

Children's Sunday Groups at St John's

These are the groups we run for children and young people during the 9.30am service each Sunday:

Rising Stars - Ages 0-5 in the Pauling Room

The Big God Space - Ages 5-10 in the Jubilee Hall

Streetwise - Age 11+ in the Lodge

Attention families!

For services where there are no Sunday Clubs, or if you come to church without your child, please use the 'sign in' book at the back of church so that you are registered as attending. Thank you.

Contacts at St John's Church

Vicar: Revd Giles Carpenter
01323 739679
email: vicar@stjm.org.uk

Assistant Minister & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Revd Jill Preece
01323 638020
email: jill@stjm.org.uk

Children & Families Minister: Tristram Peattie
01323 738671
email: tris@stjm.org.uk

Church Administrator: Joanne Naunton
01323 738671
email: office@stjm.org.uk

Church Wardens: Margaret Kowszun & Tony Mottram
contact via the office on:
01323 738671
email: office@stjm.org.uk

Office opening hours
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

NEWS SHEET



10 December 2017

The Second Sunday of Advent

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter

Epistle: Romans 13: 8 - 14
Gospel: Matthew 21: 1 - 13

9.30am Contemporary Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter
Assisting: Phyllis Hall, Catherine Butcher, Nick Pendry, Clive & Kate Dilloway

11.15am Choral Matins
Leading & Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter

Sunday 17 December 2017

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Jill Maddock

9.30am Family Nativity Service
Leading: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Catherine Butcher

11.15am Classic Communion
Leading: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Revd Peter Pickett
Assisting: Peggy & Robert Millett, Pam Lade

6.00pm Carol Service
Lead by Revd Giles Carpenter



EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Monday 11 December**
 8.40am St John's School rehearsal (church)
 9.00am Morning Prayer (in Jubilee Hall)
 11.00am PARCHE at Camelot
 2.30pm Scrabble Club (Jubilee Hall)
 5.30pm Scouts (Jubilee Hall)
 7.30pm Margrys' Home Group
 7.30pm Kowszuns' Home Group
- Tuesday 12 December**
 9.00am St Andrew's School Rehearsal (church)
 6.00pm St John's School Carol Service (church)
 7.30pm PCC meeting (Pauling Room)
- Wednesday 13 December**
 9.30am Quiet Prayer (chapel)
 10.30am &
 2.00pm Robin Hill Nursery Rehearsals (Jubilee Hall)
 6.00pm Scouts (Jubilee Hall)
 7.30pm Springfield Home Group
- Thursday 14 December**
 10.00am Robin Hill Nursery Christmas Show & Party (Jubilee Hall)
 11.00am Holy Communion (chapel)
 7.45pm Choir practice
 8.00pm Beer & Carols at The Ship, Meads Street
- Friday 15 December**
 10.00am Paperback Library & Coffee Pot Computing (Parish Hall)
 11.15am St Andrew's School Christmas Service (church)
- Saturday 16 December**
 8.30am Prayer Plus (back of church) - *no breakfast*

Points for Prayer this week

- For ourselves as we journey through Advent and sing the well-loved Christmas carols, that our hearts will thrill to the message of Advent and Christmas
- For the Parish magazine as it goes out to many households in our Parish, that people will be touched by God's Spirit and that they will be drawn to the Christmas services
- For the work of the Beachy Head chaplains amongst vulnerable people particularly at this time of year

Tree of Light



A special Christmas tree in front of the Towner Art Gallery will be illuminated by a host of white lights in memory of loved ones. Should you wish to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one or in honour of a friend or colleague please collect a dedication form from the porch at the front of the church. Whilst no payment is required from you to support the tree of light, should you wish to make a voluntary

donation this will enable charities supported by Rotary to continue their valuable work.

Should you have any questions please call Dennis Thompson on 01323 749329.

Friends of the DGH

The Friends of the DGH are keen to recruit additional volunteers to their much needed trolley service to the wards of the hospital selling newspapers and sweets. Currently the service is under staffed and it is proving difficult to maintain a consistent service. Are you able to spare two hours in your day to give that added service to the patients of the DGH? If yes please contact Debbie Wicks or Sue Duffell at the Friends of the DGH office on 01323 417400 ext 4696.

Alone at Christmas?

The Rotary Club of Eastbourne would like to know of anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day. They offer a Christmas Lunch from 12 - 4 pm at Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall. Guests will be collected from 11am - 11.30am. Please contact Dennis Thompson on 01323 749329 with any names, full addresses and telephone numbers.



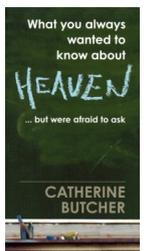
Christmas message from Peter & Effene Lomas

We would like to send all our friends at St John's our very best wishes for a blessed Christmas and good health and God's richest blessings for 2018. We'd also like to thank you for the good wishes and cards for our new home and the get well cards to Effene....and of course your prayers too which have been wonderfully answered.

God bless you all, we miss you, Peter & Effene.

Heaven

Following Jill Preece's recent sermon, you might like to read 'What you always wanted to know about Heaven ... but were afraid to ask' by Catherine Butcher. Rowena Adams, who has read it says: "It's a book everyone should read." Copies are available new from Catherine for £5 or second-hand online from £0.01 plus p&p.



NEWS & EVENTS

Tris & Hannah's last Sunday

On Sunday 10 December we shall be taking the opportunity to say a huge thank you to Tris & Hannah for all their hard work over the last two and a half years, and wish them well with their new adventure in Coventry. We'd love to send them off with a gift from St John's, so if you would like to contribute please bring your donation to the church office.



Christingle Construction



On Friday 22 December we'll be making our Christingles for the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. We would love as many people as possible to come along to the Jubilee Hall at 2pm and help with their construction. We'll have mince pies, mulled wine and some festive music to help us along! If you can help please let Jo in the office know if you can make it. Thank you.

Tearfund

The UK government is giving a bonus to Tearfund this Christmas! If you make a donation between now and the new year to Tearfund, then the government will match your giving pound for pound. This means that whatever you give will have double the impact. If you donate directly, then simply indicate that it is for the Christmas Appeal. Any donations via the church will also be doubled by the government. So, why not give a donation to Tearfund this Christmas and make the government double it?

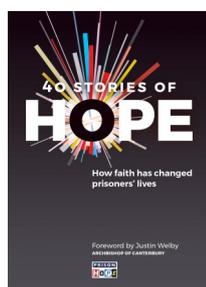
You can get further information by going to www.tearfund.org or look at the church noticeboard.

Attention Distribution Team Parish Magazines

Batches of the parish magazine are now available to pick up, together with a free Christmas HOPE magazine, from the back of church. If you are already part of the delivery team, thank you for your continued help with delivering these. If you're not but live in a flat with an entry system and can take copies for the other flats in your building, we would very much appreciate your help.

40 Stories of Hope

40 Stories of Hope has been compiled by Catherine Butcher and includes our vicar's story – story 19. The foreword is by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the book includes stories from prisoners, prison chaplains and ex-prisoners, together with 40 daily readings and prayers. It is the 2018 Lent book for Churches Together In Britain and Ireland. Copies are available at the back of church for £2 or can be ordered online at www.cwr.org.uk/hope where copies can be ordered as a gift for prisoners. 15,000 copies have already been pledged as gifts for UK prisoners.



NEWS & EVENTS



CONNEXIONS

New to St John's? - Connexions

A very warm welcome from us all if you are new or visiting St John's for the first time. We hope you enjoy being part of our church family. If you are looking for a church and would like to find out more about us, Giles our vicar, and his wife Rachel, regularly host an informal afternoon with tea and cake at the vicarage. This is a great chance to find out more about the vision of St John's church and our mission to make disciples and to serve the community of Meads.

Another way in which we like to reach people is through our 'Keeping In Touch' email list. To be included in the mailing list please sign one of the forms on the Welcome Desk or complete a Welcome card. You'll then receive updates and news.

For more details please complete one of the Welcome cards (usually available in the pews) and return it to one of our Welcome Team.

Alpha at St John's

The next Alpha course starts at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th January 2018 and runs until 8th March at Sally & David's home. Please use the invitations in the pews to invite anyone you know who might be interested in exploring what Christianity is about.

Contact Catherine & Adrian (07850 083414) or Sally & David (01323 732504) for more information, to book a place, to join the prayer support team, or to help with catering for the course in the New Year.



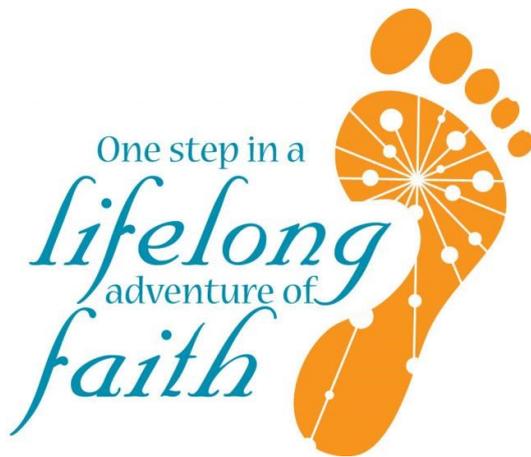
Family Nativity, 17th December

On Sunday 17th December, the 9.30 service will be our Family Nativity service. This year the service will be a 'Pop – Up Nativity' and there will be lots of opportunities to join in.

It would be lovely to have lots of people dressed as characters from the Nativity story, so do come along dressed as Mary, or Joseph, a shepherd, a wise man (or woman!) an angel or even one of the animals around the manger.

This applies to children and adults alike!





Confirmation 2018

In March St John's will be welcoming the Bishop of Lewes as we host a service of baptism and confirmation for the Eastbourne deanery. This is a wonderful occasion in our church calendar. Together as a family we stand in love and support with those who are wanting to mark publicly their decision to go deeper in their faith. In the New Year we will be running a course of preparation for anyone who would like to explore confirmation* (and where applicable baptism). To find out more speak to Giles or Jill or put your details on the sign up sheet at the back of Church.

*What is confirmation?

Throughout the history of the Church, Christian communities have marked the point when those who are new to the Christian faith have acknowledged publicly their decision to follow Jesus and to play a full part in the family of God. Often this has involved adult baptism as we witnessed at St John's earlier this year (Jan 2017). Many of us however may have been baptised as infants. For those who have, confirmation gives an opportunity to claim for ourselves those promises to follow Jesus that were made for us by parents and godparents. At our confirmation the Bishop lays hands on us and invites the Holy Spirit to fill us and empower us for our journey of faith.

*Who is confirmation for?

Confirmation is for anyone. There is no official upper or lower age limit although you will need to be available for a short course of preparation and be willing and able to make a public profession of faith before the Bishop and the congregation at your confirmation service. The Church of England (Anglican Church) does not have 'membership' however if you are joining St John's from a different denomination then Confirmation can also serve as a sign of your desire to make this your Spiritual home. Whatever your circumstances, if you are at all unsure, please speak to Giles or Jill.

We look forward to supporting you on your life long journey of faith.

CHRISTMAS at St John's

Beer & Carols

Thursday 14 December 8pm
- at The Ship Inn, Meads Street

Family Nativity

Sunday 17 December 9.30am
- for families and children

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 17 December 6pm
- with sherry and mince pies

Christmas Eve

8am Heritage Communion (BCP)
9.30am Contemporary Communion
11.15am Classic Communion

Christingle Service

4pm - for families and children

11pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am Heritage Communion (BCP)
10am Family Communion
