

St John the Divine Church, Selsdon
23rd December 2018
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St John's!

Welcome to everyone! It is a particular pleasure to welcome Jan Lynas who is to be formally welcomed into the parish as a Reader, and some of her friends and family who have come to support her. And to welcome Ven Chris Skilton, Archdeacon of Croydon to share in the official welcome and preach for us today. 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 Charles, Rani and Christopher Samuel - do come and say hello!

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU!

The Opening Prayer:

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymns at the 10am service:

First hymn:	15 The Lord will come, and not be slow
Gradual hymn:	43 Child of the stable's secret birth
Offertory hymn:	161 For Mary, mother of our Lord
Communion hymn:	896 With Mary let my soul rejoice
Last hymn:	186 Tell out my soul

We are delighted to welcome our Come and Sing Choir to help lead our worship today.

Choir anthem: The angel Gabriel *Traditional*

Prayers today are led by Sue Tilley

First Reading *read by Ron Last*

The Lord says to his people:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5.2-5a

Gospel reading:

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Luke 1.39-45(46-55)

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, Brian Mason

We pray for those who have died recently:

Linda Hill

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

23rd December Colin Blood (2015)

Heather Reynolds (2016)

24th December Dorothy Williams (2008)

25th December Marjorie Tyrrell (1990)

Mary Ann Wailes (2004)

Sylvia Edie (2010)

Winifred Cameron (2010)

27th December Winifred Bates (1974)

Tom Hughes (1982)

Margaret Sergeant (1987)

Andrew Hay (2016)

28th December Frank Lilley (1977)

Alan Hill (1990)

Joan Allchin (1994)

29th December Doreen Malley (1982)

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.

FORM OF WELCOME into the Parish for Jan Lynas as Reader

Jan stands with the Archdeacon, the Rector and Churchwardens before the Congregation

Archdeacon: The Church of England admits women and men to the Office of Reader. Their duties are to assist in the leading of the worship of the people, to preach the word of God, to share in the spiritual, teaching and pastoral work and in the leadership of our parish.

Jan, you have been Admitted to the Office of Reader and the Bishop has Licensed you. Are you willing to exercise this Ministry in this Parish?

Reader: I am, the Lord being my Helper. *Reader faces congregation and reads out the Licence/P.T.O.*

Rector: As Rector of this Parish and on behalf of the Clergy and Readers of this Parish, I welcome you to share in our Ministry.

The Rector turns to the Congregation and asks them:

I present to you Jan as a Reader in this Parish. Will you support her with your prayers, your love and your loyalty and so help her in the work and development of her Ministry?

All: We will.

Churchwardens: As Churchwardens of St John the Divine Parish we welcome you in the name of the people and pray that God may bless your Ministry among us.

The Reader faces the Archdeacon and Rector

Archdeacon: May God guide you in all your work undertaken in His name and keep you faithful in His service: +and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

After a short period of silence the Reader turns to the congregation.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole Church is sanctified;
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that each in their vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your Name;
through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.

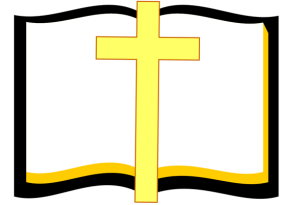
If you are a grown-up and want to know more about this important development in our life together, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church.

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!



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.



**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.

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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.

Inevitably there is quite a bit of mess and disruption, especially in these early weeks as foundations and drainage channels are dug. For the moment, access to the south side of the church is severely limited, and the path from the main door round the side of the church is currently out of action. The Garden of Remembrance itself is safely fenced off, but if you need to access it over the next few weeks, please go across the grass at the front of the church. If you find this difficult for any reason, please have a word with Jenny. If you would like a floral tribute laid at the grave of a loved one, please let Jenny know if we can help you with this.

The building work is expected to last until early summer 2019. 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

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 in St John's
until Epiphany, Sunday 6 January 2019**

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



Are you free at the weekends and live locally to the church???

We are looking for someone to join our hall team and look after the hirers by showing them in and locking up after use on a weekend.

The times of hire range between 12-7pm on a Saturday and 12.30-4.30pm on a Sunday.

If you would be interested please speak to Martyn Brown, Andrew Brown or Amanda Sinclair.

Many Thanks
The Hall Team



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



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Evolve Housing Christmas Presents Appeal.

We have taken the gifts down to their office in Croydon. A great response and the co-ordinator in Croydon was over

the moon with St John's very generous contributions.

Well done and rest assured there will be some smiley faces this Christmas for the Evolve Housing residents. They've promised us feedback of where it all went.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends

Andrew & Debbie Brown

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in the White Christmas Weekend and Christmas Concert. 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. We estimate that @£2,500 was raised, to be shared between Selsdon CONTACT and the Garden Room project. Thank you to everyone!



St John's Church Christmas Services 2018

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

!!!!!! TONIGHT at 6pm !!!!



*Including mulled fruit punch
and mince pies*



EPIPHANY

Sunday 6th January

10am Parish Eucharist (with Incense)

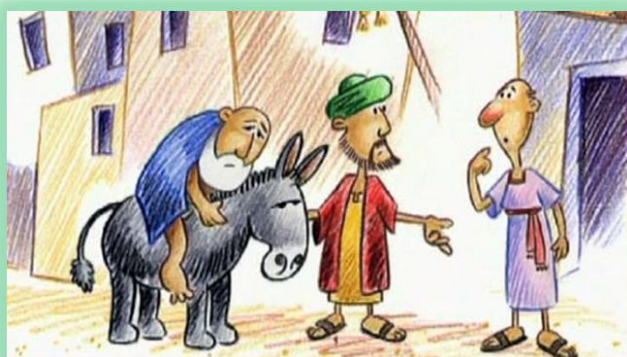
This is a “gift” service, remembering the gifts which the Wise Men brought to Jesus.

You are invited to bring along a gift suitable to donate to the Foodbank at New Addington. Non-perishable foodstuffs and basic toiletries are always welcome!



Our next Messy Church Session is on

**Sunday 20th January 2019
from 2.30pm -4.30pm**



The theme this time will be

‘The Good Samaritan’

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

23rd December 2018

Sunday

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday **CHRISTMAS EVE**

4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight mass. St John's Choir will be singing carols from 11.15pm

Tuesday **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10am Christmas Communion with Carols.

Children are encouraged to bring a small (!) present with them which they have opened already.

Thursday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

10.15am Said Eucharist.

Next Sunday **The First Sunday of Christmas**

8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language

10.00am Parish Eucharist

Readings next Sunday at 10am:

1 Samuel 2.18-20;26 or Colossians 3.12-17: Luke 2.41-end

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