

DECEMBER 2023



Parish Magazine of
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50p

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PARISH OF St JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

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Parish Priest & Surrogate of Marriages	The Revd Canon Tim Peskett tpeskett@gmail.com 15 Reigate Road, Worthing, BN11 5NF	W 247340
Assistant Clergy	The Revd Fr. Roger Caswell The Revd Canon Rachel Bennett	W 268295 07826 891305
Churchwardens	Dorothy Smith Martyn Shanks	W 533257 07973 422603
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Director of Music	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Electoral Roll	Margaret Borbone	W 247481
Safeguarding Officer	Martin Lloyd martinlloyd@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk	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

Morning Prayers are performed around 30 minutes before the Main Mass each day.

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

Front Cover:- The Christmas Crib at St John's.

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

3rd December

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

1st Sunday of Advent

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

10th December

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

2nd Sunday of Advent

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

17th December

Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11

3rd Sunday of Advent

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

24th December

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Christmas Eve

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

31st December

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The Holy Family

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19 Luke 2:22-40



Monthly Statistics for October

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Home Communicants
1st	35	43	4
8th	36	44	4
15th	42	57	4
22nd	33	41	4
29th	33	39	4



Father Tim writes.....

My dear Parishioners,

As we approach the feast of our Lord's Nativity once again, I am filled with gratitude for the warmth and spirit of our Church community. December is a time for reflection, anticipation, and joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In this season of Advent, let us embrace the hopeful waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ. As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, let it be a symbol of the growing light of Christ in our hearts and our homes.

Our community has been steadfast in its commitment to service and fellowship throughout the year. I am thankful and proud of the numerous outreach initiatives and the kindness displayed by each one of you.

Let us continue to be beacons of love and compassion, sharing the joy of the Gospel with those around us.



This December, our parish will host a series of special events, school carol services and many liturgical celebrations. I invite you to join us for the Advent services, and our Christmas gatherings. Your presence adds to the richness of our community, making it a true reflection of God's love.

As we exchange gifts and enjoy our festive meals, let us

also remember those less fortunate. Our annual Christmas charity is underway, and your generosity can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need.

May this December be a time of spiritual renewal, deepening our connection to the true meaning of Christmas. Let the light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts, guiding us in love, peace and goodwill.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a New Year filled with Hope and God's abundant blessings.

Love, joy and peace to you all.

Fr. Tim





St John's Preschool

We're raising £2,000 to help fund an incredible six seater kiddy bus for our little humans to explore more of the world!



JustGiving™

We have decided to start a justgiving page to see if members of the community and businesses great and small might be kind enough to support us in reaching the funds needed to purchase a 6 seater kiddy bus. This kiddy bus would provide us with the opportunity to get out into the community more! We could attend intergenerational visits, visit the grocers, visit the fishmongers, see the trains, watch kitesurfers, visit the beach, visit wooded areas and much more. We are so grateful for anything you might be able to donate!

St John's
Preschool's
JustGiving
page



Jude



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

WADARS!

The Staff of Wadars wish to thank all the members of St John's who have donated stamps to the charity.

The animals are really happy that so much has been raised to keep them cared for and fed.

Thank You! **Caroline**

ROOF APPEAL

Your help is still needed



The total raised to date is

£45,233

Donations welcomed

Gift Aid envelopes are available in Church

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. Please also stay for refreshments after the service.

Coffee and biscuits will be served after the 10am Sunday Mass. The Peace will be carried out remotely, but there will now be an opportunity to receive sacrament of both kinds, for those who wish to.

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. To be included in the next draw, you need to Join NOW! (See also Page 16)

Please remember that contributions for church flowers are always desperately needed by Lyn Gough! Even when there is no specific occasion to celebrate, we must have some flowers!

If anyone wants to book the Hall for an event next 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.

The Christmas Fair happens on Saturday December 2nd at St. John's. Bottles for the tombola and Christmas gifts to be sold on the stalls can be left behind the screens at the back of the church near the Coffee Stop area. There will be many stalls to look through and superb refreshments will be available. Can you help on the day? Please sign the list by the South Door if you can run a stall at the Fair..

Ed.



St John the Divine
Elm Grove



Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December

10.00am - 2.00pm

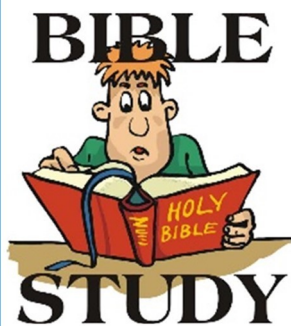


Refreshments - Cake Stall - Raffle - Tombola

Bottle Stall & many more !



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



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

We meet during term time on Monday afternoons at 3.00pm in St. John's Lady chapel.

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

Chichester Workshop for Liturgical Art

Training Opportunities in 2024

The Workshop is a recently established international centre for the production, teaching and theology of liturgical art just outside of Chichester, supported by Chichester Cathedral and the Bishop Otter Fund.

If you are interested in these courses at the Workshop, visit the website chichesterworkshop.org Image: courtesy of Russell Sach



For further information see chichesterworkshop.org

The Parish Church of St. John the Divine



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Come and enjoy all the fun of the fair on
Saturday 2nd December 10am - 2.00pm

Find us on the corner of Ripley Rd/Elm Grove

CHRISTMAS SERVICES @ ST JOHN'S (C of E)

CHRISTINGLE - Sunday 3rd December, 4.00pm

CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 17th December, 4.30pm, followed
by mulled wine and mince pies

CRIB SERVICE - Sunday 24th December, 4.00pm

MIDNIGHT MASS - Sunday 24th December, 11.45pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - Festival Mass 10am

A warm welcome awaits you, and a very

Happy Christmas from all at St. John's

12 days, 120 charities
£1,000 each, £120,000 total

**Nominate
today!**



BENEFACT
GROUP



£120,000 to be given away in December

12 Days of Giving is the festive final phase of Movement for Good 2023. In December, 120 charities will receive £1,000 each over 12 days.

The first draw takes place on December 1st and the last on December 18th with 10 charities drawn every week day. Nominations are open until 23:59 on December 17th 2023.

If you've already nominated your favourite charity/church this year, then you're already in the draw. If you haven't nominated yet, getting a cause close to your heart in the running is just a few clicks away.

It's one nomination per charity per person, so if you have more than one favourite cause, why not try putting them on our map with a nomination? Nominate your charity [Terms and conditions](#) apply.

See movementforgood.com

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.

‘The Lord loves a cheerful giver’ *Said St. Paul.*

Why not give some time once a month. There are lots of little jobs to do, come and join us!

THE HOLY DUSTERS!



4th&5th December

**Church Silver Cleaning
10-30am onwards.**



**PLEASE COME TO HELP
Even just a Few minutes.**

First Monday of the month is usually our morning.

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

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.

LOOKING FOR A PRE-SCHOOL?



We have spaces available!

Why Choose us?

Here at St. Johns Pre-School, we put each child and their individual needs at the heart of our practice. We work extensively to ensure activities and experiences provided within the Pre-School environment are tailored to each child's individual learning and development. We mainly follow a child-centred approach, to ensure the environment we provide is consistently stimulating and exciting for every child. We also provide adult led activities to ensure we are able to scaffold children's learning and provide vital adult-child interactions.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework to ensure our provision goes above and beyond the expected government guidelines. We pride ourselves on our 'Family Friendly' nature and invite parents into the Pre-School regularly to share experiences and discuss individual children's progress, as well as providing any support parents/families may require.

Our Provision...

We are located in the Church Hall connected to St. John's church on Ripley Road, Worthing.

We take children from 2-5 years.

We are open term time only.

Our sessions run between 8-30am and 2-30pm.

"I cannot recommend this pre-school enough!"

For more information: call: 07708830733 Email: preschooladmin@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk

Visit our website for details at www.stjohnspreschoolworthing.co.uk

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!

**Subscriptions are due NOW
for 2024**

**November Winners :- Maggie Biggs, Sandy Shanks, Margaret Borbone,
Sheila Hillary and Brenda Toch.**

Since the start of the 100 club in 2012 a profit of £3532 has been
donated to church funds.



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DECEMBER DIARY EVENTS

Sat	2nd	10am-2pm St. John's Christmas Fair
Sun	3rd	10am Mass - 1st Sunday of Advent 4pm - The Christingle Service
Mon	4th & Tues 5th	10-30am onwards, Silver Cleaning
Sun	10th	10am Mass - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Fri	15th	Last Day for Magazine Articles
Sun	17th	10am Mass - 3rd Sunday of Advent 4-30pm - St John's Carol Service Followed by mulled wine and Mince Pies
Sun	24th	10am Mass - Christmas Eve 4pm - The Crib Service 11-45pm - Midnight Mass
Mon	25th	10am - Christmas Festival Mass
Wed	27th	11am St. John the Divine!
Sun	31st	10am Mass - The Holy Family

EARLY WARNING :- HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 the Vicar 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.

Fr. Tim

Across the Centuries and Across the World

I want to tell you about a very unusual book. Its title is *Desert Wisdom*. It's a collection of stories and sayings of the Christian hermits who lived in the 4th and 5th centuries in the Egyptian desert. It has an introduction written by a Dutch priest. He tells how after spending 10 years teaching theology in America, he found himself living in an enormous shanty town on the outskirts of Lima in Peru, alongside more than 100,000 poor people struggling to survive. 'Why am I here?' he asks himself. 'To learn a new alphabet that spells patience, humility, joy, hope and love in a wholly new way.'

Just think about that for a moment - and see how it sums up the message of Christmas: the *patience* of Mary, the *humility* of the birth, the *joy* of the angels' song, the *hope* that it brought to the world, and the ultimate revelation of God's *love* for his people.

The book is illustrated by a Japanese man who had travelled to America to study and found himself working amongst the poor in a soup kitchen in Connecticut. He too asks 'Why am I here?' He answers: 'At the soup kitchen I see more and more jobless people coming by, some taking their children with them. I always love to eat with them, listening to their stories, sharing what I know. They are my friends, teachers, and cheer-leaders. Why am I here? To be to them at least as much as they have been to me.'

Just think about that for a moment - and see how it sums up the response God asks us to make to the birth of his Son. Would that each of us could say 'I want to be to Him at least as much as He has been to me'. That surely is the response of true love.

So - a collection of sayings of the Desert Fathers introduced by a Dutchman who finds himself in South America via the United States, translated and illustrated by a Japanese man in America, both working with (and learning from) people who are very poor, joining forces to make 4th and 5th century Egyptian Christian wisdom available to the 21st century reader.

Just think about that for a moment - and see what it says about the universality and timelessness of our faith.

Oh, and take one piece of that desert wisdom with you for Advent:

Some old men came to Abba (Fr) Poemen and said to him: Tell us, when we see brothers dozing during the Sacred Office, should we pinch them so they will stay awake? The old man said to them: Actually, if I saw a brother sleeping, I would put his head on my knees and let him rest.

Find some time this Advent, in the midst of all the Christmas rush, just to 'rest in the Lord'.

WHAT GOES ON AT ST JOHN'S

SUNDAY EAGLES (age 3 – 10)	Sundays @ 10 am. See page 22 Dave Guiel W 340221
SJ IGNITE (age 10+)	2nd Sunday of month 5pm SOON! Ros Ashton W 247130
ST JOHN'S PRESCHOOL (2-5)	Mon - Fri 8-30am - 2-30pm (Hall) Ros Ashton 07708 830733 stjohnspreschool@hotmail.co.uk
Term time only	The Churchwardens
SOCIAL GROUP	Wed 3 to 4-30pm Every week during
KIDS CAFÉ	term time (in the Church). Having a break just now and will re-launch later in the year.
BADMINTON CLUB	Mondays 7.30pm Angela Browne W 246924

OTHER CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE	Thurs 10am - 12noon office@stjohnwestworth.org.uk W 537813
FLOWERS	Lyn Gough 07880 796619
THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS & CHANTRY BOOK	Dcn Rachel Bennett 07826 891305
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	The Churchwardens
PARISH MAGAZINE	brianphatton@aol.com, W 249513
PARISH WEBSITE	www.stjohnwestworth.org.uk
WEBSITE ADMIN	webmaster@stjohnwestworth.org.uk
PARISH ARCHIVIST	<i>(To be Confirmed)</i>
WALSINGHAM CELL	<i>(To be Confirmed)</i>
WEEKEND PILGRIMAGES	<i>(To be Confirmed)</i>

CBS (Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament) Ward Secretary, Mr. Ian Grevatt, Churchwarden, St Andrew the Apostle, Clifton Road. E-mail at ijgrevatt@gmail.com.

MASS GUIDE & PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

INTENTIONS

1	F	Feria	(Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am	Hospital Staff and Patients
2	Sa	Feria of Our Lady	(Early to Avoid Fair)	8-30am	The Shrine at Walsingham
3	Su	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT			8am The Parish
				10am	
4	M	Advent Feria		10am	St. John's Preschool
5	Tu	Advent Feria		6-30pm	Young People
6	W	S. Nicholas		11am	All in Debt
7	Th	S. Ambrose		9am	Theologians
8	F	Immaculate Conception of the BVM			10-30am The Unborn
		(Mass at St. Andrew's)			
9	Sa	Advent Feria		9-30am	All Victims of War
10	Su	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT			8am The Parish
				10am	
11	M	Advent Feria		10am	Food Banks
12	Tu	Advent Feria		6-30pm	The Persecuted Church
13	W	S. Lucy		11am	RNIB
14	Th	S. John of the Cross		9am	Hymn Writers
15	F	Advent Feria	(Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am	Vocations to the Priesthood
16	Sa	Advent Feria		9-30am	Teachers
17	Su	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT			8am The Parish
				10am	
18	M	O Sacred Lord		10am	King Charles
19	Tu	O Root of Jesse		6-30pm	Peace in the Holy Land
20	W	O Key of David		11am	Evangelists
21	Th	O Radiant Dawn		9am	An End to War
22	F	O King of Nations	(Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am	The Unemployed
23	Sa	O Emmanuel		9-30am	Expectant Mothers
24	Su	CHRISTMAS EVE			8am The Parish
				10am	
		CRIB SERVICE			4pm
		MIDNIGHT MASS			11-45pm
25	M	CHRISTMAS DAY			10am That All Might Know Christ
26	Tu	S. Stephen		10am	S. Stephen's House
27	W	S. John the Divine			10am The Parish
28	Th	The Holy Innocents		10am	Victims of Injustice
29	F	S. Thomas Becket	(Mass at St. Andrew's)	10-30am	All Bishops
30	Sa	Feria		10am	Young Families
31	Su	THE HOLY FAMILY			8am The Parish
				10am	

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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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the Editor**

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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