

# GOOD NEWS



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

**February 2024**

**50p**

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PRESTON, BRIGHTON

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***The deadline for the March magazine is Sunday 25 February***

## *From Rev'd Anna*

It's said in John 13:35 that people will be known as disciples of Jesus Christ by the way they love one another. So, as I continue sharing worship with you as part of my placement, I wanted to start by saying a huge thank-you for making me so welcome. It seems hospitality is clearly one of the many things St Johns does well.

The second thing to share with you is about a project I'm leading which is called The Pilgrim Way. A small team is creating a 25-mile way-marked walk across the South Downs from Brighton to Alfriston, with stop-offs at churches that are beacons of inclusivity. By 'inclusivity' I mean churches that are active in seeking to include under-served communities, those who are most at risk of disadvantage. No church is excluded from the path though, as long as its people are open to talking about these issues, after-all we need to extend welcome to all, even those with whom we disagree.. and without grumbling...as it says in 1 Peter 4:9.

Our vision is to create an outward expression, in the physical landscape, of an inward journey, drawing on pilgrimage motifs to promote individual transformation, an embodiment of the principles of love, interconnectedness and welcome. These principles are based on the commandment to love God (Mark 12:30-31) and to love one another (John 13:34). As it unfolds, the path makes statements about ourselves and our relationship with God through Jesus. Inclusivity is part of the understanding of the interconnectedness of all things. We begin to see our place in the world as we journey. We see what we need to let go of, and how we need to work harmoniously with God's creation. When we take up on the road, in pilgrimage, with the help of the Holy Spirit we may be illuminated to love God and each-other, such that we will act justly in the world. As we journey, we therefore see and listen to the landscape that unfolds both physically before us, but also listen inwardly through prayer. Each stage of the walk will be overlaid with stories of 'mystic' or 'contemplative' Christians. We'll be producing a booklet for pilgrims as a geographical and spiritual guide to aid prayerful walking.

### *An ask from you: prayer, and perhaps sponsorship*

We're at the stage where we have agreement from nearly 15 congregations for the path to pass by their church, and for there to be a prayer space in those churches

where pilgrims can collect a shell as a symbol of their journey. So, it's now time for me to walk the whole path for the first time!

I wanted to connect St John's to this venture so most importantly may I ask for your prayers for the project and particularly on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March and Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March as I walk the path. I also know that St John's needs to raise funds for the outside notice board. Would you be able to sponsor my walk? If so please let me know, all donations will go to funds for the notice board, and every little helps.

Below are some pictures from the downland parts of the route we've mapped out.



*Me walking into Balsdean and the stone altar there (Stage 5)*



*The monument overlooking the sea on the South Downs, and a view from Red-Lion pond on route to St Andrew's Beddingham (Stage 6)*

# 'Lenten Valentines'

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

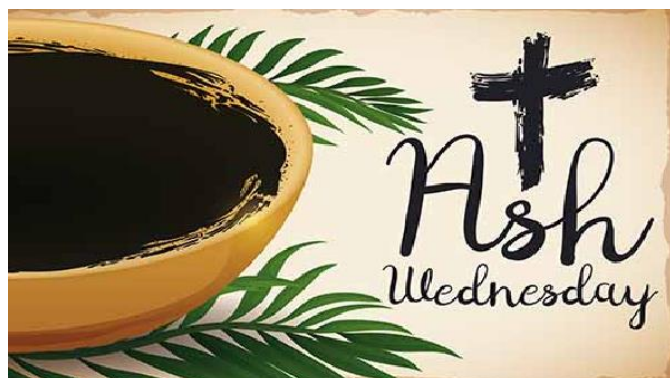
Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD and that he was martyred on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: *'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'*





# What's so special about Jesus?

*As Lent begins, it is a good time to look at the things Jesus said, and the claims that He made*

The gospels record that people were astounded by many of the things that Jesus said. Even His enemies, intent on trapping Him, admitted: “No one ever spoke the way this man does.” (John 7:46) Furthermore, “the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” (Matthew 7:28-9)

For in Jesus, we find something without precedent in the span of human literature. While urging humility on others and while giving the impression of the ultimately humble person, Jesus’ teaching and claims are basically *egocentric and completely focussed on Himself*. In ordinary life, that would get a person labelled as crazy or as a megalomaniac!

Just think of the few astounding claims Jesus made about Himself. “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” (Jn 11:25) “I am the Bread of Life.” (Jn 6:35) “I am the Light of the World.” (Jn 8:12) “I am the Good Shepherd.” (Jn 10:7,9) “...whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.” (Jn 11:26) And – most staggering of all - “anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.” (Jn 14:9)

CS Lewis comments on the inescapableness of Jesus’ uniqueness: “There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions.”

That Jesus cannot be ranked among a pantheon of religious leaders or prophets becomes further obvious when one reflects further on His claim of being at both the beginning and at the end of Creation and of History. He said: “I am the First and the Last” (Rev 1:17), as well as : “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Mt 28:18).

Clearly the disciples accepted this, as John begins his gospel with these words: “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.... and in Him all things hold together.” (Col 1:16,17)

When we look at what Jesus goes on to say about the end of history, we are even more startled, as when He said of any person who follows Him: “I will raise him up at the last day.” (Jn 6:40) This was the local carpenter, remember! And when we

note that throughout the Bible final judgement is a function reserved to God alone, it is astounding to register that Jesus says of Himself: “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son .... authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.” (Jn 5:26—27)

Yes, between Creation and the end of History stands Jesus. That also means, of course, and we note it with comfort, because everything in between is His also.

During this Lent, why not spend some time just quietly thinking about these claims of Jesus?



## *Faith leaders call for change to asylum-claim system*

Bishops and other faith leaders have joined forces with the Bishop of London to call on the Government to make a change in the leave-to-remain status situation for asylum seekers.

They say they want practice to match policy, for there to be better communication with asylum seekers, and for the timeframe to be extended.

While the faith leaders welcomed the Home Office’s efforts to tackle the backlog in asylum claims, they expressed concern “at the number of refugees who, on receiving their leave-to-remain, are becoming street homeless.”

The faith leaders said this meant a growing demand on London’s churches, mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues and temples, for support with accommodation for those who have just achieved refugee status.

The faith leaders ask that Home Office to abide by its policy that refugees be given a minimum of 28 days from the date when they receive their biometric residence permit (BRP) before having to leave their accommodation. They also ask that the eviction notice period be extended from 28 days to 56, to allow adequate time to apply for Universal Credit and other benefits.

Bishop Mullally said: “Our churches are doing what they can to meet the need, and we all want to avoid further strain on our crisis systems. Homelessness increases the burden on the NHS, and has an overall impact on health, well-being, and the economy.”

## *Jonathan's Brighton Half Marathon run for Street Pastors on 25<sup>th</sup> February – over his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

Jonathan Leeson and his wife Erica live in Ringmer. Jonathan, who lived in Brighton and Hove for 30 years, began his schooling at St. Michael's, a boys pre-preparatory school at 2 Harrington Road, where the boys walked in crocodile fashion the short walk along Preston Road to the Knogle Hall at St. John's church – for their gym! Jonathan was a choirboy at St. John's in the mid 1960s. The then vicar was Revd. Canon Selwyn Gummer. Choirboys were paid 2 shillings and 6 pence to sing at weddings, either at St. John's or more often at St Peter's Church in Preston Park, a daughter church of St. John's - as the daffodils made a good photographic backdrop! William Tobit Leeson, Jonathan's great-grandfather, who has a plaque on the choir stalls at St. John's in his name, was churchwarden there from 1899 to around 1928. Living in a house called Montrose, opposite Preston Park, in 1882, he co-founded a large family-run department store selling drapery, in North Street, Brighton, then called Leeson & Vokins. The partnership was dissolved in 1926, with Leesons starting their own business, up until 1954, by the Clock Tower, on the corner of North Street and West Street - where Jonathan currently patrols as a Brighton & Hove Street Pastor! Jonathan also has another set of great-grandparents, the Savages, who have a stained glass window in their memory at St. John's, also dating from the 1800s. They lived at Tower House, a large house not far from Preston Park Station, on the same side of Preston Road.

Jonathan ran his first half marathon aged 54, simply because a friend, who trained him up, believed he could do it. Jonathan, like Cynthia McArthur a current churchwarden at St. John's who is a colleague of his, is a member of a Brighton & Hove Street Pastors team, patrolling the streets, down by the beach, and outside the clubs. Jonathan is hoping to raise £50,000 for the Ascension Trust, the umbrella body for Street Pastors nationally. This will cover:

Training a further 100 uniformed Street Pastors	£30,000
Bottles of water, chocolate	£2000
Flip flops for those struggling to walk in high heels	£3000
Plastic coverings to hand out to the homeless	£2000
Coordinator Support	<u>£13,000</u>
Overall target	£50,000



There is fairly clear evidence that when Street Pastors are patrolling, there is between 30% and 40% reduction in crime; our streets are safer when Street Pastors are out.

Street Pastors, who work in partnership with the Church, Police, local authorities, and night-time economy, are trained volunteers, who provide a listening ear to those who are vulnerable, or unwell through drugs or alcohol. Street Pastors give people on the streets a real sense of being valued and cared for, and prayer is offered, for those who would appreciate that.

Jonathan says: “Please support my run for Street Pastors nationally, by going to my JustGiving page: <https://www.streetpastors.org/brighton-half-marathon/> and help me reach my target of £50,000.

Thank you St. John’s! ”



# From Sue's Kitchen

## Mince Roll

375g pack of pre-rolled puff pastry (chilled or frozen)

1 large onion

1 clove garlic

2 slices of bread for breadcrumbs

500g mince

2tbsp freshly chopped parsley

1 egg

Seasoning

Peel and chop the onion and garlic.

Crumble the bread into crumbs.

Put the mince, onion, garlic, breadcrumbs, parsley and seasoning in a bowl.

Break the egg into the mixture and mix together.

Making sure that the pastry is defrosted and is oblong in shape, starting from the short edge, put the mixture onto the pastry, in a thick sausage shape, leaving a gap all round the edges.

Pull the pastry over the top so that overlaps, moisten the edges with water and gently press them together.

Seal the ends of the sausage y using water and pressing them together.

Rub a little oil on a baking tray and put the roll on the tray, seam side down, so that the seal is underneath.

Brush with a little milk and make a few holes to let the steam out as it cooks.

Place in a preheated oven at 200°C, gas mark 6, for 30 minutes.

Slice and serve hot with vegetables or cold with salad.

*Serves 3/4*

# Why tea is “the drink of getting things done”

The drinking of tea has found an unexpected new champion: James May, the former Top Gear presenter.

Speaking recently on Radio 4, James May said: “I’m just worried that the cult of coffee is going to destroy tea. And I don’t like coffee, it is just rubbish. I like tea.” He added: “Tea is the drink of getting things done.”

How did tea get so embedded in UK culture? Food historian Polly Russell says the answer lies in the Industrial Revolution of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. “Tea became less expensive and at the same time you had agricultural wages slumping, and agricultural workers literally not able to buy food, to buy fuel, or to afford a hot meal. So, tea became a way of having something hot and restorative – often with sugar – and that habit then also translated into the urban, as the industrial revolution expanded into our cities.”

And so it was that “tea became absolutely central to the diet of the working poor.” And this provided the basis for the idea “that tea and sugar were fuelling the industrial nation.”

James May argues that tea drinking is still fundamental to “bringing everyone together and ensuring happiness as well as productivity.”

He believes: “Tea in the British workplace is more than a drink, it’s a social glue. Britain is falling apart because we don’t drink enough tea.”



## Food shortages are ‘likely’ this year

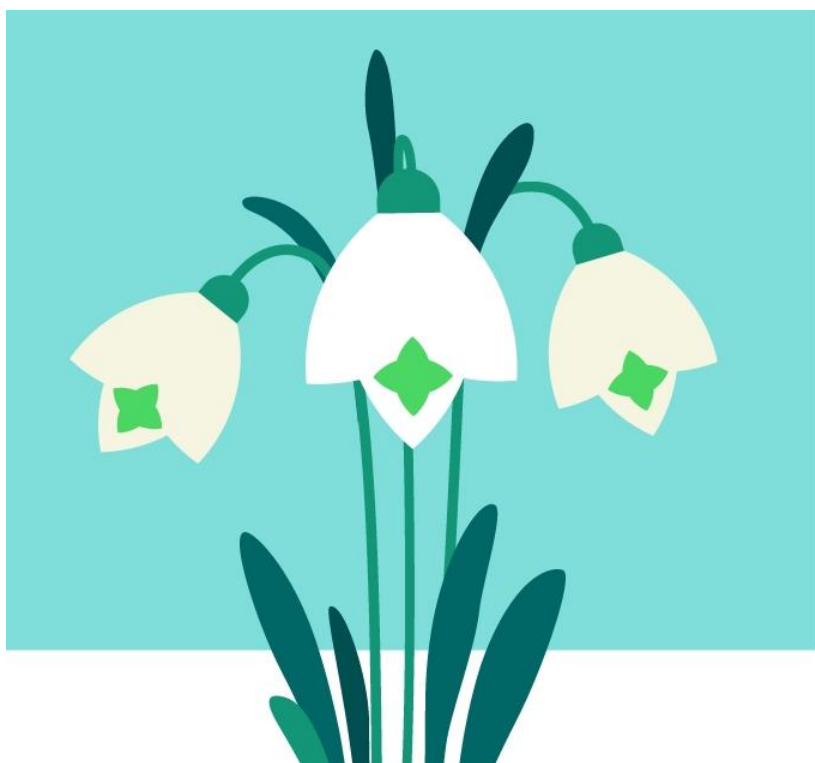
You might find some supermarket shelves empty in the coming months.

A combination of global conflicts, climate change and transportation issues are making it harder for food producers to get their products out of the field and onto your plate. And as at the end of last month (January), it got even more complicated, with the introduction of new checks on the goods coming from the EU into the UK.

Professor Chris Elliott of Queen’s University Belfast is a food security expert. He explains: “It’ll be about affordability but also availability, and the likelihood of empty shelves, particularly fresh produce shelves, in 2024 is alarmingly high.”

Professor Elliott said: “We are virtually totally dependent on other countries for most of our fresh produce, our fruit and our vegetables. We were reasonably self-sufficient in dairy, we were reasonably self-sufficient in poultry and eggs. But that’s also on the decline now, as a result of the collapse of some sectors of the food industry in the UK.”

According to the gov.uk website, just under half of the actual food on our plates is produced within the UK.



Help us win £1,000.  
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us today!

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## *Celebrating the now and future Creation*

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation’s winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever. Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, “Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction.” I

expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

*By Ruth Banciewicz, Church Engagement Director,  
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge*

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## *What is the point of temptation?*

*'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get ... his reward....' James 1:12*

Temptation becomes a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block, when you realise that it's *just as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing.* Temptation just gives you the choice!

It's helpful to remember that God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances in which we're tempted – to express the exact opposite quality! For instance, He teaches us to love by bringing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving you. God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by causing us to turn to Him for comfort and strength, when all our other supports are gone.

He develops peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Peace comes when we choose to trust God in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid.

Likewise, patience is developed through circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse.

You can't claim to be good, if you've never been tempted to be bad; or be faithful if you've never had the opportunity to be unfaithful. Integrity is built through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride; endurance develops as you reject the temptation to give up. The truth is that each time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus.

*Adapted from: UCB, The Word for Today.*



## *Prayer for February 2024*

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,  
Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



# Readings & Collects

## Sunday 4 February - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **Sunday 18 February – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Readings**    Genesis 9: 8-17            1 Peter 3: 18-end            Mark 1: 9-15

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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 25 February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Readings**    Genesis 17: 1-7            Romans 4: 13-end            Mark 8: 31-end

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
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 3 March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Readings**    Exodus 20: 1-17            1 Corinthians 1: 18-25            John 2: 13-22

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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 10 March – Mothering Sunday [4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent]**

**Readings**    Exodus 2: 1-10            2 Corinthians 1: 3-7            Luke 2: 33-35

### **Collect**

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from their offences,  
that through your bountiful goodness  
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins  
which by our frailty we have committed,  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

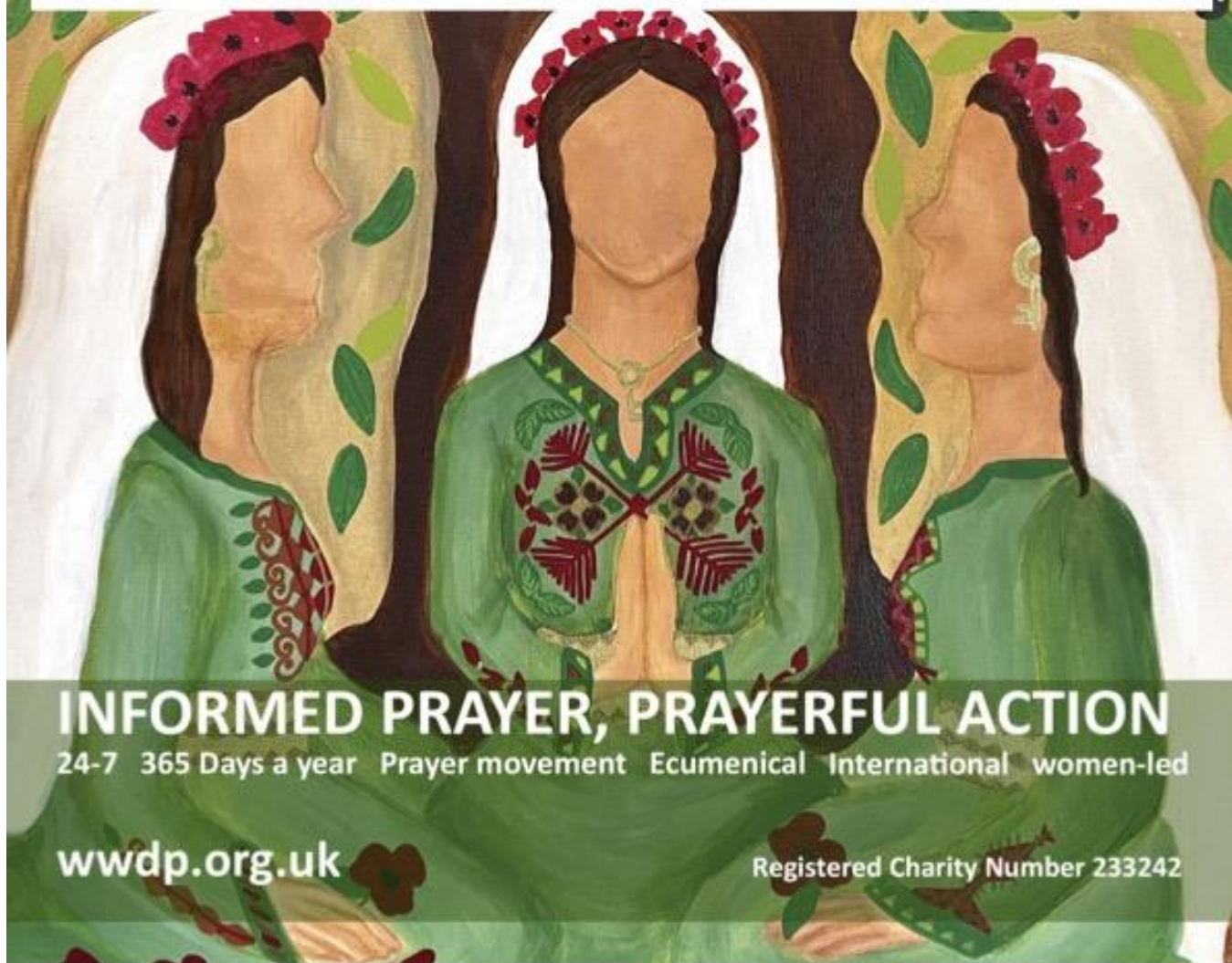
I beg you, bear with one another in love



2pm

Stanford Avenue Methodist Church

Stanford Avenue BRIGHTON BN1 6FD



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# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

Thursday 1	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Friday 2	2.00 pm	Preston Friday Club <i>Prisoners &amp; Punishment ~ Alan Kingshott</i>
Sunday 4	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 6	2.30 pm	Bible Study group
Wednesday 7	10.00 am 10.45 am	Said Eucharist Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 8	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Sunday 11	10.00 am 4.00 pm	Parish Eucharist with hymns Messy Church
Wednesday 14	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
	10.00 am	Eucharist of Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 15	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Friday 16	2.00 pm	Preston Friday Club <i>Beetle Drive</i>
Sunday 18	10.00 am	All-Age Worship
Tuesday 20	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>

Wednesday 21	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Thursday 22	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Sunday 25	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Tuesday 27	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
	7.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday 28	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Thursday 29	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist

## **MARCH**

Friday 1	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer 2024 <i>Stanford Avenue Methodist Church</i>
Sunday 3	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 5	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Wednesday 6	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Thursday 7	7.00 pm	Said Eucharist
Friday 8	2.00 pm	Preston Friday Club <i>Surprising Sussex ~ Chris Horlock</i>
Sunday 10	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with hymns
	4.00 pm	Messy Church





to

Richard Benton-Stace & Diane Long on the 6<sup>th</sup>

David Earle & Colette Northage on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Elizabeth Armstrong & Carrie Donohoe on the 11<sup>th</sup>

Bill Lyon on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Pamela Hubbard on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Diana Warnes on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Megan Walker on the 19<sup>th</sup>

and

Sue Benton-Stace on the 24<sup>th</sup>



Saturday 16 March

11.00am - 2.00pm in the Knoyle Hall

**Bric-a-Brac Clearance Sale**

Saturday 20 April

2.30 pm

**Afternoon Tea Quiz**

More details about these events nearer the time

SEASON 2

# MONKS IN THE CITY

© ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH, KEMPTOWN

## PRAY WITH US

Join the Monks for Prayer in **St John the Baptist's Church**:

**Lauds** (Morning Prayer): Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat - **9am**

**Vespers** (Evening Prayer): Mon, Tues, Wed - **6pm**

**Special Vespers:**

**Ecumenical Vespers** (*Christian Unity Week*) - Sun 21st Jan 4pm

**Vespers for the Feast of St Benedict** - Wed 20th March 6pm

## MIDDAY STILLNESS - FROM 5TH JANUARY TO 22ND MARCH

Every **Friday, 12noon to 1pm**, an hour of music, prayer and reflection in **St John the Baptist's Church**.

## SATURDAY SANCTUARY

**27th Jan, 24th Feb, 23rd Mar : 10.10am to 12.15pm**

Join us for a morning of fellowship, reflection, prayer and silence. Starts in the **Fitzherbert Community Hub**.

## MONK TALKS

Join the Monks for Prayer at **6pm in the Church**, followed by a soup and bread supper at **6.30pm** in the **Fitzherbert Community Hub** with the talk at **7pm**, finishing by 8pm.

**13th Feb** - 'Lent with St Benedict'

**12th Mar** - 'Preparing for Holy Week and Easter'

☎ 07444 802368

📍 St John the Baptist's, 2 Bristol Rd, Kemptown, BN2 1AP.

*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 the perils of ...*

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.



# Leap Year Quiz

- 1 What is a woman traditionally allowed to do on 29 February?  
a) Ask for a raise      b) Ask for a divorce      c) Propose
- 2 A century year is not a leap year unless it is divisible by what?  
a) 20      b) 200      c) 400
- 3 In England and Wales what is the legal date of birth of someone born on 29 February ?  
a) 28 February    b) 29 February    c) 1 March
- 4 A person born in a leap year is called a what?  
a) Leaper    b) Leapling    c) Leapster
- 5 If you are born on 29 February what star sign are you?  
a) Aquarius      b) Pisces      c) Aries
- 6 Approximately how many people living have a birthday on 29 February ?  
a) 400,00    b) 4 million    c) 400 million
- 7 Traditionally what flower is given to someone beginning a journey on 29 February ?  
a) Lily      b) Forget-me-not      c) Tulip
- 8 The Leap Year Cocktail, which consists of gin, Grand Marnier, sweet vermouth and lemon juice, was invented at which London hotel on 29 February 1928?  
a) The Savoy    b) The Ritz    c) Claridges
- 9 A year which is not a leap year is called what?  
a) Standard year      b) Common year      c) Ordinary year
- 10 Which super hero's birthday is reputedly on 29 February?  
a) Superman    b) Spiderman      c) Green Hornet
- 11 In which year was the first calendar with a leap year made?  
a) 455 AD    b) 238 BC    c) 1353 AD
- 12 In which year was the Gregorian calendar introduced?  
a) 1492      b) 1582      c) 1620

13 In which Gilbert & Sullivan opera is Frederic a bound servant for 84 years because he was apprenticed on 29 February until he was 21?  
a) Pirates of Penzance      b) HMS Pinafore      c) Iolanthe

14 The odds are how many to 1 of being born on 29 February ?  
a) 366      b) 5,844      c) 1,461

*Not specifically on the 29<sup>th</sup> but in February nonetheless ...*

15 Nelson Mandela was released in 1990 after how many years as a political prisoner?  
a) 27      b) 32      c) 37

16 Which popular tradition is celebrated in the USA and Canada on 2 February ?  
a) Pancake Day      b) President's Day      c) Groundhog Day

17 The Boeing 707 (Jumbo Jet) made its first flight in which year?  
a) 1959      b) 1969      c) 1979

18 What was used for the first time in Britain on 16 February 1659 to settle a debt?  
a) Minted coins      b) Printed money      c) A cheque

19 February gets its name from Februa which comes from which language?  
a) Italian      b) Greek      c) Latin

20 From which island did Napoleon escape in February 1815?  
a) St Helena      b) Elba      c) Corsica

*... and now for something completely different*

*If American is a foreign language can you 'translate' these words into English?*

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 21 Diaper           | 26 Fall      |
| 22 Elevator         | 27 Thumbtack |
| 23 Sidewalk         | 28 Stroller  |
| 24 Trunk (of a car) | 29 Vest      |
| 25 Faucet           | 30 Drugstore |



## And the answers to last month's January quiz

1. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1907 how many times did US President Theodore Roosevelt shake hands? **d) 8,513**
2. On 1<sup>st</sup> January In which year was the *European Economic Community* (EEC) first established? **a) 1958**
3. On 1<sup>st</sup> January in which year was the *Commonwealth of Australia* proclaimed? **a) 1861**
4. What do people in Portuga/ traditionally eat when the clock strikes 12 on *New Years Eve*? **b) 12 Grapes/ Raisins**
5. What name is given to the *Jewish New Year*? **b) Rosh Hashanah**
6. Which American President issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1863? **c) Abraham Lincoln**
7. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1914 an airline started operating within which American state? **c) Florida**
8. The traditional *New Year Ball Drop* takes place at which *New York City* landmark? **d) Times Square**
9. Which town was captured by the French in January 1558 after 211 years of English rule? **a) Calais**
10. *Arnold Ridley* was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1896, which part did he play in *Dads Army*? **b) Private Godfrey**
11. Which famous Basketball team played its first game on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1927? **b) Harlem Globetrotters**
12. Which Queen of England was crowned at *Westminster Abbey* on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1559? **c) Elizabeth I**
13. Born 13<sup>th</sup> January 1926, which writer created the character *Paddington Bear*? **b) Michael Bond**
14. What did William Pitt introduce in January 1799 to raise funds for the *Napoleonic wars*? **a) Income Tax**

15. Which writer, who created the character *Hercule Poirot*, died on 12th January 1976? **b) Agatha Christie**
16. Who played *Batman* in the US TV series which first aired in January 1966? **d) Adam West**
17. 12<sup>th</sup> January is the birthday of *Sporty Spice* from the Spice Girls - what is her real name? **c) Melanie Chisholm**
18. The battle portrayed in the film *Zulu* ended 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1879, where did it take place? **d) Rorke's Drift**
19. Which American composer completed *Rhapsody in Blue* in January 1924? **b) George Gershwin**
20. Born 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1910, *Django Reinhardt* was an acclaimed player of which instrument? **a) Guitar**

*Go on a New Year trip around the world and unscramble 11 Countries and 1 Capital City!*

- |       |                  |                   |
|-------|------------------|-------------------|
| 21. H | <b>HUNGARY</b>   | Y A R N U G H     |
| 22. A | <b>AUSTRALIA</b> | R A S T U I A L A |
| 23. P | <b>PERU</b>      | U R P E           |
| 24. P | <b>PAKISTAN</b>  | K A P S T A I N   |
| 25. Y | <b>YEMEN</b>     | M E E N Y         |
| 26. N | <b>NORWAY</b>    | W O R N Y A       |
| 27. E | <b>EGYPT</b>     | G T Y P E         |
| 28. W | <b>WARSAW</b>    | S W A R A W       |
| 29. Y | <b>YEMEN</b>     | E N E M Y         |
| 30. E | <b>ETHIOPIA</b>  | H I P O T I E A   |
| 31. A | <b>ARGENTINA</b> | G E N T R A N I A |
| 32. R | <b>RWANDA</b>    | D A W N A R       |

St John the Evangelist, Preston, Brighton

# Bric-a-Brac

# Clearance Sale



Saturday 16 March

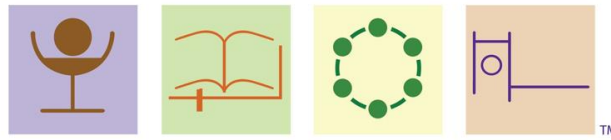
11.00am to 2.00pm

Knogle Hall, Brighton BN1 6RB

# CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

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

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

*Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Seymour  
[safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk)*



**St John the Evangelist**  
**Knogle Road**  
**Brighton BN1 6RB**

[www.brightonstjohn.org.uk](http://www.brightonstjohn.org.uk)  
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