



St. John's Wednesday Weekly News

16th December 2020

The Church is now open for Private Prayer Sunday to Friday between 9.00am and 12 noon.

There will be a said Communion service this Sunday, 20th December.

Can you please let the office know by Tuesday 22nd December, which services you will be attending. We will also be taking bookings for the outside Carol Service on Christmas day.

Christmas 2020

Although Christmas will be a little different this year, we hope you will still be able to come along to one of the events or services. Please be aware that things may change, subject to government and local guidance as well as the weather – we will post any changes here. For the services in the church please book in advance on admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com. The **Follow the Star** activity can be booked online on the Website. Please remember to follow social distancing and always wear a mask!

December 20th

10.00am Morning Service with Holy Communion
Virtual Service
Afternoon Family Service

St. John's Church
Website
St. John's Church

21st to 23rd December

Follow the Star

St. John's Grounds

24th December

Christmas Eve

Afternoon Service – Thorney Island
Virtual Carol Service
11.30pm Christmas Communion

Outside St. Nicholas
Website
St. John's Church

25th December
Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Carol Service

St. John's Church
St. John's outside

27th December

10.00 Holy Communion

St. John's Church

Thank you very much to all those who help with the delivery of Christmas Cards around Southbourne.

The St. John's Christmas Card

As usual the St John's Christmas card will be at the back of church on the Sundays coming up to Christmas. If you wish you may sign the card instead of sending to your church friends and put the money saved in the adjoining silver box marked Stonepillow Night Shelter. Don't forget to bring money to church with you!

News from Richard and Kim

This Sunday! Christingle! Packs will be delivered out this week for everyone to join in! Family Service 4pm, live in church and on zoom. Book in via ChurchMums / ChurchDads or families@stjohnssouthbourne.com



An encouraging end to the term:

Last Sunday (13th December) it was hugely encouraging and uplifting to be able to deliver the last Alpha Youth session of this term 'in-person'. The fun theme of the session was to wear your 'Christmas jumper/top'. It was fun to see the variety of Christmas jumpers and tops on display, not only from the young people but from the leaders as well. During the session we completed the topic of Prayer and continued to answer the question of: Why and how can I pray?



This term has been challenging and rewarding. Challenging due to the team and I have having to adapt to changes in government guidance which meant changes in delivery. It took a lot of careful, considered thought and planning to make sessions that were still fun and inter-personal whilst using Zoom, however, we did it!

I want to say a huge thank you to the Alpha Youth Team which consists of: Tina Thompson, Karen Mears and Gillian Cruickshank. Thank you for your enthusiasm, energy, commitment, passion, insight and flexibility as we navigated through the different COVID landscapes and Alpha Youth topics.

Alpha Youth will restart on the 10th January and my hope and prayers are that we will be able to continue and finish the course 'in-person'. However, if guidelines change, the team and I have enjoyed running the Alpha Youth program over Zoom and have found this to be a useful and effective alternative.

Merry Christmas everybody,

Richard Carter



**FOLLOW
THE STAR
NATIVITY TRAIL** **21ST 22ND 23RD DEC**

Dress up as your favourite Nativity Character and Follow the Star around Southbourne all the way to the Stable Photo Booth to receive a Christmas Gift for every child who takes part.

CHRISTMAS PHONE CALLS TO PEOPLE IN SOUTHBOURNE



Would you be willing to phone a few local people with a friendly greeting from the Church at Christmas? We have invited those who receive our Christmas parcels to request a phone call at Christmas if they expect to be on their own. This Christmas is likely to be a very lonely time for some people and this is a way that we can show them we care.

If you would like to help in this way please contact either Eileen Henrick on 01243 379722 or Rosemary Pearson on 01243 371591

rosemary.pearson2@btinternet.com and nearer the time you will be given names and telephone numbers who to contact.

Street Prayers

Tuesday 22nd December (9.30 to 10.15 am) By Zoom – contact Anne Marsden for full details.

Today we will not be praying for any specific streets, but generally remembering the Parish as it prepares for the Christmas Season.

You are welcome to join us.

THE BIG LOVE SOUTHBOURNE
CHRISTMAS
QUIZ

WE WANT YOU...

NOT ONLY CAN YOU PLAY THE QUIZ THIS
CHRISTMAS. YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT!

GET INVOLVED...

SEND US A PICTURE OR VIDEO CLIP OF
YOUR TEAM AND WE WILL SHOW IT AS
PART OF THE CHRISTMAS EPISODE!

ASK A QUESTION...

SEND US A VIDEO OF YOU ASKING A
QUESTION OR TWO AND WE WILL USE IT
IN THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ!

EMAIL...

WELOVESOUTHBOURNE

@STJOHNSSOUTHBOURNE.COM



THE BIG
LOVE SOUTHBOURNE
Q U I Z
SERIES 2

CHRISTMAS DAY
PRE-RECORDED SPECIAL

PLAY ANYTIME FROM 3PM
VIA SJOHNSSOUTHBOURNE.COM
OR THE WELOVESOUTHBOURNE
FACEBOOK PAGE





Gift Table

Next to the books in the porch, there will be a giving table. If you have any unwanted good quality items that could be used as a gift then please bring them down and add to the display.

If you're in need of a gift for someone, but don't have the means, come down and help yourself. The gift of giving!

Thank you to Jane Inglis for this photo of her homegroup meeting up for a muddy walk in Staunton Country Park...



...and to Janice Collett, whose homegroup were determined not to meet up on Zoom!



ALL SOULS MUSIC (LANGHAM PLACE) – live concert broadcast via their website

Saturday 19 December, 7.30pm

[The Christmas Story](#)

We have received details from All Souls Music of their live concert broadcast which you can view by clicking on the above link.

We don't normally share information from outside of the Partnership, in order to prevent information overload. However we thought that, given the Covid-19 restrictions this year when some churches may be struggling to run/stream their own carol services, this may be a useful resource to share. It's free and All Souls have encouraged us to share it as widely as possible. Please do use/share it as you think appropriate for your congregations.

There is a digital flier for use in church emails and slides for church notices are available in the link above, to publicise the event, and the official 1-minute trailer video for the concert can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItkJqF3VSMU>



Chichester Cathedral is delighted to share *Carols from Chichester Cathedral* – a 50 minute Carol Service filmed with the Cathedral's famous Choir, under the direction of Organist and Master of the Choristers Charles Harrison and with organ accompaniment from Tim Ravalde.

Music is central to celebrations for Advent and Christmas, and to enable this to continue in a year when churches can only welcome very limited numbers of visitors in person, *Carols from Chichester Cathedral* allows the people of Sussex and beyond to take part in this tradition from the comfort of their own homes.

The service has subtitles and has been especially written and recorded for online congregations, telling the Christmas story with a selection of carols. Bible readings and poetry can also be found in the service, read by individuals representing local organisations and charities, including Stonepillow, Goodwood Farm, BBC Radio Sussex, Midwives from the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and from the Patron of the Cathedral's Festival of Flowers, Hugh Bonneville.

The Very Reverend Stephen Waine, Dean of Chichester, said:

"On behalf of all of us at Chichester Cathedral, we invite you to join us for this very special service for 2020. Sing along with the Cathedral Choir and experience the comfort and joy that Christmas brings as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

As well as regular services, special services for Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral will also be live-streamed including the Cathedral Carol Service on Saturday 19th December; First Evensong of Christmas on Thursday 24th December; Midnight Mass on Thursday 24th December and the Christmas Day Eucharist on Friday 25th December.

The Cathedral's plans for Advent and Christmas invite everyone to come together in celebration, under the banner of *Drop Down, Ye Heavens* – referring to the ancient Advent antiphon *Rorate caeli*: 'Drop down ye heavens, and let the skies pour down righteousness'.

Carols from Chichester Cathedral is free to view via the Cathedral's website, however donations are most welcome. The Cathedral has launched a fundraising initiative to raise its running costs through the 12 days of Christmas. It costs £3,000 a day to protect our sacred heritage, so they are aiming to raise £36,000 this festive season.

Full details of how to access the recorded carol service, how to make a donation and updates on guidance for visiting can be found on the Cathedral's website: www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

#Giving to St Johns this Christmas

2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV: *"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

We have introduced several new ways to give to St Johns to make it easier for you to support us. Your regular, monthly support is vital to the church's mission to the local community.



NEW Parish Giving Scheme

The PCC is encouraging all our members to give to St Johns regularly every month using the Parish Giving Scheme. Please complete a

form available from your treasurer Alan, treasurer@stjohnssouthbourne or go to the parishgiving.org.uk to register on line. More information and a short video explaining PGS can also be found on the parishgiving.org.uk website

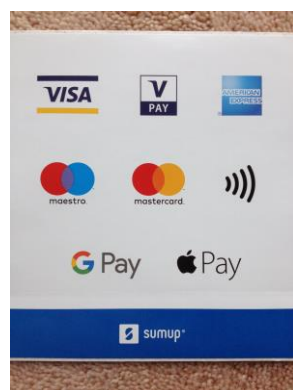
NEW Giving on our church website

If you look on the right side of the church website pages you will now see a link to our giving page. Click on the link [here](#) to give a single or regular donation to St Johns. Giving is quick and easy, all you need is your card handy.

Giving to St. John's

To make a donation or to find out more about giving, click [here](#).

NEW Giving by card at church services or events



When we can worship in church, you can now give by card. Giving is quick and easy. Just enter how much you want to give and touch or swipe or insert your card in the card reader machine. It is the same as the card reader you use when you pay for your purchases in shops. All major credit cards are accepted.

Thank you for supporting St Johns

Happy Christmas! Alan, The Treasurer