

# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

**SUNDAY  
5TH DECEMBER**

## *Christmas Services* at St John's

### **Sunday 19th December**

10.00am

3.00pm

4.00pm

Communion Service  
Family Activities  
Carols, mince pies  
& lighting of the Tree

### **Christmas Eve**

Friday 24th December

11.15pm @ St. Nicholas

1st Communion of  
Christmas

### **Christmas Day**

Saturday 25th December

9.30am

10.00am outside

Said Communion  
All Age Celebration

### **Sunday, 26th December**

10.00am

Communion Service



## Advent Reflection from Matt

Luke 3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
5 Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
6 And all people will see God's salvation."*

While we are focusing upon God's revelation in Jesus Christ in our morning services, we ought not forget that the season of Advent is upon us as we prepare ourselves in hope of his return.

Luke records that John was in the wilderness. The desert is remote, deserted and desolate place that few of us would enjoy. Deserts are also dry, that's their defining characteristic. Yet so many of God's people had desert moments. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elijah and many more, including Jesus himself, who were led into the deserts. What do deserts do to us? What can they teach us?

Perhaps it is we prefer not to be alone, to depend upon others, or not value others as we should. Perhaps they strip us of all the trappings of life, which distract us and crowd God out. Perhaps they remind us of what it is to be too hot, too cold, and what we really thirst for. Perhaps they remind us that God wants our attention, they drown out the voices that compete for our attention and challenge us to be still and know that I am God....

Even in the last two years I am sure we have found it hard to find quiet. So many decisions, anxieties, plans, changes to accommodate. But perhaps we need desert moments that force us onto God. God doesn't seem to have picked the people who enjoyed comforts and earthly well being very often. Rather he appeared to those who were looking for something more fundamental, transcendent, eternal. We wait for Jesus because he is the answer to those deeper questions and longings we have. The sort that being in a desert reminds us of.



# FAMILY CHURCH



**General Info** for family church.

**Ventilation** We open all the windows and doors so please bring a warm coat. Distanced seating available.

**Masks** are encouraged.

**Open** to all ages - please sign up below.

The address is

Chidham Parochial Primary School, Chidham Lane, PO18 8TH

**Park** in the playground - the gates will be open and any help to tidy up at the end is gratefully received.

**[To come along, click here and sign up.](#)**



## FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS AT ST. NICHOLAS

If you would like to go to the 11.15pm Communion Service at St. Nicholas, please let Susie know and she will forward your details of Andy Walkley.



## CHRISTMAS TREE NEEDED

Does anyone have a 4ft artificial Christmas tree that they weren't planning on using at all or not before Dec 12th this year? Emmanuel International have an opportunity to decorate a tree in a Christmas tree festival to promote the work of EI. It would be really helpful if we could borrow one! Please get in touch with Sue Fallon if you could help.



## ST. JOHN'S ECO INITIATIVE

"God so loved the world..." Following COP 26 and Climate Sunday we are focussing on our environmental impact and how we can help each other live more sustainably as stewards of God's creation. Watch this space for advice and encouragement, starting with tips for an Eco friendly Christmas.



## SUSSEX GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was able to attend the Sussex Gospel Partnership Annual Conference a few weeks ago and thought you might like to hear some of the teaching by Mark Greene, on Fruitfulness on the Frontline. I hope to dig into this more after Easter 2022, so this could both be a good resource and whet your appetite! Click [here](#) for link.

**FRIDAY  
FELLOWSHIP**

3-5:30pm

**FUN**

**FAITH**

**FOOD**

## NEXT MEETING - 10TH DECEMBER

Come along for some space to relax, kids can play, some time to focus on life and faith and then tuck in for a fill yer belly meal.

[Sign Up here](#)



## SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Tina Lamplough is collecting stamps for the Leprosy Mission. There will be a box in the Centre to put them in. Perhaps, you could save your stamps from over the Christmas period and put them all in after New Year.



## EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

Emmanuel International has a catalogue out with some different Christmas gifts ideas. Do have a look at this by clicking [here](#). There are also selling Christmas Card - more details for this will be in next week's edition.

## EASY FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for PCC of Southbourne with West Thorney with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 6,100 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up [here](#) & share today



## MORNING PRAYERS

There are Morning Prayer Meetings on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.30-9am on Zoom. If you would like to come to this, [Click here](#). We pray for a variety of topics and needs.

All welcome.

## STREET PRAYERS [CLICK HERE](#)

Our thoughts and prayers will be focused on Kelsey Avenue including Barnfield Close, Eastfield Close, Overton Road & Glenwood Road.

We will also be praying for our schools and the people who give us personal service such as the Refuse Collectors, Postie, Milk and other deliveries.





## WE'RE OPEN!

Thursday Mornings in term time 10-11:45am. Toys, role play, baby zone, stories, singing and a take away craft bag. £2 per family. Please book in for each session you'd like to attend. [Click here to book.](#)



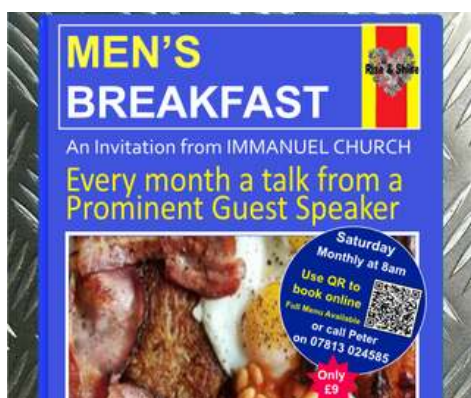
## LOST PROPERTY 3/4

An engagement ring was found quite a while ago and has been stored in the safe. Let's try and reconnect it with its owner.



## COVID SAFETY

Given the increase in cases, please wear masks throughout services. If you have any symptoms, please stay at home and arrange a PCR test and wait for a negative PCR result before attending. We thank you for your cooperation at this challenging time, particularly to those for whom isolation is especially a struggle.



## MEN'S BREAKFASTS

If you'd like to join some guys from St John's and head over for a breakfast in Chichester to hear an inspirational speaker, [click here to join the Men's events whatsapp group.](#) or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.





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