

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:

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

T LOOP:

Please turn your Hearing Aid to T.



17 December 2017

The Third Sunday of Advent

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4: 1 - 5
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2 - 10

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
Hymns: 265, 655, 757, 527

Reading: 1 Corinthians 4: 1 - 5
Read by: Christine Symes

Reading: Matthew 11: 2 - 10
Read by: Trevor Salmon

6.00pm Carol Service
Lead by Revd Giles Carpenter & Jorj Kowszun

Sunday 24 December 2017

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding & Preaching: Revd David Maddock
Assisting: Chris Sneath & Dick Thwaites

9.30am Contemporary Communion
Presiding: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Sarah Hassell
Assisting: Sheila O'Hanlon, Nick Pendry & Jill Preece

11.15am Classic Communion
Leading: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Canon Michael Cole
Assisting: Diana Guthrie, Pam Lade

4.00pm Christingle Service
Leading: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter

11.00pm Midnight Communion
Presiding: Nick Pendry
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter
Assisting: Patricia Kelley, Pam Lade, Diana Guthrie & Sheila MacNicol

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 18 December
 9.00am Morning Prayer (back of church)
 11.00am PARCHE at Alma Lodge & Meads House
 2.00pm CAMEO (Jubilee Hall)

Wednesday 20 December
 9.30am Quiet Prayer (chapel)

Thursday 21 December
 11.00am Holy Communion (chapel)

Friday 22 December
 2.00pm Christingle Construction (Jubilee Hall)

Points for Prayer this week

- For a real sense of God's presence at each of our Christmas services, that many from the Parish will be drawn in and that their hearts will be touched by God's Spirit
- For all those who face a lonely Christmas; for the homeless, the isolated and the lonely, praying for the work of Matthew 25, the Salvation Army and similar organisations at this Christmas time
- For the situation in the Congo, where a corrupt elite has diverted desperately needed aid, with the result that hundreds of thousands of severely malnourished children in the Kasai province are dying or in imminent danger of death

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

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.



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.

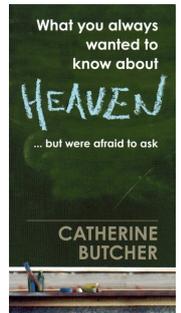
Alone at Christmas?

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.



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.



Jazz Evening

Following the success of last summer's Jazz Concert. Mark Edwards will be hosting another Jazz evening on Wednesday 24 January at 7.30pm.

This will feature the wonderful clarinet virtuoso AURELIE TROPEZ who is visiting the UK from Paris. Aurelie is an amazing internationally renowned musician, specializing in Jazz from the 30's and 40's, who works all over Europe and visits the UK once or twice a year so this is a very special rare chance to hear her.

She will again be accompanied by Mark on piano, Steve Thompson on double bass and Piers Clark on guitar. Tickets £10. Wine and Cheese provided!



NEWS & EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is the 13th January when Dennis Thompson will be sharing his Thought for the Day. The sign up list will be in the Cloister and please remember if you sign up and cannot attend, cross your name off the list or call me on 749329. The list will be removed the Tuesday before the event. Future dates for your diary are, 10th February and 24th March when Richard Wells and John Haydon will be sharing their Thoughts for the Day.



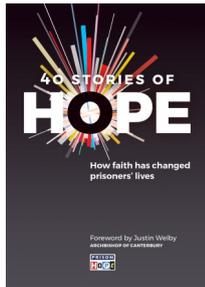
Tearfund

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.

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.



The Bereavement Journey'

A 6 - week programme to help us understand grief and an opportunity to share in confidence, within a small group. Have you experienced the death of a loved one (or another kind of significant loss) and would like help along that inevitable and painful journey of grieving?

We are just finished our first series of this programme and plan to offer it again in the New Year. If you would like to consider this opportunity, please contact Sheila Smith: smith63@uwclub.net



Magazine deliveries

Thanks to all who have distributed the parish magazine and Christmas HOPE to local homes. Nationally more than 450,000 copies of Christmas HOPE have been delivered to homes by churches around the country. We still have a lot of these magazines can you please take a look and pick up any that you feel you might be able to deliver, especially if you 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. Thank you for your continued help with delivering these.

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.



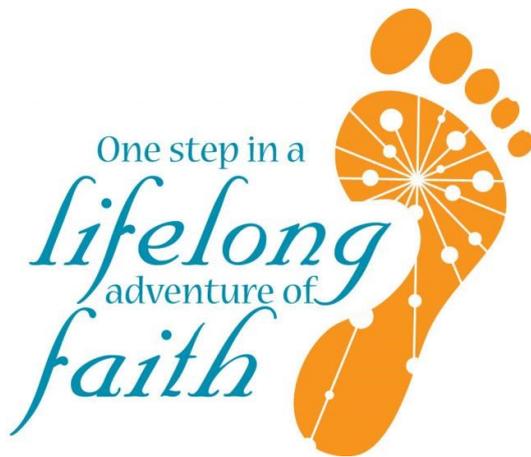
Family Nativity, today

Today, 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
