Advent and in the new year it begins, as we continue our journey along the road which is our life on earth, do less than obey the instruction of St Augustine to sing (in our hearts); and whatever lies ahead in the new year with which Advent begins, faithfully and joyfully 'keep on walking' the path the Lord sets before us. Walking? The shepherds didn't leave it at that. They 'hurried away', got to Bethlehem and its stable as quickly as they could. May we find that urgency this Advent: like Cecilia to share our faith with others; and like shepherds to know the joy of meeting the Lord, not as they did in Bethlehem 'the house of bread', but in the bread of the Eucharist which strengthens us to walk, to sing, to live, and to work to his praise and glory.

Fr. Roger



ARTICLES AND IDEAS!

St. John's Magazine needs articles to publish about any aspect of life!

Have you seen a situation we can all have a giggle about or even be inspired by? Please put pen to paper and the old Editor will help.

Cuppa and Chat with Deacon Rachel ~ Gena Lambert

Gena was born in 1932 in Watford, the first of three daughters. Her parents wanted to call her Georgina but her Grandmother didn't approve so as a compromise they chose 'Gena' - short for nothing!!

Gena was so put out by the arrival of a new sister and protested by starving herself! When her parents consulted the doctor about this he said, wisely, 'put the food in front of her, she will eat when she gets hungry'. How right he was! Soon after this Gena started attending the kindergarten just up the road which was run by an aunt.



Gena remained there until she went to Watford Girls' Grammar School. During the Second World War she and her sisters moved to their grandmother's house as their family home was in the path of would-be bombers. She remembers being accompanied by an older girl from their school. She remained there through to the sixth form and studied English, Geography, Art and French.

Gena knew from an early age that she wanted to be a nurse, and achieving this wasn't without its struggles. In her earlier childhood it was discovered that she had the same heart condition as her father, but this didn't hold her back. So Gena attended a nursing cadet college which was attached to the Grammar School. At one point she was ushered to the back of the auditorium by the Headmistress as she had turned up wearing her blue and white striped cadet uniform.

She enrolled in the Middlesex Hospital Nursing School, where she gained State Registered Nurse status. She also completed the Hospital Certificate. Gena had met Donald her husband during a stay with Aunts in Ferring when he was serving as curate at St Andrew's Clifton Road, and their relationship grew during her nurses training.

They got married in St John's Church, Watford in 1955 and after a brief honeymoon in Brockenhurst they flew out to Nassau in the Bahamas where Donald was serving as a priest. The parish had kindly spruced up the vicarage in readiness for their arrival. Their first daughter, Frances, was born there but sadly they had to return home sooner than they had hoped after a home invasion at gun-point, the shock from which they never really recovered.

Donald served as parish priest initially in Bathwick; during this time that they were gifted with four more daughters. They moved to a few other parishes before eventually retiring to Worthing where they were given a house large enough for their family for a 'peppercorn' rent. Gena then worked as a district nurse in the Shoreham area. During this time she and another nurse were asked to set up a 'Terminal Care Service' which became the community palliative care team with their own specialist doctor. Gena finally retired when she was 66 which enabled her to care for Donald whose health was failing.

Gena's first experience of church was her Baptism and then being sent to Sunday School. She remembers times when the weather was so inclement that their dad would put a coat on over his pyjamas and take them to church. At her Confirmation, unlike her friend who had a new dress and shoes, Gena had to wear her mother's off-white tennis dress and her black school shoes. When she was training as a nurse, she would either attend the chapel service in the hospital or go to Mass at All Saints, Margaret Street.

When the 'Lamberts' eventually moved to Worthing they first attended St Andrew's, Tarring, where Gena assisted in chauffeuring folk to and from church. Donald was the first to move to St John's and Gena followed on once her duties as driver were no longer required, and she fully entered into the life of the congregation and parish.

Gena's favourites: she often returns to 'Under Milkwood' which was a set book when she studied A Level English in her forties. She enjoys listening to classical music and plays both the piano and flute. For relaxation she watches programmes like the Repair Shop and Escape to the Country. Gena's favourite tippie is 'Baileys' which as a treat she'll have in coffee! When it comes to food, *definitely not fish* but her sweet tooth always leads her to Banoffee Pie. She looks back on her holiday with Donald to New Zealand fondly, the scenery was just spectacular. She also remembers beach holidays with the girls with joy – watching Donald helping them build the most wonderful sandcastles.

Gena now enjoys keeping up with the lives of her five girls, ten grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Thank you Gena for sharing your story with us - and this only a vignette of your life!

Deacon Rachel



Celebrating Faith

2025 Year of Faith

Full details of all that is taking place next year is gradually being made known as plans are finalised and put in place.

There is the designated website to bookmark, with events and dates being added. Key information relating to Youth Pilgrimages for the Year of Faith will soon be available

at:- celebratingfaith.co.uk

Advent Sunday, 1st December, will mark the official start of a year of celebration, prayer and witness. Details of how we will be marking this will be circulated shortly

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



If anyone wishes to have the name of a departed loved one entered in the Parish's Book of Remembrance, situated in the Requiem Chapel, application Forms are available from the Parish Office. The cost is £15 per entry.



Morning, afternoon,
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You are invited to Join...

ST. JOHN'S 100 CLUB



Monthly Draw on the First Sunday of the Month

To join please contact Lyn Gough, 07880 796619

Only £12 for the year. £5 Prizes!

Big Extra prizes at Christmas

**November Winners:- 37 Susan Clarke, 85 Alan Caperon, 4 Dave Watson,
22 Fr Tim, 52 Teresa Chatfield.**

Since the start of the 100 club in 2012 a profit of £3885 has been
donated to church funds.



DECEMBER DIARY EVENTS

Sun	1st	10am Mass - 1st Sunday of Advent 100 Club Draw
Sat	7th	10am - 1pm St. John's Christmas Fair In the Church
Sun	8th	10am Mass - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Tue	10th	10am Big Silver Cleaning at St. Johns Please come to help!
Sun	15th	10am Mass - 3rd Sunday of Advent 4pm - Christingle Last day for Magazine Articles
Sun	22nd	10am Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent 4pm - Carol Service
Tue	24th	4pm - Crib Service 11-45pm Midnight Mass
Wed	25th	10am - Christmas Day Parish Mass
Fri	27th	10am - Special Mass at St. John's for Saint John the Divine, Our Patron
Sun	29th	!0am Mass - The Holy Family

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

The names of the sick to be remembered at each mass need constant updating. If anyone has asked for a person to be on the current list, can you please let me know how they are, so we can either :-

1. Continue to pray for them,
2. Transfer them to the Parish Prayer Group, who pray daily for those needing long term prayer support, or
3. Take them off, if they have recovered, on the understanding that they can be returned to either list as their condition requires.

Thank you.

Deacon Rachel

'The Lord loves a cheerful giver' *Said St. Paul.*

Please come to join us!



THE HOLY DUSTERS!



Early Warning!

Tuesday 10th December

Special Silver Cleaning Effort!

10am onwards

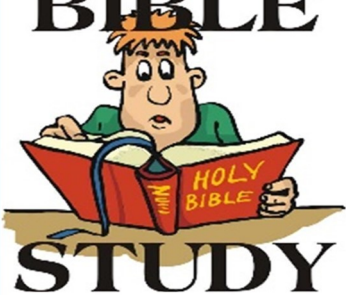
PLEASE COME TO HELP

Even just a Few minutes.

Please come and join us and help keep our church clean
Every little bit helps!

St. John's & St. Andrew's Bible Study

We have a growing number of people from both churches joining our weekly Bible Study sessions where we study the readings which will be used at Mass on the Sunday following the Bible Study.



We meet on Monday afternoons at 3.00pm in St. John's Church.

See the pew sheet!

We finish at 4pm with a cuppa. Everyone is welcome!

Deaco n Rachel

WHAT GOES ON AT ST JOHN'S

SUNDAY EAGLES (age 3 – 10)	Sundays @ 10 am. (<i>See page 22</i>) Dave Guiel W 340221
ST JOHN'S PRESCHOOL (2-5) Term time only	Mon - Fri 8-30am - 2-30pm (Hall) Jude 07708 830733 preschooladmin@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk
SOCIAL GROUP	The Churchwardens (<i>See Page 3</i>)

OTHER CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE	Thurs 10am - 12noon W 537813 office@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk
FLOWERS & 100 CLUB	Lyn Gough 07880 796619
THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS & CHANTRY BOOK	Deacon Rachel Bennett 07810 350098 rachelbennett@talktalk.net
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	The Churchwardens
PARISH MAGAZINE	brianphatton@aol.com, W 249513 Text or Leave Message 07786 680207
PARISH WEBSITE WEBSITE ADMIN	www.stjohnwestworthing.org.uk webmaster@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk
PARISH ARCHIVIST	(<i>To be Confirmed</i>)
WALSINGHAM CELL	(<i>To be Confirmed</i>)
WEEKEND PILGRIMAGES	Ian Grevatt (<i>See Below</i>)
CBS (Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament) Ward Secretary, Mr. Ian Grevatt, St Andrew the Apostle, Clifton Road. E-mail at ijgrevatt@gmail.com .	

MASS GUIDE & PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

		<u>INTENTIONS</u>
1 Su	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am The Parish
		10am
2 M	Advent Feria	10am The Sick
3 Tu	S. Francis Xavier	6-30pm Refugees
4 W	Advent Feria	11am The Poor and Underprivileged
5 Th	Advent Feria	9am Faith
6 F	S. Nicholas (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am Children
7 Sa	S. Ambrose	8-30am Bishops
(Early Mass to miss the Fair Preparations)		
8 Su	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am The Parish
		10am
9 M	The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady (Walsingham Cell Mass)	10am Walsingham
10 Tu	Advent Feria	6-30pm Confidence
11 W	Advent Feria (Monthly Requiem)	11am The Departed
12 Th	Advent Feria	9am Evangelists
13 F	S. Lucy (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am Courage
14 Sa	S. John of the Cross	9-30am Christian Teachers
15 Su	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am The Parish
		10am
16 M	Advent Feria	10am Victims of Hostility
17 Tu	O Sapientia	6-30pm Renewal
18 W	O Adonai	11am Justice and Peace
19 Th	O Radix Jesse	9am Vocations to the Priesthood
20 F	O Clavis David (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am Christian Obedience
21 Sa	O Oriens	9-30am Christian Fellowship
22 Su	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am The Parish
		10am
23 M	O Emmanuel	10am God's Blessing on Family Life
24 Tu	Christmas Eve	9-30am Preparation for Christmas
	Crib Service	4pm
	Midnight Mass of Christmas	11-45pm
25 W	Christmas Day	10am The Parish
26 Th	S. Stephen	10am Deacons
27 F	S. John (Special Mass at St. John's)	10am This Parish Community
28 Sa	The Holy Innocents	10am Victims of War
29 Su	THE HOLY FAMILY	8am The Parish
		10am
30 M	In Christmas Octave	10am Christian Witness
31 Tu	In Christmas Octave	10am Thanksgiving

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Sunday Eagles @

St. John the Divine



A group for school aged children, where we learn more about Jesus. We meet at the back of the church during the 10am Sunday Mass.

Meetings will be scheduled soon, and announced in church, but children are very welcome to use the play area **every** Sunday.

If not an official Eagles meeting, parents/carers must accompany and supervise. Thank you for helping !

Ed.

Yes, I would like to subscribe to this magazine:

Name:

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WANTED

Your Used Stamps!

As some of you already know, I work for WADARS (Worthing and District Animal Rescue Service). Owing to Covid, fund-raising events have not happened this year. We rescue, and nurse back to health, wildlife and many cats and dogs even in a pandemic!

Would you be able to save your used stamps to help us raise much needed funds? There must be some in the bin at Christmas. Pass to me or I can collect. See our web site at www.wadars.co.uk

Caroline

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