

St John the Divine Church, Selsdon
16th December 2018
The Third Sunday of Advent

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 Jane Guglielmi and Monica Turton - do come and say hello!

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU!

The Opening Prayer:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymns at the 10am service:

First hymn:	443 Rejoice, the Lord is King
Gradual hymn:	825 The kingdom of God is justice and joy
Offertory hymn:	56 Songs of thankfulness and praise
Communion hymn:	872 Give thanks with a grateful heart
Last hymn:	832 How lovely on the mountains

Choir anthem today: This is the record of John – *Gibbons*

Prayers today are led by Sally Thomas

First Reading *read by Susan Poulter*

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

"The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they were put to shame.

At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Gospel reading:

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptised. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Luke 3.7-18

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please contact Jenny at 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.

For your prayers:

We pray for God's love to surround:

Christobel Grant

We pray for those who have died recently:

Linda Hill

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

16 th December	Terry McDowall	(2013)
	Rose Miller	(2016)
17 th December	Ermine Smith	(2017)
18 th December	Richard Stookes	(2015)
19 th December	Leslie Bull	(1969)
	Wally Johnson	(1984)
20 th December	Josephine Deacon	(2013)
	Lynne Whittaker	(2017)
21 st December	Florence Yorke	(1959)
	Ted Green	(1980)
	Lester Dutton	(2015)
22 nd December	Toni Simmons	(1980)
	James Hall	(1965)

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.

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 www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

The Parish Office is open

Mon-Thur 9am-2pm Please call Amanda on to help with:

- Parish admin or queries
- Hall Bookings
- Publicity for the church or hall

Please call 0208 6579466 / 07958 682103

Or email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com



Meeting God in Silence

Mondays 6pm-6.30pm

An opportunity to share a time of quiet in the Lady Chapel.

Led by Susan Oakes and friends

All Welcome !!!!



CHILDREN AND HOLY COMMUNION

Children are welcome at God's table – if you are baptised, but do not receive the bread and wine, but think you might like to, you could consider asking to be admitted to Communion.

If you think you might be ready to make this next step in your Christian journey, and would like to receive the bread and wine at our services, or just want to find out more, please speak to Jenny.

If you are a grown-up and want to know more about this important development in our life together, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church.

MID WEEK COFFEE MORNINGS

ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 10.30am-12noon. See the notice sheet for details of the venue!

ALL WELCOME!



ST JOHN'S SELSDON GARDEN ROOM



As you know, we've all been hard at work planning, and fundraising to build St John's Garden Room - a comfortable and welcoming space for church and community groups to use and enjoy. With all your hard work, and particular thanks to Peter Crocombe and his planning team and Gill Salter and her fundraising team, we now have sufficient funds, and the necessary permissions in place from the Diocese and from Croydon planning office, to be able to begin building. The building work is expected to last for about 6 months. During that time the Garden of Remembrance will be fenced off and at times there is likely to be limited access to the south side of the church as well as other disruption. I'm sure you will bear with us while the work goes on. If you have any particular needs or concerns at any time, please do speak to Jenny.

Although we've done really well with fundraising, and securing funds from external sources, we do still need to raise a bit more to cover all our costs. So our fundraising continues – please continue to support events which will raise much-needed funds for the project

*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.*

*If you would like any further information please contact Gill Salter
at 21 Rylandes Road, South Croydon CR2 8EB*

0208 4059971 OR salterg@outlook.com

Supported By...



Garfield Weston Foundation and All Churches Trust

Garden Room Planned Giving

We have received requests for a planned giving form to enable direct donations to be made 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 if you need any further information or help

As you will have noticed, there is some disruption to car parking arrangements while we are building the Garden Room. We anticipate that up to six spaces, hopefully less, will be out of action in the car park for the duration of the build. Some people have been kind enough to make suggestions on alternatives which could release car parking spaces, and all these have been carefully considered but for various reasons have proved impractical.

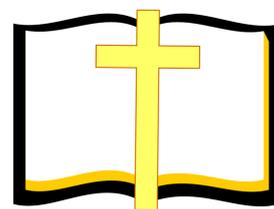
I'm sure you will appreciate that this is an inevitable part of the building work and will bear with us. If you do need to "double-park" it would be appreciated if you could pop a note on your windscreen to say who you are so if someone does need to get away before you they know who to ask.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenny, Martyn, Robert and Peter

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is another step along the journey of faith – where you have the opportunity to confirm for yourself the promises made by your parents and godparents on your behalf when you were baptised, namely to follow Christ and to take your place within the life and worship of His church. If you think you might be interested in being confirmed, please speak to Jenny as soon as possible.



**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 those we never forget by placing a label decoration on the Christmas Remembrance Tree

**The tree will be placed in St John's on
Saturday 8 December 2018 until Epiphany, Sunday 6 January 2019
and will be dedicated at our Quiet Christmas Service on
Monday 17th December 2018 at 7.30pm**

If you would like to take part by writing your loved one's name on a label to be attached to the Christmas Remembrance Tree, full details with dedication 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 or Ann Orchard on 0208 6866163

***Do you like singing?
Come and join St John's Choir!***

Even if you can only commit to one or two Sundays a month, please have a word with our Director of Music, Ian Brentnall if you might be interested. All voice parts welcome! Tel: 8290 6594 or email

ianbrentnall1@sky.com



**During Advent we will be collecting for
our Christmas appeal.**

**This year we are collecting for
Nightwatch**

Please chuck your donations down the drain.

Nightwatch volunteers are out every night in the centre of Croydon giving food and other help to homeless and other vulnerable people.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY

As we prepare for Christmas by our journey through Advent, you are invited to share in the fun of Christ in the Community

From Advent Sunday to Christmas Eve a simple nativity stable will begin travelling from St John's to homes all around the parish ending back at St John's for the Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. While it's in your care please take a photo of the stable out in the community to show that Christ is in all places even the unusual!

Send a copy of your photo to Amanda Sinclair on bookingsstjohns@gmail.com or take a copy into the Parish Office so that it can be included in a collage to be placed in St John's

If you would like to take part please sign the sheet at the back of the church
If you would like any further details please contact Jenny Rowley on jennyrowley@waitrose.com or Gill Salter on salterg@outlook.com



Are you free on a Thursday morning?

Would you like to spend a few hours helping the toddler group on the craft table?

We have a place for one or two people to sit with the little ones and help supervise the activities. A lovely morning getting to know the mums and children. The hours would be between 9.45am and 11.30am. We provide a cuppa and all the craft equipment.

**Please speak to Amanda in the Parish Office On 0208 6579466/ 07958 682103
bookingsstjohns@gmail.com**

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A

“Quiet Christmas”

At St John’s

TOMORROW Monday 17th December at 7.30pm.

A special service of hope and reassurance for those who may struggle with a “Merry” Christmas this year.

The service will include the Dedication of the Christmas Remembrance tree



Churches Together in Selsdon and Addington are organising Carol Singing at Sainsbury’s on Saturday 22nd December 11am-12noon. Do come along and support – Christmas Jumpers Optional!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in the White Christmas Weekend and Christmas Concert last weekend. Another remarkable weekend in the life of St John’s with lots of visitors, the church looking fantastic and lots of warm welcome and festive fun. Thank you to everyone for lots of hard work - and lots of creative talent. A particular thank you to Ian our compere at the Christmas Concert, to the scouts for their help with Refreshments, to Gill and Helen and Janice and Jane and too many others to mention who made the weekend possible. Congratulations everyone - another remarkable weekend!



St John's Church Christmas Services 2018

Monday 17th December – 7.30pm

Quiet Christmas Service A special service of hope and reassurance for those who may struggle with a “merry” Christmas this year
Dedication of the Christmas Remembrance tree

Sunday 23rd December – - 6pm

Nine lessons and carols with mulled fruit punch and mince pies

**Monday 24th December 4pm
11.30pm**

Crib Service
Midnight mass

**Monday 25th December 8am
10am**

Eucharist in Traditional Language
Christmas Communion with Carols. Children are encouraged to bring a small (!) present with them which they have opened already.

Sunday 6th January 10am

Epiphany (with incense)

Everyone is welcome to everything !!!



*Nine lessons and
Carols* At St Johns Church



On Sunday 23rd December at 6pm

*Including mulled fruit punch and
mince pies*



Do you have a toy animal that would like to be part of our NATIVITY SCENE over Christmas? Please ask your soft toy animal friends, and if they'd like to join in, please



bring them along to church. They'll need to stay in church over Christmas until Epiphany.

Watch the stable scene unfold over the coming weeks...



St John's Christmas Outreach Appeal Evolve Housing + Support

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported Christmas Outreach Appeal last year for Evolve Housing (formerly Croydon YMCA). Last year's donations went towards giving gifts to approximately 300 homeless residents that Evolve house in the Croydon area. The gifts were sorted into evenly weighted bags so everyone received an equal present. Usually these would include a main gift as well as a toiletry item and a chocolate item.

We'd like to continue to support Evolve Housing Charity this year in their appeal for Christmas gifts, so that they can give at least one Christmas present to every homeless and vulnerable person they support in and around South London. And we'd like to help by collecting as many gifts as we can for them to distribute among those who need a bit of loving care at Christmas!

Evolve tell us that 60% of the homeless people living in their hostels are male, 55% are aged between 18 and 25 years old. If you're still not sure what kind of gift might be appropriate, here are some ideas:

A Gift voucher from Amazon, Argos, Boots, Topshop, Debenhams, Starbucks, Cinema etc *Nail varnish/Manicure set *Books*DVDs *A Watch *A Photo Frame *Mugs *Wallet *Perfume/After shave*Sweets/chocolates *Scarf/Gloves/Woolly hat *Socks/Sparkly tights Earrings *Lipstick *Christmas treats *Luxury toiletries (fancy face wash, moisturiser etc.)

If you'd like to help, please bring your gift – it doesn't have to be wrapped or in a shoebox – and put it in the collection box at the back of church, ideally before Friday 14th December. Cut-off date is Monday 17th December.

THANK YOU for your help!

If you would like to know more about Evolve Housing + Support please visit

<https://www.evolvehousing.org.uk/>

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

16th December 2018

Sunday

3.00pm Masons Christmas Service

Monday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

6.00pm – 6.30pm Meeting God in Silence in the Lady Chapel

7.30pm A Quiet Christmas – a special service of hope and reassurance for those who may struggle with a “merry” Christmas this year

Tuesday

10.00am Rector’s Coffee Hour in Costa on Selsdon High Street. If you’d like to pop in for a chat or even just to say hello, please do!

Thursday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

10.15am Said Eucharist.

Next Sunday The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Welcome to Jan Lynas as Reader at St John’s

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Readings next Sunday at 10am:

Micah 5.2-5a or Hebrews 10.5-10: Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

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