



**St John the Divine Church, Selsdon**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**  
**The First Sunday of Christmas**

**Welcome to St John's!**

Welcome to everyone! If you're a newcomer or a visitor to St John's we have great pleasure in welcoming you today. All you need for this service is contained in the service booklet you have been given and below are details of the hymns, readings and prayers we'll be using – we'll sing the hymns from the hymn books you have been given. **Hymns numbered 1-799 can be found in the green hymnbook. Hymns numbered 800 and above can be found in the blue books.** We hope you enjoy worshipping here. After the 10am service, tea and coffee are served in the church hall, to which you are warmly invited. Hosts today to welcome you are Alan and Janice White - do come and say hello!

**PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU!**

**The Opening Prayer:**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymns at the 10am service:**

First hymn:	838 See amid the winter's snow
Gradual hymn:	21 A great and mighty wonder
Offertory hymn:	39 Unto us a boy is born
Communion hymn:	835 See him lying on a bed of straw
Last hymn:	25 God rest you merry, gentlemen

**Choir anthem today:**

**Prayers today are led by:** Gill Sharpe

## **First Reading** *read by*

*Either:*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Isaiah 61.10-62.3*

*Or:*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Galatians 4.4-7*

## **Gospel**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

*Luke 2.15-21*

**We want to look after everyone in church today!** Parents and carers can help by supervising their children at all times.

**Please help us to keep everyone safe in church!** Small children running around can so easily trip or tip something over and hurt themselves or others. Please try to keep children out of the sanctuary area (where the altar is) during the service and out of reach of the candles!

**We hope you enjoy using our Children's Area** – a special part of the church where parents/carers and children can share the service together, perhaps using the toys, books and puzzle sheets provided. If you have any suggestions on how we can make it even better, or help you enjoy the service more with your child, please let Jenny know.

**For your prayers:**

**We pray for God's love to surround:**

Neil Athron, Marion Hall, Tony Mead

**We pray for those who have died recently:**

Derek Sharman, Sandra Simpson

**We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:**

31 <sup>st</sup> December	Philip Holder	(1988)
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Sylvia Platts	(2010)
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Stuart Cushnaghan	(1993)
	Dorothy Hancox	(2006)
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Muriel Rann	(1995)
	Ellen 'Betty' Hartland	(1997)
	Cyril Broyd	(1999)
	Ivy Watmore	(2009)
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Mabel Chew	(1937)
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Ann Miskin	(1995)
	Neil Parrott	(1973)
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Henry Crump	(1976)
	John Jeffree	(1971)

**If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another please contact Jenny at [jennyrowley@waitrose.com](mailto:jennyrowley@waitrose.com) or 0208 657 2343. And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please give details to Jenny.**



**If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call Jenny on 0208 657 2343.**



Please give **NOTICES** for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Jenny (jennyrowley@waitrose.com) preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive these before **\*Tuesday\*** each week.



### St John's Website

The website for our church can be found at  
[www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk)

**We have a Facebook page. To join the page search for:  
St John the Divine Selsdon  
The page is there to let you know of events taking place at the  
church.**



**PUBLICITY** - St John's has a Publicity Group to publicize special events and services. If you would like to promote or advertise an event etc., please contact Amanda in the Parish office on 0208 657 9466 or

[bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)



**If you'd like to book the Church Hall or Morris Chapman Room please call  
Amanda Sinclair on 07958 682 103  
or e-mail [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)**

# **There's a new way to donate to St John's Church, Selsdon.**

From your phone,  
simply TEXT **SJCH05** and the amount you would like to donate  
to **70070**

for example:  
**SJCH05 £10 to 70070**  
(to donate £10)

You can even Gift Aid your donation by Text or e-mail to make it worth  
another 25% at no extra cost to you.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

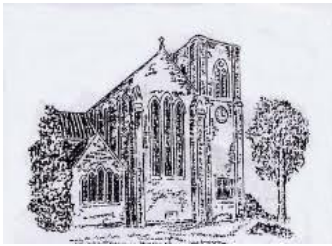
And if you'd like to make your donation  
specifically to the Garden Room Project,  
please

Text **SJGR05** with your  
amount to **70070**  
for example  
text **SJGR05 £10 to 70070**  
(to donate £10)



**St John's Church Calendar is now available at the back of  
church, and over coffee in the hall!!!**

**Just £5 with lovely seasonal photos in and around St  
John's. Every home should have one (at least!) All  
proceeds to the Garden Room Project. See Jenny or Gill Salter or Helen  
Lishmund for details.**



## ST JOHN'S SELSDON GARDEN ROOM

A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR CHURCH AND  
COMMUNITY GROUPS TO USE AND ENJOY

### **A BRICK WALL HAS APPEARED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO **MAKE A DONATION** TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF  
THE GARDEN ROOM, PERHAPS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR IN  
THANKSGIVING FOR AN EVENT eg. AN ANNIVERSARY OR SIGNIFICANT  
BIRTHDAY, OR IN CELEBRATION OF AN ACHIEVEMENT, PLEASE TAKE A  
"BRICK DONATION" PACK FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

SIMPLY FILL IN THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO A CHURCHWARDEN  
OR TO GILL SALTER 21 RYLANDES ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON CR2 8EB WITH  
YOUR DONATION.

*When you've made your donation, please choose a brick on the wall at the back of  
church*

*and write on it a name or a message so we can share remembrances and  
celebrations as the project progresses*

ALL COMPLETED FORMS WILL BE KEPT SO WE HAVE A RECORD OF  
CONTRIBUTORS AND REMEMBRANCES TO DISPLAY  
ONCE THE GARDEN ROOM IS BUILT

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
GILL SALTER ON 0208 4059971 OR [SALTERG@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:SALTERG@OUTLOOK.COM)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ian, Jonathan and our  
traditional choir on recording a CD of Christmas music.  
Thanks, too, to Malcolm Brown, our sound engineer.



**'A Divine Christmas'** is now available – get your copy  
either at the back of church or in the hall over coffee!  
Donations in the region of £10 would be welcome

**All proceeds to the Garden Room Project**

## **GARDEN ROOM PROJECT UPDATE – December 2017**

Since our last Update, there have been quite a few significant developments.

As planned, we sent out a package of information to three Contractors for Tender pricing – this pack included the Planning Drawings, Scope of Works, Specification of Materials, Approximate Bill of Quantities and a selection of Construction Sketches. The aim of sending out this comprehensive package was to achieve an as realistic and high a degree of cost certainty as possible. At the time of writing we have received two Tender Sums back, we await the third, and once that is received we will undertake our Tender evaluation.

In the last update we advised that our Project Architect had submitted his drawings and Design and Access Statement to the Local Authority. We are really happy to confirm that we now have Planning Permission for the scheme. This Permission comes with a series of planning conditions – nothing that we were not expecting; mainly addressing materials and specific minor details.

So, much progress has been made. In the next few weeks we will be:-

- Undertaking the Tender Review.
- Modifying the Design Development Statements to reflect the recommendations of our selected preferred Contractor
- Making our formal submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee
- Preparing details and submitting for Building Regulations approval

On-going with all the above is, of course, fund-raising – this now needs to be the focus of all our attention. Without the funds we cannot even start to think about building this exciting facility. If you have any queries at all on what we are doing, please have a chat with one of us.

*Peter and the Project Team*

### **Garden Room Planned Giving**



We have received requests for a planned giving form to enable members of St John's and the wider community to make direct donations to the Garden Room project. A standing order mandate form has been produced and will provide the means to make planned donations as a one-off payment or several payments over a period of time to be determined by the donor, making this a convenient way to be part of the Garden Room Project as it grows. Forms are available at the back of church. Please contact Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971 or [salterg@outlook.com](mailto:salterg@outlook.com) if you need any further information or help



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH**  
**CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE TREE**



Christmas can be a difficult time if you have lost a loved one

This year St John's is again offering the opportunity to remember your loved one  
by dedicating  
a label on our Christmas Remembrance Tree

**The tree is on display at the back of church  
until Epiphany, next Sunday**

If you would like to take part by writing your loved one's name on a dedication  
label to be attached to the Christmas Remembrance Tree, full details with labels  
are available from the back of the church, please take an envelope.

We are grateful to Selsdon and District Funeral Service for kindly donating the  
tree this year

If you would like any further information or help please contact  
Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971



**There will be no breakfast in January the next  
breakfast is on  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February after the 8am service**





Don't forget to take a look at the board in the porch to see where God has been "with us" during Advent. He's found himself in some surprising places this year!!



**Jenny and Mark will be "At Home" on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Do come and share a drink and a "nibble" to celebrate the festive season of Epiphany chase away those January blues! *All Welcome!***

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***THANK YOU to everyone for their love and support over the festive season! Mark and I have been overwhelmed with good wishes, for which we are very grateful. This is an opportunity to also say how encouraging it is to see so many people enthusiastically engaging with what it means to be “the Body of Christ” here in Selsdon. 2018 will be another exciting year as we continue to progress with our Garden Room Project, and explore in new and exciting ways how best to fulfil all we believe God is calling us to be and to do here. Looking forward to it already...!***

***Jenny***

***A BIG THANK YOU*** to everyone who has contributed to making our Christmas celebrations so special this year – to Helen and Gill and the flower team, and Ian Brentnall, and all those who made our Christmas Wreath Festival and the Christmas Concert such a success; those who have shared the Christmas story with children in the parish – in our children’s area, at our Baby and Toddler groups, through school carol concerts and the Crib service; those who took the good news out onto the streets of Selsdon, delivering Christmas cards, sharing in the fun of seeing where “God is with us”, taking the crib to all kinds of places; to Amanda for capturing these moments on our noticeboard for all to enjoy; thank you to Ian our Director of Music, to Jonathan our Organist, our Choirs, Servers, Readers and Intercessors who have enriched our worship; to Amanda our Parish Administrator who has done so much behind the scenes, including printing our service sheets; our Flower Arrangers and all those who have helped to make our church look so beautiful and welcoming; our Sidespeople and Welcomers who welcomed into church so many friends at each of our services; those who have done things behind the scenes so often unseen and unthanked - and to all God's people who joined with the angels to sing his glory at this very special time.



## **From Shoeboxes to Presents St John's Christmas Outreach Appeal**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported St John's Christmas Outreach Appeal this year and a particular thank you to Andrew and Debbie Brown who have co-ordinated the Appeal. These gifts were given to Evolve Housing Charity (formerly YMCA) so that every homeless and vulnerable person in their care could receive at least one quality Christmas gift. I'm hoping to have more information in the next few weeks, but for now, a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed so generously.



*THANK YOU for your help!*



**St John's Church, Selsdon  
Sunday 21st January  
2.30pm - 4.30pm**



**St John's Hall, Upper Selsdon Road  
We give the kids a snack and we tidy up after !!!**

***All welcome!***

# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

## 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

### Monday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

### Wednesday

10.30am Eucharist at Croham Place with +Jonathan

2.00pm MU meeting in the hall

### Thursday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

10.15am Said Eucharist.

### Saturday

Gardening team bonfire party in the Rectory garden

### Next Sunday **The Baptism of Christ** **EPIPHANY (after lunch!)**

8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Sung Eucharist for Epiphany (with incense)

### **Readings next Sunday at 10am:**

Genesis 1.1-5 or Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

**Morning Prayer is usually said** in Church each weekday (except Friday) between 9.00am and 9.30am. You are welcome to join any of these services.

If there's something on your mind and you'd like to talk it over with someone, or if you'd like to make your confession, Jenny will be happy to see anyone at any time by appointment. She can be contacted on: 0208 657 2343 or

[jennyrowley@waitrose.com](mailto:jennyrowley@waitrose.com)