

FEBRUARY 2025



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

50p



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PARISH OF St JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING
Registered Charity No. 1178660

Parish Priest & Surrogate of Marriages	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Assistant Clergy	The Revd Fr. Roger Caswell <i>burmateak@aol.com</i>	W 268295 07814 765990
	The Revd Canon Rachel Bennett <i>rachelbennett@talktalk.net</i>	07810 350098
Churchwardens	Dorothy Smith Martyn Shanks	07963 349448 07973 422603
Hon. Secretary PCC	Margaret Borbone	W 247481
Hon. Treasurer	Alan Caperon	07802 602322
Director of Music	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Electoral Roll	Margaret Borbone	W 247481
Safeguarding Officer	Martin Lloyd <i>martinlloyd@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk</i>	W 246578

WORSHIP

Sundays	Mass	8.00am
	PARISH SUNG MASS	10.00am
	Evening Prayer and Benediction	6.00pm
Weekday Mass	Monday	10.00am
	Tuesday	6.30pm
	Wednesday	11.00am
	Thursday	9.00am
	Saturday	9.30am

A priest is available to hear confessions after 9-30 Mass on Saturday or by appointment.

Front Cover:- An Artistic Interpretation of Candlemas, Sunday February 2nd 2025!

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

2nd February

Malachi 3:1-4

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

9th February

Isaiah 6:1-8

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

16th February

Jeremiah 17:5-8

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

Luke 6:17,20-26

23rd February

1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38



Monthly Statistics for December

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Home Communicants
1st	38	45	11
8th	37	42	10
15th	41	101	1
22nd	37	130	0
24/25th	77	199	0
29th	32	36	0

The Churchwardens Message

Still in mid winter at the time of writing this yet, one of those glorious, clear sky, sunny days, that lift the soul along with most of those around you. Out and about, smiles from passers by; we Brits are ever positive or negative of speech according to the weather. The coming of February is a welcome thought, the right side of winter. We welcome more light, spring flowers the promise of new life. Lent will not start in February this year, Ash Wednesday is later on the 5th March.

We are a people who do not need to rely on the seasons for light, Jesus is our light. In the deepest, darkest... coldest winter day, Jesus brings us light. A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people Israel.

We hope you are keeping warm in church snuggled in your coats. One of the heaters has given up and a second one is being difficult in keeping the building warm; they are old and have got to the end of their service to us. The models are obsolete and we will need to search for alternative replacements. This will of course be expensive but for needs must items we will have to search deep. Do speak to one of us if you are finding the temperature in church a problem. At Bible study we draw the chairs and tables as far into the cafe area to sit near the heater, that works!

As you read this, 9 months have passed since Fr Tim retired. The time passes quickly and during this time several people, as well as offering prayers for a new priest, have also been praying for new faces to join us. Our numbers have held and, this Christmas season, saw a heartwarming rise in attendance. On Sundays we look forward to seeing our numbers reach 50, we have almost been there at 46. Do not lose heart, this is the year of hope and, in this interregnum, let us think about growing in numbers. This is the only way towards affording our own incumbent instead of sharing one priest between 3 parishes. The more people that join in prayer for the future of our parish existing here in West Worthing, the greater our chances of seeing progress. We are being told that times are hard and may get worse. We need to be the pioneers of the church's survival here today to ensure its lasting presence in the years to come.

News of the interregnum is held up by Archdeacon Luke being made the Bishop of Richborough. We have an acting Archdeacon in the meantime, the Revd Russell Dewhurst who is now in office. With the vicarage let and occupied until Autumn, there is plenty of time to learn more about the expectations and hopes we all share in the future of our parish. Remember, this is the year of hope!

Saint Paul

At some time during your ministry, I was told when I was at theological college, you are likely to find yourself interviewed on the radio. So a day course was arranged to prepare for that eventuality. Part of it involved us being sent out in pairs to ‘interview’ a random selection of people on the street on a subject of our own choosing. In prospect it was quite a daunting challenge; in fact it turned out to be quite fun. And proved useful when on subsequent occasions I found myself on the other side of the microphone and being interviewed myself.

Had the training exercise taken place at in the week in January when I have to meet the editor’s 15th-of-the-month deadline, I might have asked my interviewees ‘Did you know that the 3rd Monday in January is said to be ‘the gloomiest day of the year’. This was the conclusion of a scientific study by a former tutor attached to Cardiff university. He based his findings on a number of factors, including weather conditions, debt level, time since Christmas, and time since New Year’s resolutions have been broken.

I was reminded of all this after a conversation with Dennis over coffee the other Sunday morning when we talked about a quotation I had included in that month’s magazine: ‘A man is happy so long as he chooses to be happy, and nothing can stop him.’ ‘The opposite is true, as well’ said Dennis. Judging from the faces of many people I meet or pass in the street (and who might well have been the subject of my practice interview so many years ago), and if the Cardiff researcher’s conclusions are anything like accurate, very few of the people asked about their feelings on the 3rd Monday of January would pick the word ‘happy’ to describe their mood. If we wish, we can, as Solzhenitsyn wrote, ‘choose to be happy’. Or the opposite, as Dennis said: we can, if we choose, be miserable, bad-tempered, self-pitying.

Miserable and bad-tempered is how I have often heard people describe St Paul, the apostle whose Conversion is celebrated on the 25th January, the last day of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Another saint, St John Chrysostom, would not agree. In a homily about St Paul he says this:

It was Saint Paul more than anyone else who showed what man is and how great is the nobility of his nature, as well as what capacity for virtue this human animal has. Every day he advanced in stature, every day he fought with ever-renewed keenness against the dangers threatening him.

When he was expecting to die he summoned others to share his joy, saying 'You also should be glad and rejoice with me.' Again he actually leapt with joy at the dangers and insults and every dishonour which pressed on him, as he wrote to the Corinthians, 'I am content with weaknesses, insults, persecutions.' Therefore he was always undefeated by his enemies. Everywhere he was beaten, insulted, and reviled. He treated it all as though it were a triumphal procession setting up trophies of victory everywhere on earth, glorying in them, giving thanks to God, saying, 'Thanks be to God who in Christ always leads us to triumph'.

Danger to his person and even his life; insults and dishonour, weakness and persecution - yes, all these were things St Paul confronted, embraced and lived through. And yet he could shout in utter confidence: 'Thanks be to God who in Christ always leads us to triumph.'

There is one word in that cry of confidence that is underlined, emphasised, shouted louder than the others: 'always'. That is what we believe as Christians - that God in Christ *always* leads us to triumph, no matter what the world around us may suggest in the gloom of winter, with cutbacks and natural disasters; no matter what anxieties the state of the Church may bring (and not least the continuing divisions between different denominations and traditions).

Begin each day by using the prayer of St Paul: 'Thanks be to God who in Christ always leads us to triumph', and you may well find that you will see the world, the Church, your own life with its difficulties and trials, in a very different light.

Fr. Roger



The Logo of our Year of Faith 2025.

Remember to look at the website mentioned on page 10 to see the events taking place!

Ed



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 2025, 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. Restart in the New Year!

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.

Sunday February 2nd is The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Please all make a special effort to be there to support our super clergy on this important Occasion.

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

Ed.



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

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.



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EY402776

NOTRE DAME

Introduction

I wrote the first part of this article as I watched live on TV the destruction of Notre Dame and the second part on seeing the amazing interior restoration done so quickly.

Part 1 - Destruction!

Notre Dame; pride of Paris.

Twin Bell towers standing tall, gleaming spire reaching to the sky, the cockerel, seemingly strutting out his song.

Inside, the choir singing, worshippers bowing, hearts confessing, vespers rhythm.

Sudden panic, flames appearing in the roof, what are we to do? Oh, what are we to do? Call the Bombero.

Whoosh, clouds of sulphurous yellow smoke appear, flames bright orange and red, the whole roof ablaze, a terrible haze appears above the sky of Paris.

Get everyone away, rescue those earthly treasures, stand in line for gold and art and crown of thorns, crosses and candlesticks, relics of saints gone by.

Oh! Woe! The whole roof is ablaze - nave and chancel, sanctuary and spire blazing and oak and melting lead come crashing down.

Crowds are gathering, quiet now, waiting with grief and tear-filled eyes, some are kneeling – praying.

Oh! Grief, the flaming spire is falling, a sighing golden shooting star is falling, gone forever.

Crowds are gathering in the Paris night, singing hymns and psalms.

Water eventually calms that other great element of fire. Smoke and steam fill the air.

Blackened skeletons appear of wood and stone, gaunt as the grave.

What of this place where kings and emperors were crowned, Joan of Arc – beatified – is all lost?!!

The smoke clears in the cool night air and lo shining from afar a brilliant cross with Our Lady praying below it.

Why do we doubt – Oh Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego you survived the flames of the furnace. That beautiful cross on the high altar bound, by miracle of God was not burned – God in Jesus Christ overcomes the fear, the trepidation, the isolation. No, we are not burning, the faith is here, our flames are of the Spiritual kind, they burn with the everlasting light of Christ, alive with him for evermore.

Part 2 - Restoration

From the ashes the phoenix rises (not 500 years but 5 years for it is the Holy Spirit). From the ashes sweet souls rise, evermore to be comforted by Jesus: enrobed in wonder.

From the ashes Notre Dame – Paris, rises, magnificent Cathedral church. The golden Cross shone through the ashes; nothing was going to dim its splendour. Now the statue of Our Lady is paraded through the streets of Paris to be ensconced in its rightful place.

Now the interior shines with heavenly glow: as all those who have laboured and visitors alike bow before the King of Kings in spiritual humility. For above all, this is a place of worship down the ages. For heads to bow, knees to bend, before the Holiness of Him who holds all life in His hands.

Fr. George Talbot

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 a chat with Deacon Rachel



Joan Gray was born in Worthing in 1940 and lived with her parents and two brothers in East Worthing. In her words she was the naughtiest of three of them. Her family were Sussex folk, one of her grandfathers was a shepherd. They had two allotments one close to their home and the other a little further away, so there was always fresh produce on the table.

Joan went to school in Dominion Road and then to Sussex Road Girls' School (which is sadly no longer there). Her earliest memory of church was going to Sunday School at Immanuel Church which was part of St George's Parish.

One of Joan's brothers had asthma as a child and contracted rheumatic fever. She remembers sitting by his bedside when he was ill just willing him to live. She wonders whether it was this experience that formed her vocation to care for the sick. After school she applied for the Pre-nursing course in Littlehampton. Initially she was turned down because they were concerned about her brother's health. Her sense of injustice was given voice, she made it very clear that it was her brother who was ill, not her! The tutors relented and she was enrolled on the course. Having completed the pre-nursing course, she trained as an orthopaedic nurse in Ascot. After a while she went to work in a nursing home in Virginia Waters called the home for Distressed Gentle Folk.

Joan met John whilst she was at Ascot. He was doing food deliveries. He became a popular visitor in the nursing home as he would often bring treats for them which were joyfully received. Joan and John married in 1961 and the following year their first child was born. They were living in Egham and it was the year of the terrible fog/smog and cold winter. Their baby boy was quite poorly and eventually it was recommended that they move to the coast where the air was cleaner and so they moved to Worthing. Originally, they lived in Broadwater but moved to their home in West Worthing when their family grew to four children, before their fifth child was born. They have lived in this home for 48 years.

It was here that she was able to return to work, caring for clients in their homes. Eyes twinkling she said that when they needed extra money for the children's music lessons and other things she would do a night shift in a nursing home. Not only did she work as a carer she also cared for members of her family when called upon. It wasn't until the last of her clients died that Joan gave up work, although it would be true to say there is always someone benefitting from her gentle caring gifts.

When she retired she and John would organise coach outings to places of interest. John would drive the coach and Joan looked after the logistics. I believe I am correct in saying that they received an award for this enterprise. She had organised what was to be the last of the outings just before she had a serious accident in her car. It was an outing to Winchester and the Bombay Sapphire Gin distillery. Whilst in hospital John visited her telling her how much the people had enjoyed the trip and sent their congratulations for a wonderfully organised outing. He did comment it was a quiet journey home!

Joan's favourites:

Food – she enjoys all food, especially home-made meals. This Christmas she was delighted to be able to host the family Christmas dinner with all her children and grandchildren and brother.

Drink – Joan's favourite drink is a cup of tea.

Music – their home was always filled with music. John played the violin and sang and all of the children played instruments. Her one regret is that she never really mastered an instrument. Pride of place in their home is a grand piano, which she admitted they had to take out a mortgage for but has paid back dividends. There's a little glimpse of the piano in the photo.

Books – sadly Joan is unable to focus on reading for any length of time, so she tends to read magazines and short articles.

Television - She enjoys Antiques Roadshow, Escape to the Country and always watches the news. With working full time and looking after the family there wasn't really much time for the television.

Hobbies – when I asked about hobbies, Joan smiled and admitted that there was never really much time for hobbies. However, although she isn't able to do much gardening herself now, she does love pottering in their garden.

Holidays – For a short time they had a trailer tent, but mostly they would go out for day trips with the children. Her most memorable holiday was to Canada organised by her son-in-law. Whilst they were there they were able to meet up with one of her long-time client's relatives who she had heard so much about but never met. The holiday was so special because she and John didn't have to organise any of it.

Church was always part of their family life. For quite a long time they went to St Mary's in Goring, John and some the children were in the choir and one of their daughters was a Sunday School teacher. Joan would go when she could but was often with her clients. Eventually they moved to St John's and since retiring she has been able to attend more regularly. Despite the busyness and hard work of her life, Joan's recurring phrase was 'happy times', said with the laughter in her eyes. Thank you Joan for sharing your 'happy times' with us.

Deacon Rachel

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!

It's time to join now for £12 and perhaps win more!

**January Winners:- 77 Steve Burke, 22 Sheila Hillary, 16 Caroline Burke,
79 Mary Rose Willis, 17 Wendy Jarrett**

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



FEBRUARY DIARY EVENTS

Sun	2nd	10am Mass - Presentation of the Lord Blessing of and Procession of Candles
Sun	9th	10am Mass - 5th Sunday of the Year
Fri	14th	Valentine's Day!
Sat	15th	Last day for Magazine Articles
Sun	16th	10am Mass - 6th Sunday of the Year
Sun	23rd	10am Mass - 7th Sunday of the Year

**EARLY WARNING : - MARCH 5TH, ASH WEDNESDAY!
THE BEGINNING OF LENT 2025**

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

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

Notice is hereby given that under the Church Representation Rules a new Church Electoral Roll is being prepared. Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment not later than 6th April 2025.

“Application for Enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll” forms will be in church in January. If you are eligible please complete a form and return it to Dorothy as I am away for the whole of January, and Dorothy will hand them over to me on my return when a new electoral roll will be formed.

Margaret Borbone



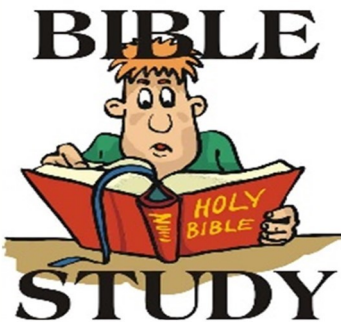
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WADARS ENTHUSIASTS!

A BIG thank you to everyone who has donated used stamps! We raised over £160 last year and that will help take care of our lovely Wadars animals.

Caroline

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!

Deacon 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 FEBRUARY

		<u>INTENTIONS</u>
1	Sa Feria	9-30am Faith
2	Su PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)	8am The Parish 10am
3	M Feria	10am The Mentally Ill
4	Tu Feria	6-30pm The Sick
5	W S. Agatha	11am Persecuted Christians
6	Th S. Paul Miki	9am The Church in Japan
7	F Feria (Mass at St Andrew's)	10-30am The Anxious and Depressed
8	Sa Feria (Walsingham Cell Mass)	9-30am Walsingham
9	Su 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am The Parish 10am
10	M S. Scholastica	10am God's Blessing on Family Life
11	Tu Our Lady of Lourdes	6-30pm Pilgrims
12	W Feria	11am Christian Living
13	Th Feria	9am Faithfulness in Prayer
14	F S. Cyril and S. Methodius (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am Europe
15	Sa Feria	9-30am Devotion to Our Lady
16	Su 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am The Parish 10am
17	M Feria	10am Those Who Are Hostile to the Faith
18	Tu Feria	6-30-pm Thanksgiving
19	W Feria	11am The Blind and Partially Sighted
20	Th Feria (Late Mass for PCC)	6-30pm The PCC
21	F Feria (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am The United Nations
22	Sa Feria	9-30am Holiness of Life
23	Su 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am The Parish 10am
24	M Feria (Monthly Requiem Mass)	10am The Departed
25	Tu Feria	6-30pm Humility
26	W Feria	11am The Unity of the Church
27	Th Feria	9am Christian Charity
28	F Feria (Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am Those Preparing for Marriage

EARLY WARNING :- MARCH 5TH IS ASH WEDNESDAY!

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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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Postcode:..... Phone:.....

I enclose the sum of **£6.00** or **£14.00** for postal delivery outside the parish.

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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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