

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Spread the word.....

Dear Friends, below you will see the flyers for Christmas Services. I do hope that any friends or family members you invite will enjoy the times of worship and receive a very warm welcome. May I wish you all a very happy Christmas. That means different things for us all, but whether you are with many, or just a few, may you know the peace of Christ. Rev Preb Sharon.

Christmas at St John's

**Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service**

Short and fun especially for very excited children and adults!

I wonder who we might find in our real life -size stable?

St John's is a church for the whole of Highbridge and we are made up of all sorts of people from pre-birth to nearly 100. We all have a rough bits and our doubts - and we know that God loves us - and it's why we'd love you to join us this Christmas
St John's, Church Road, Highbridge. TA9 3HS

A short service, full of fun and meaning.

The late one on
Christmas Eve

**24th December
Midnight Mass
11.30pm**

a hint of incense, candles on the pillars, all adds to the wonderful atmosphere of this very special service

at St John's, Highbridge

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What better way to start Christmas Day... than on Christmas Eve!

Our vicar is really lazy and doesn't prepare a Christmas Morning Sermon! Instead she asks people to bring an item from their stocking to church and then makes something up on the spot. So, come and help us make it really difficult for her!! (To be honest we only choose about five items - but the congregation does the choosing!!)

**Family Communion
on Christmas Day
10am
St John's, Highbridge**

...remembering the importance of the birth of a small vulnerable baby who changed the world!

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A Slightly shorter Communion..... with all the meaning and full of fun for Christmas morning.

..... and don't forget we are joining our neighbouring villages on **Sunday 30th December for a joint service at 10am at East Huntspill.**

It will be Tonya's final group Service, so if you can make it please do come along. Tonya will leave sometime during February. I am sure there will be an opportunity for a proper farewell nearer the time.



COLLECTS AND READINGS

23rd December: 4th Sunday of Advent Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Collect: Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30th December: Team Service at East Huntspill 10am (no services at St Johns)

6th December Epiphany Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

Collect: Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Pastoral Prayers



To include somebody on this prayer list please let Shirley in the office know by lunchtime on Thursday, making sure the person you wish to be included wants their name in print.

Baptisms: We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised.

Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Betty Montgomery, Betty Player, Christine Marston, Val & George Crawford

For those who have died: We pray for those who have recently died and their loved ones who grieve their loss. Margaret Edwards

Those whose anniversary falls 23rd Dec - 5th Jan:

Sybil Lovelock, Elaine Driver, John Cusack, John Probert, Sheila Amesbury, Walter Griffiths, Maureen Steels, Trevor Davies, Hilda Lock, Norman Cook, Dennis Dicks, Ruth Dyer, Lillian Navan, Baby Tyler-James Woolacott, Margaret Slack, Marion Hodgson

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Pray today for anyone who may come to a service for the first time this Christmas

Christmas Eve:

For our Crib Service and Midnight Mass, as we continue to welcome

Christmas Day:

Those who serve and enjoy the community lunch.

Boxing Day:

For those you have or will spend time with this Christmas

Thursday:

Pray today, for any who may be feeling lost or lonely; consider if you might be an answer to prayer

Friday:

Take a moment to reflect on the year. Have there been moments when you have felt nearer to God?

Saturday:

Pray for yourself today. Bring yourself before God and rest in his love





Are you coming to any of our Christmas services?

.....then please get in touch with Shirley, Sharon or Dan as soon as possible to help make St John's a welcoming and smooth running church this Christmas. You don't have to be on the 'rota' list – just able to offer a smile and hand out a book, pass round a collection plate or take up the communion gifts.

Please don't think it's someone else's job!

Office Closed

The office will be closed between Christmas & New Year (from 21st Dec until 2nd Jan).
Rev Sharon will be on call during this time.
Rev Dan will be first contact during the first week of 2019, whilst Sharon has a bit of a break.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our worship this December. To Shirley who has printed, folded and stapled hundreds of service sheets and played dozens of carols. To our Choir, who sung so beautifully at the carol service, to our readers, welcomers, servers, intercessors, & anyone who helped clear up afterwards. To those who have served coffee, tea, biscuits, mulled wine, fruit juice and mince pies. To nimble fingers sticking sweets on sticks or attaching labels to candles or angels. Indeed, to our countless knitters. To Ian and Harry for once again erecting the stable: twice! (it blew down in a gale). To Olga and her very small but dedicated team of flower arrangers. Thank you, if you have helped by lighting candles and placing them in windows, on pillars or in jars! To Rev Lynne & Rev Dan for leading and preaching and to Preb Crossman, running around as an inflated orange! And to you all for inviting family & Friends. Thank you to Jenny, Ilsa, Mary, Lorraine & Lorraine, for encouraging the Toddlers and Mums and to Liz for her continuing dedication to Little Angels. Both of these groups have done so much to share the Christmas story with our young families. We are a family and a team. Thank you ... and if you've done something that has gone unnoticed..... an even bigger THANK YOU.

Churches Together and the week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The next gathering of **Churches Together** is on **4 January 2019**. Each Church is asked to send two representatives to be held at The Roman Catholic Church in Burnham at 7pm. Don't worry - you are not signing up for loads of meetings. Just one at a time! Please let Rev Sharon know, or add your name to the list (it's OK if more would like to go along).

The week of prayer for Christian Unity is a really good opportunity to get together with our friends from other churches. Two events are happening: **A Quiet Reflective time on Saturday 19th January 9.30am – 1pm (including lunch)** at West Huntspill Methodist Church. And **The Service For Christian Unity on Sunday 20th January at the Roman Catholic Church in Burnham-on-Sea at 6.30pm**. After the service there will be a shared supper so please take a contribution to the refreshments i.e. cold finger food. Coffee/tea and soft drinks will be supplied.

All the details are on the Christmas service leaflets available in church / sent by email.

23rd December



Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Rev'd Preb Sharon Crossman	789290
Associate Priest: Rev'd Tonya Nixon	793950
Training Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch	325194
Churchwarden: Chris Perry	783753

CALENDAR

Sun 23rd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib service 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Family Communion & stocking challenge



Wed 26th **BOXING DAY – NO** Said Communion or Foodbank today

Thurs 27th Little Angels on Christmas break

Sun 30th December 10am **TEAM SERVICE** at All Saints church, East Huntspill

NO SERVICES at St John's today

2019 *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Tues 1st Jan Toddlers on Christmas break

Wed 2nd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 3rd Little Angels on Christmas break

Sun 6th Jan **EPIPHANY 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion**

Tues 8th Toddlers on Christmas break

Wed 9th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 10th Little Angels on Christmas break

2pm or 7.45pm Advent Book discussions in the vicarage
(a few Christmas Nibbles may be on offer!)

Sun 13th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion



To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly please e-mail
office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk or leave a message on 01278 780633

Parish office opening hours:

Weds 8am-2pm Thurs 8am-10am Fri 8am -noon ****CLOSED CHRISTMAS WEEK****

Please ring in advance