

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SIGNPOST

CHRISTMAS 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

Sun 17th 5pm
Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

Sun 24th Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10am Family Communion

31st 10am Team Service
@St John's

To submit an article for SIGNPOST, please e-mail Shirley (Parish Administrative Assistant) via office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk or leave a message on 01278 780633

Welcome to our special Christmas Edition of Signpost. A very warm welcome if you are visiting the area for Christmas, perhaps staying with friends or family or in holiday accommodation. We are so glad you have found your way to St Johns to join the Christmas Celebrations. A special welcome if you have lived in Highbridge for ages but decided to see what Christmas was like at St John's for the first time. Do ask any of the welcome team for more information if you would like to get to know us a bit better. And a really special welcome if this is the one time of year you pop in and get a feel for the real reason we celebrate at this time of year, the birth of a vulnerable child who changed the world. And finally, for those who are here every week, thank you for all you do and are. *Rev Preb Sharon*

COLLECTS AND READINGS

Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass

Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14

Collect: Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your Almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion: God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Christmas Day

Readings: Luke 2.8-20

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Post Communion: God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.



31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21

Collect: God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.





WORSHIP ROTA FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday	Welcomers	Server	Chalice	Reader	Prayers	Offertory	Coffee
24 th Christmas Eve 11.30pm	Christine M	MC Derick Cooper Geof Amesbury Chris Meddings	Chris Perry	Derick Cooper	Int: Neil Biddiscombe	Ian & Olga Chedzey	N/A
Christmas Day 10am	Christine M	MC Graham Dunbavan Marcus Hamblin		Derick Cooper	Rev Sharon	Pauline & Derek Morris	N/A
TEAM SERVICE 31 st 10am		MC Graham Dunbavan	Ian Chedzey				Team to serve juice/nibbles

SERVICES ACROSS THE TEAM FOR CHRISTMAS

Date	Highbridge	East Huntspill	West Huntspill	Mark
24 th	9.30am Said Communion 4pm Crib service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	4pm Christingle & Crib service	8am Communion 2pm Crib service	11.15pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10am Family Communion	No services today	9.30am Communion	No services today
31 st Dec	A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S TEAM SERVICE 10am ST JOHNS (See above)			

Carol Service. 5pm 17th December: A very traditional Service of nine lessons and carols set in a candlelit Church. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Crib Service Christmas Eve. 4pm: A short service especially aimed at excited young children!

Midnight Mass 11.30pm on Christmas Eve: A communion service to welcome the birth of Christ - with the gentle aroma of incense in the background.

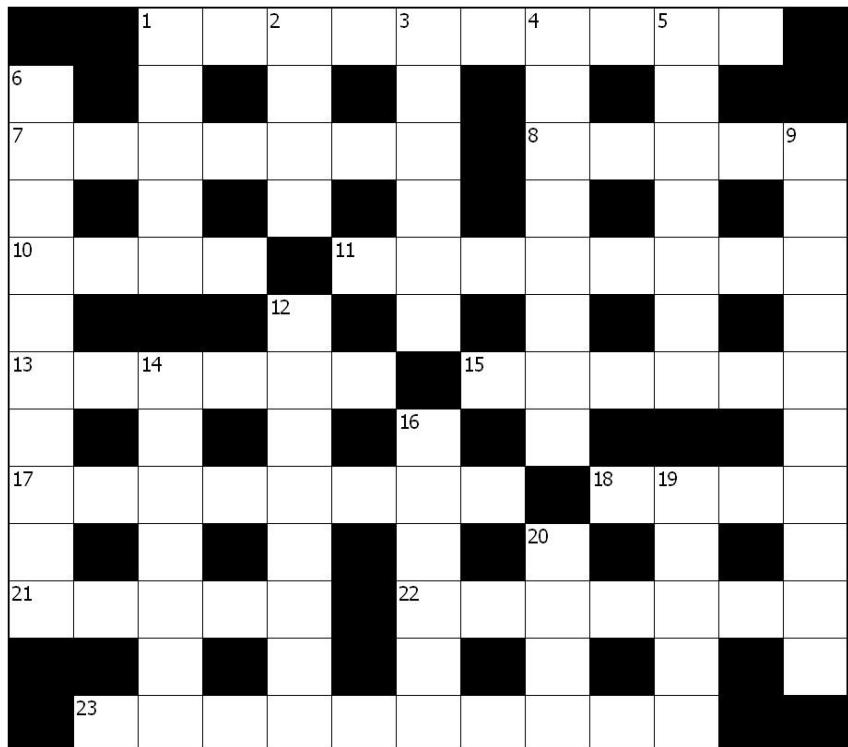
Christmas Day 10am : A family communion service with a twist. Please bring an item from your Christmas Stocking for Rev Preb Sharon's annual sermon challenge!

New Years Eve 10am : A team communion service to say farewell to 2017 and to welcome in 2018. A service when we commit ourselves afresh to living as Christ's disciples and sharing his gospel in our communities.

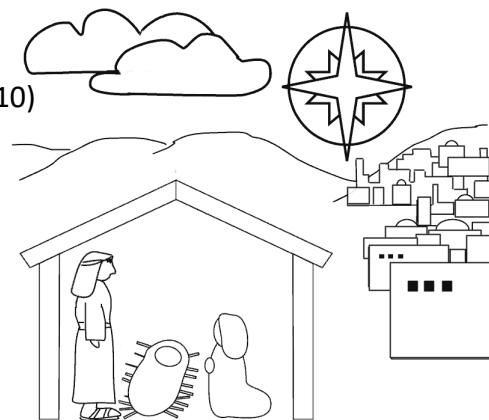


Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

**Down**

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Mouse Makes

Colour in one star a day as you countdown to Christmas

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...
Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".
from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

CHRISTMAS

B	A	B	Y	T	H	O	L	Y	J	U	D	E	A	R	T	H		
B	J	P	E	A	C	E	S	O	N	O	F	L	O	C	K	P	U	S
R	O	F	I	E	L	D	E	G	A	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
I	Y	O	N	B	O	R	N	O	Z	E	G	M	A	R	Y	A	A	A
N	M	R	N	A	T	O	Z	O	A	P	A	A	L	I	R	I	V	V
G	O	D	S	C	H	I	L	D	R	H	L	N	A	S	O	S	I	I
L	J	E	S	U	S	H	O	N	E	L	I	G	H	T	O	E	D	O
O	G	U	A	R	D	I	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	Z	S	U
R	S	L	S	H	E	E	P	W	H	Y	E	R	L	O	R	D	O	R
Y	N	N	A	N	G	E	L	S	B	H	E	A	V	E	N	A	M	E

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

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Crossword solution**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11,

Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar.

22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6,

Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19,

Exist. 20, Save.

Prayers for Christmas**Last Day of School**
*For all my friends and for safe travelling***When work is ended**
*May there be a time of sabbath when I can rest a while in the mystery of this season***Christmas Eve**
*Find a moment to remember and pray for someone today who may be finding the season tough***Christmas Day**
*Rejoice today for the hope and joy that the Christ child brings***Boxing Day**
*Amongst the wrappings and the left-over sprouts look around and value those around you.***New Year's Eve**
*Find a moment to look back and reflect.***New Year's Day**
Find a moment to look forward and to wonder, and listen for a moment to what God may be calling you to be or do in 2018