

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.



24 & 31 December 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

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

Epistle: Romans 16: 25 - end
Gospel: Luke 1: 26 - 38

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
Hymns: 633, 282, 631, 128

Reading: Romans 16: 25 - 27
Read by: Patricia Kelley

Reading: Luke 1: 26 - 38
Ready by: Trevor Salmon

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

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

Sunday 31 December 2017

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding: Revd David Maddock
Preaching: Sarah Hassell

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4 - 7
Gospel: Luke 2: 15 - 21

10.00am Combined Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Sarah Hassell
Assisting: Peggy & Robert Millett, Sheila O'Hanlon, Pam Lade & Jorj & Margaret Kowszun

EVENTS THIS WEEK & NEXT

- Wednesday 27 December**
9.30am Quiet Prayer **CANCELLED**
- Thursday 28 December**
11.00am Holy Communion **CANCELLED**
- Friday 29 December**
11.30am Funeral - Vera Carver (Crematorium)
- Tuesday 2 January 2018**
Office re-opens
- Wednesday 3 January**
9.30am Quiet Prayer (chapel)
- Thursday 4 January**
11.00am Holy Communion (chapel)

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

Points for Prayer this week

- For God's blessing on the Alpha Course, beginning in the New Year, that there will be a good take-up
- For persecuted Christians all over the world, that the true meaning of Christmas will comfort and strengthen them in their sufferings
- For all those caught up in the train disaster in Washington State in the USA: the injured and the bereaved and for the subsequent enquiry, that lessons will be learnt

Sermons Online

You can find the Sunday Sermons online on our website, on Facebook or on YouTube. A great way to keep up to date with the current messages.



INTO 2018...

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, specialising 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!

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 is 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.

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.



Lunch Club



Our next Lunch club at the Parish Hall will be on Monday 8 January at 12 noon. Come along and join us for a light lunch and good companionship! No need to book just turn up. Last orders for food is 1.30pm, £3.50 per head. See you there.

Eastbourne's Day of Prayer

Theme - HOPE including the launch of HOPE Eastbourne.
Saturday 20 January 2018, 9.30am - 5.30pm, Kings Centre, Edison Road, BN23 6PT. Everyone welcome, please bring your own packed lunch - refreshments are available.

NEWS & EVENTS

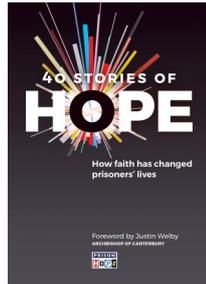
Tearfund

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

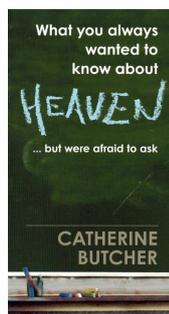


Magazine deliveries

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.

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



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.



The Children's Society

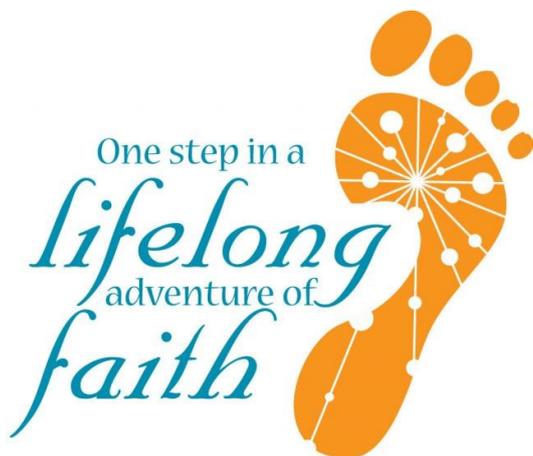
making childhood better

During the Christingle Service this afternoon The Children's Society candle money boxes will be available from the back of church. Please take one and fill it with any loose change you may have over the next few weeks.

Then return it to church by Sunday 28 January 2018, at the latest.

Thank you for your support.





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

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

