



St John the Divine Church, Selsdon
15th December 2019
Third 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 Katie, Mark Jacob and Isabella Notaro 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: 825 The kingdom of God is justice and Joy

Gradual hymn: 499 Thy kingdom come, O Lord

Offertory hymn: 833 Come Holy Spirit Come

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

Last hymn: 844 Make way

Choir Anthem today Rejoice the Lord *Purcell*

Prayers today are led by *Ian Brentnall*

First Reading read by Susan Poulter

Either

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon ;they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35.1-10

or

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5.7-10

Gospel

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me. "As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written." 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Matthew 11.2-11

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:

15 th December	Hilda Smith	(1958)
	James Waddington	(1967)
	Baby Lilly Emily Zippo	(2012)
	Sandra Simpson	(2017)
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)

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 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 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



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

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



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.

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!

Christmas Post Box and Christmas Card Tree

The St John's Christmas Post Box is back! The Post Box will be open until 22nd 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.

Santa's Chief Elf, David Moulton is chief sorter of cards please help him by taking your cards home. We will be taking cards to local parishioners in nursing home or housebound, if you want to send a card please add to the box.

Thank you to Andrew Brown who, for a number of years, has masterminded the Shoebox collection. For various reasons we are not doing Shoeboxes this year. But instead we are having a special Christmas collection for our local Foodbank in New Addington. In addition to any Christmassy items you may wish to donate, what is really needed is:



Toilet rolls,

Laundry tablets and general household cleaning products, particularly anti-bacterial spray and toilet cleaner,

Washing up liquid,

toiletries, in particular deodorant, shampoo/conditioner

Children's toothpaste and toothbrushes

Sugar

Instant coffee

Hot chocolate

Tinned vegetables (peas and carrots are most popular) including potatoes

Pasta sauces

Tinned meat/meat meals/meat pies

Cereals (Weetabix and Cheerios are most popular)

Long life milk and fruit juice

Jam

Custard/rice pudding/packet dessert mixes (like Angel Delight)

There's a big box under the table at the back of church. Please would you place any donations in there before the end of Wednesday 18th December.

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

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

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 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 HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in the Angelfest Christmas Fayre 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 @£2,200 was raised, to be shared between MacMillan Cancer Care and St John's funds. Thank you to everyone!



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 22nd December
2019**

At 6pm

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



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



Monday 16th 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 22nd December – 6pm

Nine lessons and carols with mulled fruit punch and mince pies

**Tuesday 24th December - 4pm
11.30pm**

Crib Service
Midnight mass

Wednesday 25th December 10am

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

Sunday 5th January 10am

Epiphany

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



St John's

Crib Service

**on
Tuesday 24th December
2019
at
4pm**

A fun Christmas service for the young... and young at heart! Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity story.

Come and help follow the star to get the animals get to the stable as we tell the story of Jesus' birth !

All Welcome

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

15th December 2019

Monday

- 2.15pm Funeral of John Ewing at Croydon Crematorium
6.00pm Meeting God in silence in the Lady Chapel
7.30pm Quiet Christmas

Tuesday

- 10.00am Rectors 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!
8.00pm Wives Advent service

Wednesday

- 10.30am Christmas service with Croham Place
7.30pm Songsations Seasonal Surprise Concert in the church hall

Thursday

- 10.15am Said Eucharist

Next Sunday

- 8.00am Said Eucharist in traditional language
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Nine lessons and carols service

Readings Next Sunday

Isaiah 7.10-16 or Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-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 rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com