

**St John the Divine Church, Selsdon**  
**30<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**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 - 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:	39 Unto us a boy is born!
Gradual hymn:	21 A great and mighty wonder
Offertory hymn:	838 See amid the winter's snow
Communion hymn:	387 Jesus good above all other
Last hymn:	906 In our darkness light has shone

***Please join in singing boldly while our Choirs take a well-earned break!***

**Prayers** today are led by Barbara Woodhead

## **First Reading** read by Debbie Brown

*Either:*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

*1 Samuel 2.18-20,26*

*Or:*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Colossians 3.12-17*

## **Gospel Reading**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

*Luke 2.41-52*

**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.**

**For your prayers:**

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

Christobel Grant, Brian Mason

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

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

30<sup>th</sup> December John Mercer (1980)

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)

Tom Wyatt (2018)

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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. Our next Coffee morning is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at the Rectory. 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](mailto:ianbrentnall1@sky.com)



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



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

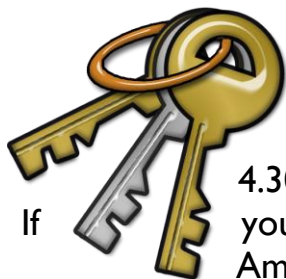
We have taken the gifts down to their office in Croydon. A great response and the co-ordinator in

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**

### **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 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](mailto:salterg@outlook.com)*

**Supported By...**





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

**The tree will be in St John's  
until next Sunday - 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





# EPIPHANY

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

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!**

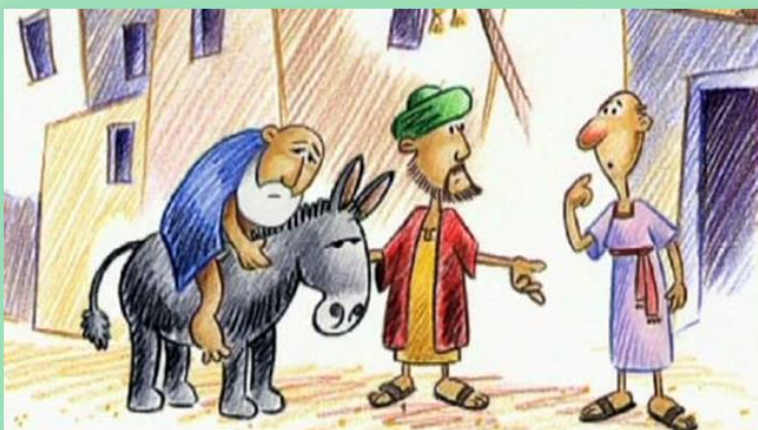
**Our next Messy Church Session  
is on**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
from 2.30pm -4.30pm**



**The theme this time will be**

**‘The Good Samaritan’**



**THANK YOU to everyone for their love and support over the festive season – for cards, nice things, kindnesses shared, and warm wishes given! Mark and I have been overwhelmed with kindness and good wishes, for which we are very grateful. This is a challenging time for St John’s while the build is in full swing. I am so grateful to you for your patience and understanding. We have so much to look forward to in 2019 as we continue to 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 White Christmas Weekend 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.

**We wish all the congregation a Happy New Year**

**Hope 2019 brings you good health and happiness!!**



# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

## 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Monday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

### Thursday

10.00am No Baby and Toddler group

10.15am Said Eucharist.

### Next Sunday EPIPHANY

8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language

10.00am 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!

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

Isaiah 60.1-6 or Ephesians 3.1-12: Matthew 2.1-12

**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)