

GOOD NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**The parish magazine of
St John's Church, Preston, Brighton**

January 2024

50p

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PRESTON, BRIGHTON

Knogle Road, Brighton BN1 6RB

www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

PRIEST-in-CHARGE Reverend Emma Ham-Riche vicar@brightonstjohn.org.uk
01273 536191

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

Sue Crossfield

CHURCHWARDENS

Judith Lawson

Cynthia McArthur

PIANIST

Erika Schilsky

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2022/2023

Deanery Synod Sue Seymour

Representative *Vacant*

Vacant

Members

Sue Crossfield

Alex Harrex

Diane Long

Jane Millett

Linda Nutley

Sue Nye

Sue O'Malley

Vacant

Vacant

Safeguarding Officer Sue Seymour

safeguarding@brightonstjohn .org.uk

Treasurer *Vacant*

Honorary Secretary Alex Harrex

01273 501758

Parish Giving Officer Jane Millett

Electoral Roll Officer Alex Harrex

01273 501758

CHURCH OFFICE Wednesday & Friday

01273 553311

9.30am to 12 noon

office@brightonstjohn.org.uk

Church & Halls

Alex Harrex

07847 352889

Administrator

halls@brightonstjohn.org.uk

BAPTISMS and MARRIAGES by appointment

The last date for contributions for the February magazine is Sunday 21 January

From Rev'd Emma

Happy New Year! You may remember that back in July, Kye Leaver, a young campanologist from Crawley, St John the Baptist, visited St John's as part of his ambition to visit every church and secular place with bells, following in the footsteps of George P Elphick, a former ringer from Southover who wrote *Sussex Bell and Belfries*, using his book as a guide. You can read about Kye's visit to St John's and even hear a recording of the bells by visiting his website: <https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/preston-st-john-the-evangelist.html>

One of the things he discovered is that the tenor bell is inscribed with the words 'Ring out the false, ring in the true'. I recently discovered that these words come from a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson:

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant and the free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

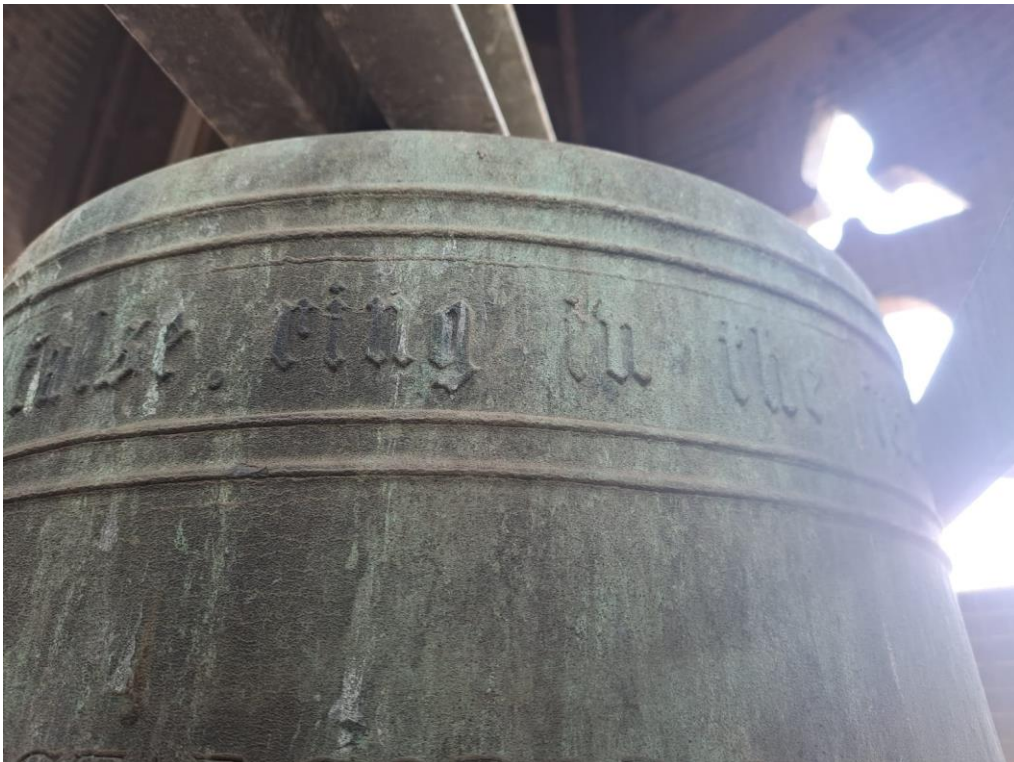
This poem has been used as part of the Church of England's 'Follow the Star: Join the Song' series of reflections for the Christmas season, which also poses the question: As we look ahead to a New Year, what do we long for - for ourselves, for our world? And as the old year ends, what might we need to let go of? We're also encouraged to wonder . . .

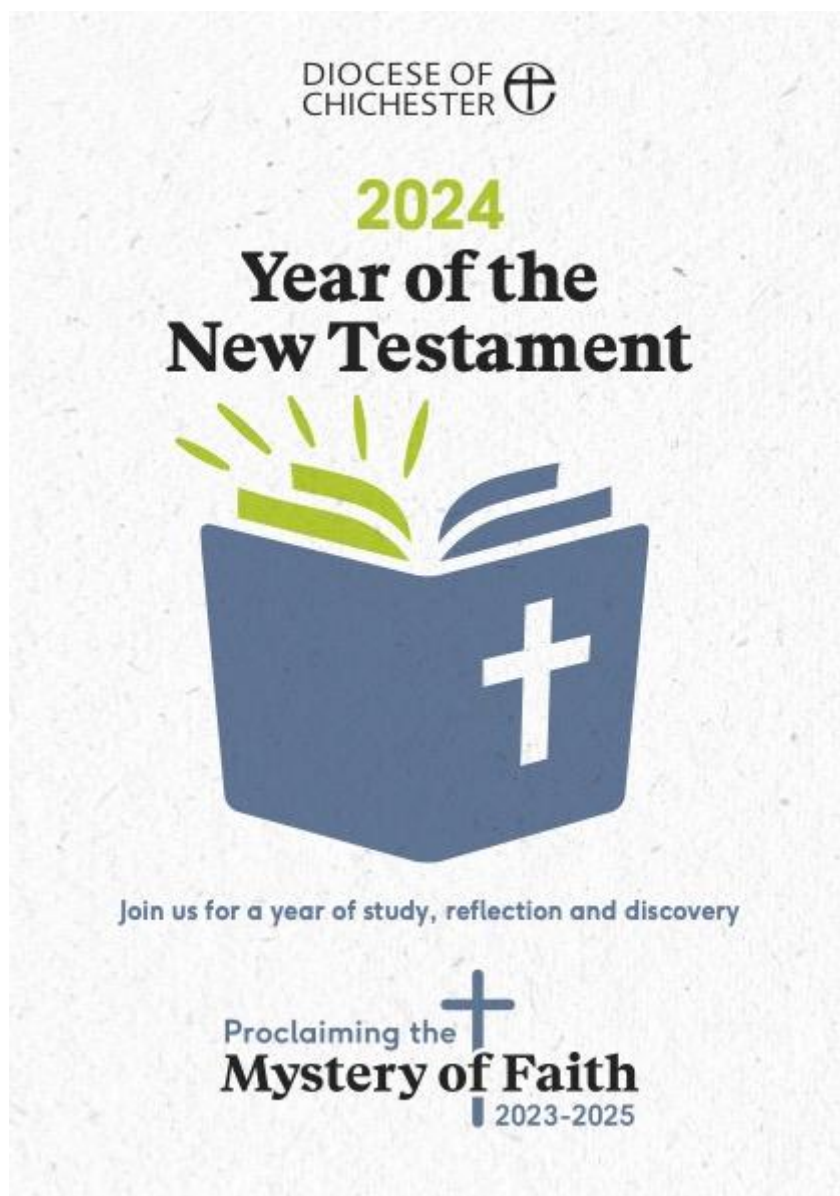
- How might you bring about the change Tennyson suggests in the year ahead?
- In your own life?
- In your church and community?
- In our world?

Let's make 2024 a year for St John's to ring out the false, ring in the true. To encourage us to commit to do this together, I'll leave you with the prayer from the Church of England's series of reflections:

Cleanse our hearts, O God, and renew our spirits. Teach us to do what pleases you, and lead us this New Year and always. Amen.

Rev'd Emma





2024 is the Year of the New Testament in the Diocese of Chichester, following 2023 as the Year of the Old Testament, which was a year to engage with and study the books of what are now known as the Hebrew Scriptures. This is a sequence of themed years leading up to 2025 as the Year of Faith.

Introducing this year's Lent course, Bishop Martin writes:

Learning how to read and write is a complex and exciting process. In the very early stages of life, we need lots of help from others. The same is true, even when we become older, and innovation speeds up the pace of change.

When the Church assembles for worship, especially for the Eucharist, we become a school of learning.

This is a shared experience, expertly tailored by the Holy Spirit for the needs of each person. The Spirit draws from the authoritative instruments of the Bible, the prayers

and the breaking of the bread, overseen by the facilitation of the ordained members of the people of God.

This year's Lent course helps us to set our learning from the New Testament in the context of worship. This is the school of learning that uniquely connects the assembly on earth with the assembly of saints and angels in heaven.

Fresh attention to the Bible as it shapes our worship helps us to see how proclaiming the mystery of faith in the Eucharistic assembly re-evangelises us and gives us the material with which to fulfil our missionary discipleship.

At St John's, we'll be following this Lent course, beginning on Tuesday 20 February at 2:30pm or Wednesday 21 February at 7pm. And elsewhere in this magazine, Sue Crossfield writes about a series of webinars that you are invited to join in with too.

XX

New Year Resolutions

Last year (2023) 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.

What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: *'I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings'* (Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Phil 3:13,14). Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How

can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell says: 'I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.' In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!



Year of the New Testament

I expect that you know that 2023 was the Diocese of Chichester's *Year of the Old Testament* so you will not be surprised to hear that 2024 is the *Year of the New Testament*.

But you may not realise that as part of the *Year of the New Testament* there are Zoom seminars which are open to **everyone**. So if you are interested in learning more about the Bible and Christian thought and theology – do give the seminars a try, I am sure you will find it a very interesting and informative experience.

I can say that over the course of 2023 I have enjoyed several zoom seminars including *The Temple - the Jewish foundation of the Christian faith*, *Meeting Christ in the Psalms*, *Old Testament Roots of John's Gospel* and I am looking forward to joining more zoom seminars in 2024.

The next two zoom seminars are:

11th January 2024 - 10.00 – 12.00 – Theology of St John and

22nd February 2024 - 10.00 – 12.00 - Spirituality of St Paul

You can find all the details on the Diocesan website - CMD Developing Ministries Brochure or you can use the link below <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/training-brochure/>

You can book your place on any seminar via the website and you will get an email in advance to confirm your booking and then you will receive the zoom link a day or so before the seminar.

Please talk to me if you have any questions or would like any more information.

Sue Crossfield

Fundraising

Cream Tea Quiz



Saturday 20 January

2.00pm in the Vestry

Entry is £10 for a table/team of 4
or £2.50 and join a table.
And there will be a raffle ...

What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

The Godspell about Jesus

*This year much of the C of E lectionary will focus on Mark.
So here is a short introduction to this much loved gospel...*

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, and most likely the first to be written (about 65 – 70AD). It is certainly the most action-packed!

The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whose name occurs often in Acts. His mother lived in a house in Jerusalem, where Jesus' followers met in the early days of the church there (Acts 12:12). John Mark was cousin to Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion.

John Mark had set off with Paul on the first great missionary tour, but then disgraced himself by going home – not making himself popular with Paul! However, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance, and in later years John Mark won the friendship of Paul. When Paul was in prison, John Mark stood by him (Colossians 4).

Mark's gospel was written not when John Mark was in Jerusalem, but later, when he had spent some time with Peter in Rome. Peter had come to love John Mark as his own son. (1 Peter 5:13), and there is a strong early tradition that John Mark set down Jesus' story as he had heard it directly from the apostle Peter.

For example, Papias, writing about AD140, said: "Mark, who was the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately all that he remembered, whether of sayings or doings of Christ, but not in order. For he was neither a hearer nor companion of the Lord."

Some years later Irenaeus wrote that Mark's gospel was written "when Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the church there." After their deaths, "Mark, Peter's disciple, has himself delivered to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching."

John Mark wrote his gospel with extraordinary vividness. And he obviously knew he would have non-Jewish readers because he often explains Jewish customs.

The Gospel begins with a bang: “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...” No beating about the bush – here is the purpose and the message right from the opening verse.

The word ‘gospel’ in Greek is *evangelion* – good news (hence the term evangelist). So where does the actual word ‘gospel’ come from? The Anglo-Saxons first thought it up, using the term ‘Godspell’, a word that may mean ‘good news’ or ‘news about God’. It was an apt way to refer to the new faith when it reached them. (Hence ‘Godspell’ as the name of the West End musical about the life of Jesus.)

Mark opens the action not with the birth of Jesus, but rather with His baptism by John. Then the action moves swiftly towards the crisis of the cross and resurrection. Within this framework, the material tends to be not in chronological order, but rather grouped by subject. The book bustles with action and details. It gives far more detail than Matthew’s in the accounts of what Jesus did, but deals more briefly with Jesus’ teaching.

Mark does not have much that is all his own – in fact - only four paragraphs in all! This is because both Matthew and Luke borrowed heavily from him when they came to write their gospels. And yet we still have something unique in Mark: moving pictures of Jesus in action, convincing us by what He does that His claim to be the Son of God was true. There are fewer stories in Mark than in the other gospels, but these stories are longer, and the detail in them hints of Peter’s remembered eye-witness accounts.





“Turning Points”

New Year Vigil

to bring hope to the world and ourselves

Hove Methodist Church

Portland Road BN3 5DR

Monday 22 January 7 – 8pm

Music, a few words, silence,

candle lighting,

peace and friendship

All welcome

(of any faith or none)

From Sue's Kitchen

Courgette & Tomato Bake

1lb of tomatoes

1lb of courgettes

2tbsp olive oil

1tsp dried basil

2tbsp fresh breadcrumbs

3tbsp grated parmesan

Freshly ground pepper

Wash and slice the tomatoes.

Wash and trim the courgettes and cut lengthways into $\frac{1}{4}$ inch slices.

Fry the slices of courgette a few at a time until slightly softened.

Scatter some of the basil over the courgettes.

Put a layer of courgettes in the bottom of a casserole dish.

Add a layer of sliced tomato.

Continue adding alternate layers of courgette and tomatoes.

Mix the breadcrumbs and cheese in a bowl.

Spread over the top of the casserole.

Season with pepper.

Cook in a preheated oven at 200°C or gas mark 6 for 10 to 15 minutes until the top is browned.

Serves 2



Grim outlook for people in poverty in the UK

January always brings us a financial reckoning, but this year things look especially grim for many people in the UK. Recent research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found that one in five people in the UK are living in poverty. In real terms, that's a staggering 13.4 million people.

Some recent sobering statistics from Christians against Poverty:

56 per cent of clients had to borrow money to pay for food, clothing, or other living costs.

61 per cent of clients could not afford basic toiletries like soap, toothpaste, or sanitary items.

66 per cent of clients had fallen behind with one or more household bills.

No wonder that a recent national poll by Christians Against Poverty (CAP) found that the majority of adults (88%) think more needs to be done to tackle poverty in their area.

Lyn Weston, director of church partnerships at Christians Against Poverty, asks: "With so many in our society struggling with severe financial challenges at this time, how can we support those being overpowered by poverty without losing *our own peace of mind*? Instead of us feeling propelled and activated, sometimes the enormity of demand can leave us feeling overwhelmed, helpless and even despondent."

But she believes that "if God is calling us to respond with Him, then somehow He will provide us with the help, agency and power we need to problem solve and create change." Basic to our response, she says, is a heart of compassion, based on God's love.

CAP has a range of resources to help local churches who want to help local people. Please go to: www.capuk.org

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

St John's church

HAVE COLLECTED THIS HARVEST FOR THE BRIGHTON FOOD BANK

THANK YOU FOR DONATING:

161.6 Kg



BRIGHTON & HOVE
CITY MISSION

— SINCE 1849 —

...BECAUSE JESUS LOVES THIS CITY

WWW.BHCM.ORG.UK



WWW.BRIGHTONFOODBANK.ORG.UK



The Foodbank donation basket at St John's is by the main entrance and your contributions are taken to the Foodbank each week. Thank you.

Visiting other churches

'... this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord ... (Psalm 27:4)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is this month (18th – 25th January), so it's probably a good time to meet with other local Christians – or at least to visit one of their churches.

And when visiting other churches, it's fun to have a good nose around.

Fewer churches seem to have guides nowadays, and probably not many are open every day. But when you next visit a church, why not look beyond the building itself and its monuments which show the history of the place? Try to discover *what is going on there now*.

First, ask yourself how easy it is to find out the following information:

What are the services in the church, and when are they held?

Who is who, and how do you contact people?

Are the photos and notices up to date?

Secondly, is there a church magazine? They can be the lifeblood of the church and community, keeping people in touch with each other. Also, as church magazines can be delivered door to door each month, they are an excellent way of reaching out to local non-churchy people, reminding them that they will always be welcome.

Thirdly, why not keep an eye out for any good ideas that the church has got – and pinch them for our own church? This can work the other way, too – if you see something that does NOT work, make a note of that as well.

Above all, try and 'get a feeling' for what the church is really like to attend. Would you want to belong there? Some churches, like people, feel welcoming and alive, while sadly others seem to be struggling and downright gloomy. Whether it is 'high' or 'low' is not as important as whether it is welcoming and caring.

And what about our own church? How about inviting a non-church friend to come along and tell you their honest first impressions of our church? We might be pleasantly surprised!

Having a religious faith makes you happier

People who have a religious faith are generally happier and more resilient than atheists and other non-religious people.

That is the finding of a new study, *Keep the Faith: Mental health in the UK*, which has been recently published by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL).

The think tank was set up to study the part that religious faith plays in the UK. It was the first to focus exclusively on the link between people's faith and their mental health in the UK.

The survey included Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, with nearly 70 per cent of them reporting a good psychological well-being, as compared with only 49 per cent of atheists.

As for happiness, just nine per cent of people with a faith said they were unhappy, as compared with nearly a quarter of atheists.

It was also found that believers feel they have more self-control, more life satisfaction, and more optimism about their future. Only nine percent of believers were pessimistic, as opposed to 30 percent of non-believers.

But it seems that practising your faith is important. Even among believers, those who regularly attend religious services are far more likely to report positive psychological wellbeing, when compared to those who rarely or never attend such services.

Overall, the IILF has concluded that the rapid secularisation of the UK has left many people with lowered resilience and lowered wellbeing.

As the author of the study, Dr Rakib Ehsan, says: "while the fast-paced secularisation of the British has been cited as a form of social progress, this appears not to be the case from the perspective of mental health."

Faith in the City Congregational Growth and a Politics of the Common Good

Come and join us for a practical workshop led by Alison Webster, Mission Theologian in Residence at Citizens UK to hear about the links between faith, social action, and congregational growth.

We will explore the role that faith institutions across Brighton and Hove can play to live out their mission within and beyond their walls, particularly focusing on the need to build - or re-build - institutions which can enable people to connect, relate, and thrive with one another.

Rooted in a long tradition of Community Organising, we will hear stories of Social Justice, placing faith institutions and ordinary citizens at the heart of some of Britain's most impactful societal changes in recent years.

We will discuss practical ways to bring our learning back to our faith community, so be prepared to be transformed.

This workshop is open to faith institutions from all backgrounds from across Brighton & Hove Citizens. People are also welcome to invite friends and neighbours from other faith institutions not currently involved with Brighton & Hove Citizens.



Alison Webster is a practical and mission theologian who offers spiritual accompaniment. She is Mission Theologian in Residence at Citizens UK and leads the Exploring Theology programme at Sarum College.

Although Alison comes from a Christian background, her knowledge and understanding of other faiths is one which she always brings to the workshops she runs.

Register at

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/faith-in-the-city-congregational-growth-and-a-politics-of-the-common-good>



Saturday 27th January
2:00 to 4:00 PM
St Luke's Church
64 Old Shoreham Road BN15DD

Bishop introduces Bill to allow humanitarian visas for those seeking asylum

A Church of England Bishop is proposing legislation to provide a safe and legal route to the UK for those seeking asylum, as part of attempts to crack down on illegal people smuggling across the Channel in small boats.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, has published a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords which would permit an annual number of humanitarian travel visas to the UK.

The visas would allow people to safely enter the UK where there is a high chance that their asylum claim will be granted. The nationalities currently most likely to travel to the UK on small boats and have their asylum claim granted are Afghan, Syrian, Iranian, Eritrean and Sudanese.

The Bill also proposes that their asylum claim would then be considered in the UK through an accelerated process.

Under the terms of the Asylum Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill, up to 10,000 asylum travel visas would be granted in the first year of its operation with subsequent limits set by the Home Secretary. Nationalities eligible to apply would be named by the Home Secretary.

Bishop Guli said: "I am pleased to bring forward this Private Members Bill on the introduction of a Humanitarian Visa Scheme, which will provide a much-needed opportunity to discuss safe routes into the UK for refugees fleeing conflict, persecution and disasters.

The Bill had its first Reading in late November, and will be timetabled for a Second Reading at a later date.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 – 27th January

‘Fragility of Freedom’ is the theme for this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), as 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust explains that only “49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

“Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable, and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and we honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.”

There is guidance for HMD activity organisers across the UK this year, in light of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza and the impact this has had on community relations in the UK. Please go to: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

27th January was chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day, as it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.



Holocaust Memorial Day

*Learning from genocide
– for a better future*



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

PEACE VIGIL



Silent vigils at Friends Meeting
House, Ship Street BN1 1 AF from
5pm to 5.45pm from Sunday 10th
December and every second
Sunday of the month.
All welcome.

Readings & Collects

Sunday 7 January – Epiphany

Readings Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-2

Collect

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Sunday 14 January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings 1 Samuel 2: 1-10 [11-20] Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-end

Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Sunday 21 January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings Genesis 14: 17-20 Revelation 19: 6-10 John 2: 1-11

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Sunday 28 January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Candlemas]

Readings Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Sunday 4 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 Colossians 1: 15-20 John 1: 1-14

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen

Sunday 11 February - Sunday next before Lent

Readings 2 Kings 2: 1-12 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9

Collect

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Why Churchwardens love January

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay!
But they're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season is
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker -
They don't get that much sleep.
And overworked Churchwardens
And their sidespersons team -
Sure don't get time for boredom,
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over,
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure,
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!



Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

Take my advice. I'm not using it.

I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?

Cats know how we feel. They don't care, but they know.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

Wednesday 3	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 4	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Sunday 7	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns Ministry of prayer for healing
Wednesday 10	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 11	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Sunday 14	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns
	4.00 pm	Messy Church
Wednesday 17	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 18	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Friday 19	2.00 pm	Preston Friday Club <i>Rev'd Steve Gurr, 'Serving Thyme - Reflections of a Prison Chaplain of life in an open prison'</i>
Saturday 20	2.00 pm	Fundraising Cream Tea Quiz <i>in the Vestry</i>
Sunday 21	10.00 am	All-Age Worship
Tuesday 23	2.30 pm	Bible Study
Wednesday 24	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 25	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist

Sunday 28 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with hymns

Wednesday 31 10.00 am Said Eucharist
 10.45 am Preston Coffee Pot

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1 7.00 pm Said Eucharist

Friday 2 2.00 pm Preston Friday Club
Prisoners & Punishment ~ Alan Kingshott

Sunday 4 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with hymns
 Ministry of prayer for healing

Tuesday 6 2.30 pm Bible Study

Wednesday 7 10.00 am Said Eucharist
 10.45 am Preston Coffee Pot

Thursday 8 7.00 pm Said Eucharist

Sunday 11 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with hymns
 4.00 pm Messy Church



to
Shirley Keene on the 15th
Pat Gardner on the 21st
and
Gordon Collins on the 23rd

UPCOMING events

Saturday 20 January

2.00pm Fundraising Cream Tea Quiz
In the Vestry

Tuesday 23 January

2.30pm Bible Study

Tuesday 6 February

2.30pm Bible Study

Wednesday 14 February

10.00am Ash Wednesday

Tuesdays 20 & 27 February , 5, 12 & 19 March

2.30pm Lent Course
In the Vestry

Wednesdays 21 & 28 February , 6, 13 & 20 March

7.00pm Lent Course
In the Vestry

Saturday 16 March

Spring Fair

More details about these events to come

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

On how to run your diary for 2024 ...

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have just attended a course on 'Diary Management', to get you prepared for another year. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not provided in your conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure that it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you never got any of them.

Third, adopt your own private code for bookings. This means that any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing '1.30pm PLS' or '7.30pm WTD' will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean 'Post Lunch Sleep' and 'Walk The Dog' will be known to you alone – although do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the 'Pauline Letters Seminars' and my membership of the 'World Theology Directorate' is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can then deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – and to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

Fifth, put someone else's address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions were quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



More Bulletin Bloopers

The church notices that did not come out quite as they were meant to do!

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Please place your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.



MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES IN BRIGHTON

KNOYLE HALL, BRIGHTON, BN1 6RB



JUNIORS (AGES 8-11) WEDNESDAY 4PM-6PM

SENIORS (AGES 12-15) WEDNESDAY 6PM-8PM

EMAIL US TO BOOK A TASTER SESSION

info@theyoungactorsgroup.com

www.theyoungactorsgroup.com

Enjoy a January quiz to start a New Year!

1. On 1st January 1907 how many times did US President Theodore Roosevelt shake hands?
a) 851 b) 1,358 c) 5,138 d) 8,513
2. On 1st January In which year was the *European Economic Community* (EEC) first established?
a) 1958 b) 1960 c) 1962 d) 1964
3. On 1st January in which year was the *Commonwealth of Australia* proclaimed?
a) 1861 b) 1881 c) 1901 d) 1921
4. What do people in Portuga/ traditionally eat when the clock strikes 12 on *New Years Eve*?
a. 12 Almonds b) 12 Grapes/ Raisins c)12 Oysters d) 12 Sardines
5. What name is given to the *Jewish* New Year?
a) Chanukah b) Rosh Hashanah c) Sukkot d) Yom Kippur
6. Which American President issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* on 1st January 1863?
a) James Buchanan b) Ulysses S Grant c) Abraham Lincoln d) William McKinley
7. On 1st January 1914 an airline started operating within which American state?
a) Alaska b) California c) Florida d) Washington
8. The traditional *New Year Ball Drop* takes place at which *New York City* landmark?
a) Central Park b) Empire State Building c) Statue of Liberty d) Times Square
9. Which town was captured by the French in January 1558 after 211 years of English rule?
a) Calais b) Dieppe c) Paris d) Rouen
10. *Arnold Ridley* was born on 7th January 1896, which part did he play in *Dads Army*?
a) Private Frazer b) Private Godfrey c) Lance Corporal Jones
d) Captain Mainwaring

11. Which famous Basketball team played its first game on 7th January 1927?
 a) Chicago Bulls b) Harlem Globetrotters c) Sacramento Kings d) Washington Wizards
12. Which Queen of England was crowned at *Westminster Abbey* on 13th January 1559?
 a) Anne b) Eleanor c) Elizabeth I d) Mary 1
13. Born 13th January 1926, which writer created the character *Paddington Bear*?
 a) Enid Blyton b) Michael Bond c) Kenneth Graham d) A A Milne
14. What did William Pitt introduce in January 1799 to raise funds for the *Napoleonic wars*?
 a) Income Tax b) Inheritance Tax c) Poll Tax d) VAT
15. Which writer, who created the character *Hercule Poirot*, died on 12th January 1976?
 a) Marjorie Allingham b) Agatha Christie c) Dorothy L Sayers d) Josephine Tey
16. Who played *Batman* in the US TV series which first aired in January 1966?
 a) Vincent Price b) Cesar Romero c) Burt Ward d) Adam West
17. 12th January is the birthday of *Sporty Spice* from the Spice Girls - what is her real name?
 a) Victoria Beckham b) Emma Bunton c) Melanie Chisholm d) Geri Halliwell
18. The battle portrayed in the film *Zulu* ended 23rd January 1879, where did it take place?
 a) Gingindlovu b) Hlobane c) Khambula d) Rorke's Drift
19. Which American composer completed *Rhapsody in Blue* in January 1924?
 a) Aaron Copland b) George Gershwin c) Scott Joplin d) Quincy Porter
20. Born 23rd January 1910, *Django Reinhardt* was an acclaimed player of which instrument?
 a) Guitar b) Piano c) Saxophone d) Trumpet

Go on a New Year trip around the world and unscramble 11 *Countries* and 1 *Capital City* – just to help the initial letters of each one spells out Happy New Year!

21. H Y A R N U G H

22. A R A S T U I A L A

- 23. *P* U R P E
- 24. *P* K A P S T A I N
- 25. *Y* M E E N Y
- 26. *N* W O R N Y A
- 27. *E* G T Y P E
- 28. *W* S W A R A W
- 29. *Y* E N E M Y
- 30. *E* H I P O T I E A
- 31. *A* G E N T R A N I A
- 32. *R* D A W N A R



Keeping warm?

A member of our PCC floated the idea of opening the church during the Warm Spaces hours, for anyone wishing to sit in church and light a candle.

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

Church-speak

MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

And the answers to last month's Christmasy Quiz

- 1 In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
b) 1843
- 2 There are four ghosts in Dicken's A Christmas Carol. A point for each one you can name.
Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to Come
- 3 In which ocean is Christmas Island?
a) Indian
- 4 About how many turkeys are consumed every year in Britain?
b) 10 million
- 5 How many different flavours are there in a standard tub of Quality Street?
c) 12
- 6 In which year was the Queen's speech first televised?
c) 1957
- 7 Which church celebrates Christmas on 7 January?
b) Russian Orthodox
- 8 Which is the best-selling Christmas song in the UK?
a) Do they know it's Christmas
- 9 In which country is it tradition to eat KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) on Christmas Day?
a) Japan
- 10 Where is the UK's tallest Christmas tree?
b) Wakehurst Place
- 11 In which country is it the tradition to fill children's clogs with treats and sweets on 5 December?
b) The Netherlands
- 12 Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
c) Isaac Newton
- 13 Who 'invented' the Christmas cracker?
b) Tom Smith

- 14 How many points does a snowflake have?
a) 6
- 15 Which Christmas themed ballet first premiered in St Petersburg in 1892?
b) **The Nutcracker**
- 16 Which of his plays did Shakespeare write as a Christmas present for Queen Elizabeth 1? a) **The Merry Wives of Windsor**
- 17 Ilex is the scientific name for which Christmas greenery?
c) **Holly**
- 18 Which king was crowned on Christmas Day?
c) **William I (the Conqueror)**
- 19 What colour coat did Santa have until Coco-Cola gave him his red one?
b) **Green**
- 20 How many gifts were given in total in the twelve days of Christmas?
No multiple choice here but see if you can work out the right answer.
364

Can you remember the first line of the carols these lines come from?

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 21 | mark my footsteps, good my page | Good King Wenceslas |
| 22 | most highly favoured lady | The angel Gabriel from heaven came |
| 23 | two thousand years of wrong | It came upon the midnight clear |
| 24 | no ear may hear his coming | O little town of Bethlehem |
| 25 | let nothing you dismay | God rest ye merry, gentlemen |
| 26 | they looked up and saw a star | The first Nowell |
| 27 | thus spake the seraph and forthwith | While shepherds watched their flocks |
| 28 | glory streams from heaven afar | Silent night |
| 29 | risen with healing in his wings | Hark! The herald-angels sing |
| 30 | breathes a life of gathering gloom | We three kings of orient are |

How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

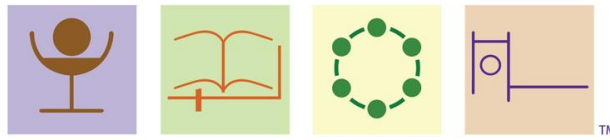
Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

MESSY CHURCH	Every second Sunday (except August & December) in the church 4.00 - 6.00 pm	
FLOWERS	Contact the Church Office	07847 352889 office@brightonstjohn.org.uk
HALLS/CHURCH for HIRE	Halls Administrator	07847 352889 halls@brightonstjohn.org.uk
PRESTON COFFEE POT	Every Wednesday after the 10.00 am service	
PRESTON FRIDAY CLUB	Crowhurst Community Centre alternate Fridays in term time 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sue O'Malley 01273 700150
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	Judith Lawson	
6th / 7th PRESTON PARK GUIDES - Crowhurst Community Centre		
Rainbow Guides	Tuesday in term time 5.30 – 6.30 pm Wednesday in term time 5.30 - 6.30 pm	Mrs Jackie Vidler girlguiding.org.uk
Brownie Guides	Tuesday in term time 6.15 - 7.45 pm	Ms Jo Mander girlguiding.org.uk
Guides	Wednesday in term time 6.45 - 8.45 pm	Miss Helen Emerson girlguiding.org.uk

For more information about activities at St John's please see our website
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

If you're able to contribute to St John's on a regular basis, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

For more information: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/preston-st-john-the-evangelist-brighton/>



St John's is now registered with easyfundraising. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brightonstjohn/>

Using your smartphone this QR code enables you to support St John's via a debit or credit card:



Parish Church of St John the Evangelist
Knole Road Brighton BN1 6RB
01273 553311
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk
www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn

Parish Office opening times: Wednesdays & Fridays 9:30am-12pm

*Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Seymour
safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk*



St John the Evangelist
Knogle Road
Brighton BN1 6RB

www.brightonstjohn.org.uk
www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn