

# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

**SUNDAY  
19TH 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

## Christmas Message from Matt

Matt 4:13-16

Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

**'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles –**

**the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.'**

I think I have mentioned before that Galilee of the Gentiles was the least likely place for Jesus to live and minister. Galilee is the lowest place on earth. According to the Britannica, 'Its surface elevation was long given as 686 feet (209 metres) below sea level, but for decades the annual water level generally has been 6.5 to 13 feet (2 to 4 metres) below the traditional level.' It is as far from heaven on earth as you could be.

Additionally, ancient prejudices being what they were, Galilee, though part of Judea, was so sinful it was not considered Jewish, land of the Gentiles. It was as far from the truth as you could be. The epitome of the shadow of death..... Yet Isaiah sees that this place, Galilee, would be where God would reveal his light. It is this place into which his holiness and truth would shine.

That is great news. It is cause for joy, that however far we might be, or however dark it may seem, God has reached out for us in Jesus Christ. We like, centuries' worth of believers have experienced the light, truth and grace that Jesus brings. Light is important in the winter darkness, many of us decorate our trees and houses to help us remember light. This year may have been harder for us to trust that God is near, we have been restricted, closed out and isolated. But according to Isaiah, God has already come closer than we could imagine.

The right response to God's light, Jesus, is to walk towards him that we might reflect his light. God gave his light to guide and to save. In Colossians, Paul writes of us being rescued out of darkness and brought into his glorious kingdom of light, Col 1:13, 'For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.' Whatever happens around us, we can be assured that while we follow Christ, we are surrounded by and are heading towards light. The light of life.





## **DELIVERY OF ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CARD**

Are you able to help deliver Christmas Cards around the village? They should be ready towards the end of next week. Please call or email Susie if you can help.



## **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.

## **ST. JOHN'S ECO INITIATIVE**

1. Consider doing a Secret Santa gift exchange to help reduce the number of presents that are bought.

2. Aim to reduce the number of Christmas cards that are sent - perhaps make a charitable donation or pass on good wishes in person.

3. To reduce food waste, plan meals ahead, don't panic buy because of the bank holiday shop closures and clear space in your freezer ahead of time to make room for yummy leftovers.

4. Try shopping locally for gifts or consider giving a gift experience / digital subscription to reduce the need for physical gifts.



## **ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Christmas tree is on an Ecological theme with over 2000 low wattage LED lights on the flag pole. The star on the top symbolises the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem and Jesus and its light shining in the darkness. We have also saved a tree, the cost of buying one and disposing of it after Christmas!

Thank you to Tim and Jim for helping to put the lights up. We hope you like the new 'tree'. Please let us know what you think.



# FAMILY CHURCH



**The  
Children's  
Society**

Family Church  
raised £99.40 for  
the Children's  
society at the  
Christingle service.



**Next Family Church is 9th January.  
Venue to be confirmed.**





## 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](#)

We will be praying for Steine Road North - Below Breach Avenue down to the Railway Crossing including Mountwood Road, Merrivale Court & Hartland Court.

We will also remember the Christmas Services and the preparations being made for 2022.





## 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 4/4

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

**The Weekly News is taking a break for a couple of weeks and the next edition will be on the 9th January.**

**Matt will be on Annual Leave from 4th - 10th January. Susie will also be away from 30th December - 5th January and Richard & Kim will be spending time with their family over Christmas**

*We wish you all a very Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year!*

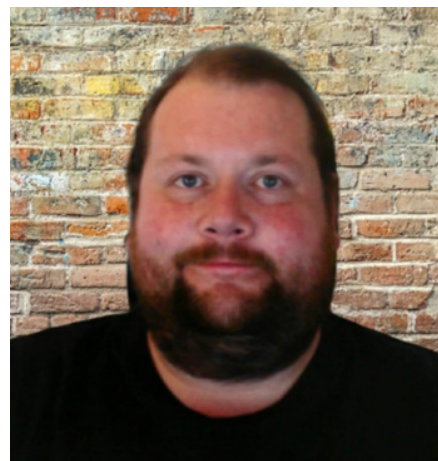




Rev Matt Luff  
 Vicar  
 minister@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Susie Bartlett  
 Church Administrator  
 admin@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Jon Robinson  
 Church Warden  
 wardens@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Sue McNeill  
 Church Warden  
 wardens@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Alan McNeill  
 Church Treasurer  
 treasurer@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



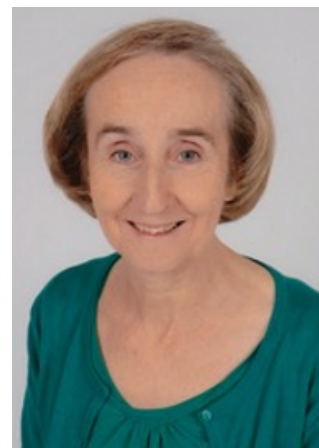
Sarah MacLennan  
 PCC Secretary  
 admin@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Richard Carter  
 Families and Youth  
 families@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Kim Carter  
 Families and Youth  
 families@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com



Christine Liddle  
 Safeguarding Officer  
 safeguarding@  
 stjohnssouthbourne.com