



**St John the Divine Church, Selsdon**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2019**  
**Second Sunday in 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 Monica Turton and Jane Guglielmi do come and say hello!

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

**The Opening Prayer:**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymns at the 10am service:**

First hymn: 12 On Jordan's bank

Gradual hymn: 5 Hark, a herald voice is calling

Offertory hymn: 833 Come Holy Spirit Come

Communion hymn: 808 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Last hymn: 832 How lovely on the mountains

**Choir Anthem today** God beyond all names *Farrell*

**Prayers today** are led by *James Parsons*

## **First Reading** *read by Sophie Jennings*

The Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope. God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful. I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other, as you follow Christ. Then all of you together will praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Good News Is for Jews and Gentiles

Honour God by accepting each other, as Christ has accepted you. I tell you that Christ came as a servant of the Jews to show that God has kept the promises he made to their famous ancestors. Christ also came, so that the Gentiles would praise God for being kind to them. It is just as the Scriptures say,

“I will tell the nations about you, and I will sing praises to your name.”

The Scriptures also say to the Gentiles,

“Come and celebrate with God’s people.”

Again the Scriptures say,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. All you nations, come and worship him.”

Isaiah says,

“Someone from David’s family will come to power. He will rule the nations, and they will put their hope in him.”

I pray that God, who gives hope, will bless you with complete happiness and peace because of your faith. And may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.

*Romans 15.4-13*

## **Gospel reading:**

Years later, John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea. He said, “Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.”

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said, “In the desert someone is shouting, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.’”

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair. He had a leather strap around his waist and ate grasshoppers and wild honey. From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River Valley crowds of people went to John. They told how sorry they were for their sins, and he baptized them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptized. But John said to them: You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment? <sup>8</sup> Do something to show that you have really given up your sins. And don’t start telling yourselves that you belong to Abraham’s family. I tell you that God can turn these stones into children for Abraham. An axe is ready to cut the trees down at their roots. Any tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into a fire.

I baptise you with water so that you will give up your sins. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in a barn and burn the husks in a fire that never goes out.

*Matthew 3.1-12*

**For your prayers:**

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

David Crietzman, Ruth Joy, John Waddington

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

John Ewing

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

**8<sup>th</sup> December** John Richard Chester (2002)

George Benjamin (2009)

Raymond Hayles (2014)

**9<sup>th</sup> December** Gareth Jeffrey Waller (2014)

**11<sup>th</sup> December** Monty Joy (1998)

Daisy Kathleen Eddolls

David T Common (2006)

Lily Herbert (2007)

**13<sup>th</sup> December** Eric Coster (2005)

Raymond Sayer (2001)

Peter Swinnerton

**14<sup>th</sup> December** Jim Starr (1967)

Rose Durant (1971)

Alice Park (1980)

Doug Bellows (1981)

Maureen Samme (2013)

***If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please contact Amanda in the parish office 0208 657 9466 email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com) 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 Amanda.***

Please give **NOTICES** for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com) preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before \* Tuesday \* each week.

If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call Amanda on 0208 6579466 or email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)



**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.



**The Parish Office** is usually open

**Mon-Thur 9am-2pm**

\*\*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)

### **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.

St John's Website  
The website for our church can be found  
***www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk***



**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!**



**THANK YOU** to everyone for the generosity of your welcome back! It's good to be with you again. I hope you've enjoyed the ministry of our visiting friends. Our visitors have certainly enjoyed themselves so thank you for welcoming each so warmly! Thank you again to everyone who has helped in any way over the last few months. Especially to Michael Lishmund and the gardening team who have been tidying the church grounds and the 'Deep Clean group' led by Catherine Sands who have done a great job cleaning the church. It's very encouraging to see how much you've achieved while I've been away! *Jenny*

**THANK YOU** to all our Angel Knitters. We were able to send over 600 Angels into the Community and have had lots of feedback to say how much joy each Angel has brought to people in Selsdon and how they are settling nicely into their new homes – reminders of the Good News of Jesus in the homes of friends and neighbours as we prepare for Christmas.

***THANK YOU!***

## **Christmas Post Box and Christmas Card Tree**

The St John's Christmas Post Box is back!

The Post Box will be open until 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Please collect your cards before Christmas Eve – and if you see cards for friends you know won't be able to collect theirs in person, please could you take them way for them. Any cards not collected by the new year will be recycled! For those who prefer to send a single card to all their Friends at St John's, and perhaps make a donation to a favourite charity instead of buying individual cards, a Tree is also available to display Christmas Cards for St John's friends.



***If there are any little elves that would like to help sort Christmas Cards, please let the Churchwardens or Catherine Sands know.***

**THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with delivering the St John's Christmas Cards to particular roads in the parish! It was wonderful to return on Advent Sunday and find that this important piece of mission and outreach had already been completed!**

**Your help is much appreciated!**

We're hoping to distribute these cards as widely as we can throughout the parish. So please take at least 3 away with you today – one for you, and one for the neighbours each side of you – just pop it through their door on your way back from church today. And if you can take a handful for the rest of the road you live in, that'd be brilliant!

# ST JOHN'S SELSDON GARDEN ROOM

*We hope you like it! If you do, tell your friends, if not tell me!*

*The church and Church Hall are now fully accessible for everyone and will soon be available for use for the benefit of St John's and the wider community of Selsdon. If you'd like to enquire about using the hall or the Garden Room, please contact Amanda on 07958 682 103 or email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)*

*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 **donate** 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)*

*The Garden Room project is supported by...*



**ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED**®  
OWNERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP

## ***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 placed in St John's on

Saturday 7 December 2019 until Epiphany, Sunday 5 January 2020 and will be dedicated at our

**Quiet Christmas Service on Monday 16 December 2019 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 686 6163**



A

## *“Quiet Christmas”*

*At St John’s*

*on Monday 16th 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

All welcome

## **Nine lessons and Carols**

**At St Johns Church**

**On  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
2019**

**At 6pm**

***Including mulled fruit punch  
and mince pies***





## *A Christmas Concert*

**This Sunday evening  
6pm in the Church**

**Lots of fun and festivities including raffle and  
refreshments**

**!!Free Entry!!**

**All donations are shared between St Johns and Macmillan  
Cancer Care**

Copyright acknowledgement: Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA; some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, 2006

# St John's, Selsdon Christmas Services 2019



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 6pm**

Christmas Concert  
Family friendly Concert we will be joined by the St John's Choir, Songsations and Greenvale Primary school Choir

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> December – 6pm**

Nine lessons and carols with mulled fruit punch and mince pies

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 4pm  
11.30pm**

Crib Service  
Midnight mass

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am**

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

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 10am**

Epiphany

**Everyone is welcome to join us at all of our services!!!**

# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

## 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019

### Sunday

6.00pm Angelfest Christmas Concert

### Monday

10.00am Baby and Toddler group Christmas party

6.00pm Meeting God in silence in the Lady Chapel

### Tuesday

8.00pm Wives Advent service

### Wednesday

10.30am – 12noon Coffee at The Rectory – all welcome!

1.00pm Contact Christmas party

2.00pm Rehearsal for Greenvale School Christmas service in Church

### Thursday

10.00am No Toddler group

10.15am Said Eucharist

### Friday

2.00pm Greenvale School Christmas service in Church

### Next Sunday

8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language

10.00am Parish Eucharist

### Readings Next Sunday

Isaiah 35.1-10 or James 5.7-10: Matthew 11.2-11

**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 [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)