



# St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

CHRISTMAS 2

'But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart' Luke 2:19

If you wish to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, please email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk) marking your email 'Newsletter Article' by **12 noon Thursdays weekly**.

## Church Services (also on-line)

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January - Mary, Mother of God

10.30 Solemn Mass— Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

18.00 Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

10.00 Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

10.00 Mass — Fr Robert Ward

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January

12.30 Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany

10.00 BCP Mass — Rev Preb John Andrews

19.30 Solemn Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10.00 Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of the Lord

10.30 Solemn Mass — Fr Brendan Clover

+ Mike Hill

17.30 Evening Prayer

## Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

I wonder if you have ever noticed the clerestory window on the north side of the church within the High Altar sanctuary. It depicts Mary and the child Jesus. Beneath it is written in Latin '*Semper Virgo dei para*' - which translated is 'always a virgin, equal to God'. This is the Latin equivalent of the Greek *Theotokos*, the "God-Bearer." It's an extraordinary window and one wonders how it ever got through any Diocesan Advisory Committee!

To call Mary *Theotokos* is to celebrate the unique role that she has played—and continues to play—in God's plan of salvation. And as we honour the *Theotokos* in our celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Sunday January 1, we also celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas, recalling the circumcision and naming of Jesus on the eighth day after his birth (cf. Luke 2:21).

The iconic Christmas image of Mary holding her infant Son embodies the mystery of the Lord's birth, as it brings together the human and divine elements of the Incarnation. And yet, in honouring Mary as the Mother of God, we are also invited to consider another image: the Mother cradling the body of her murdered Son. The same arms which held the Prince of Peace in a stable in Bethlehem received the body of the crucified Saviour of the world on a hill outside of Jerusalem. The Son of this Mother is the true source of peace among nations, within families and communities, and in the deepest recesses of our hearts.

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Numbers 6:22-27 (Reader: Helen)

Psalm 67

**R: O God, be gracious and bless us**

Galatians 4:4-7 (Reader: Robert)

St Luke 2:16-21

Intercessor — Kevin

Cont/

In his Message for the World Day of Peace (also observed on January 1), Pope Francis speaks of the violence that plagues the world today: *"Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart."*

And it was in the depths of her heart that Mary contemplated everything that was happening to her and her Son. She maintained this contemplative stance throughout her life, and she found peace in her contemplation and prayer. As we celebrate this great feast of the Mother of God, we are ultimately being asked to join Mary in contemplating the gift of her Son and allowing the grace of these holy days to change us, so that the Prince of Peace may reign in our hearts and in our world.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan

## PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. Our church and parish and the residents of Chipping Cross.
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus. All parishes under their patronage.
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	All teachers and pupils at the beginning of a new term.
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Our diocese, bishops, priests and parishioners.
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	The Thursday market traders.
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Epiphany – the arrival of the Magi, all who travel long journeys and pilgrimages looking for guidance.
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Our lady of Walsingham and St John's Walsingham cell as we gather to celebrate Mass
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Our church and parish and the residents of Millcross and Byfields.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All subject to there being no changes in Covid restrictions)

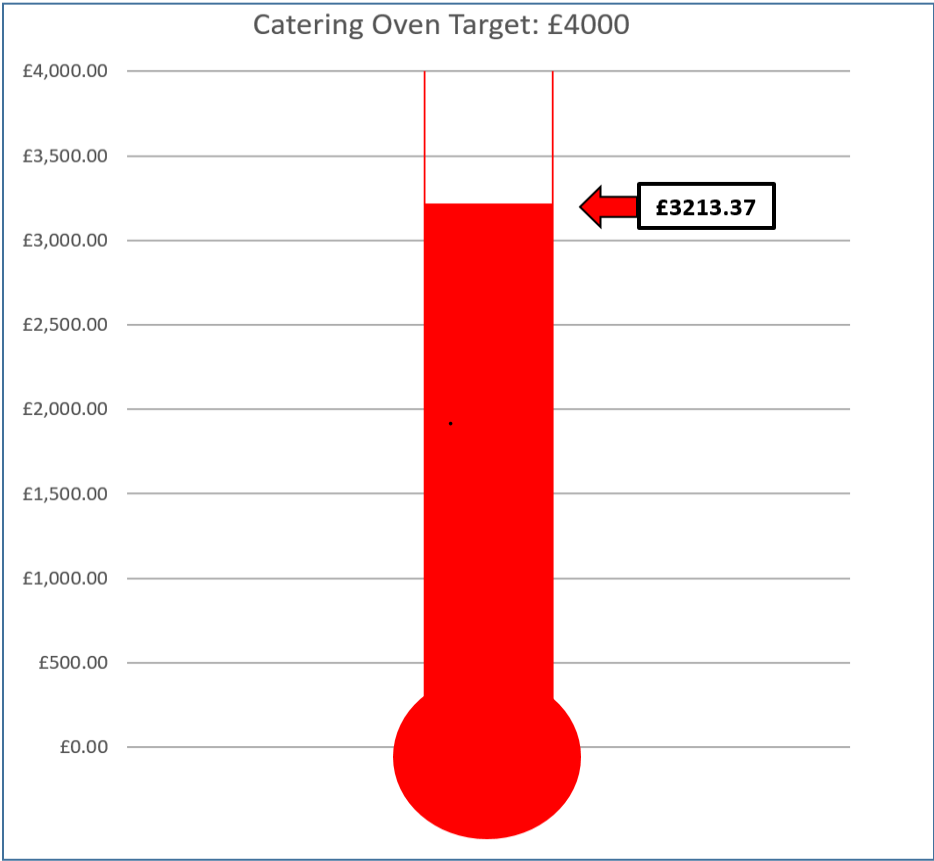
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Epiphany Party at the Vicarage after the 19.30 Mass
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Candlemas -Hot Parish Lunch following Mass
<b>Saturday 18 February</b>	Jumble Sale in the Church Hall – 14.00 to 16.00. Details to follow.

**PLEASE NOTE.... The Parish Lunch arranged for after Mass on 8<sup>th</sup> January (Baptism of the Lord) has now been changed to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January (Candlemas) as above.**



**Don't forget that there is Cheese and Wine at the Vicarage after the Solemn Mass of the Epiphany on Friday at 7.30pm!!!**

**NEARLY THERE!**



### **Offertory Collection**

A recent review has resulted in a decision to continue with a retiring collection for all services, the collection plate is located just inside the church entrance, as is our Electronic Payment Card Reader for those of you who prefer not to carry cash (very much like the King) and wish to donate to the work of St John's.

Thank you to all the members of our church community near and far, who regularly make generous donations to the work of our church through the Planned Giving Scheme and have consented to gift aiding their donations to increase the amount we can receive into our church funds.

Planned Giving Scheme standing order forms are available inside the south door entrance. If you wish to join this scheme, please ask for more details from Nicola or Gary, Churchwardens or Fiona, PCC Treasurer. Thank you.

**Chat and Craft Group** continues to meet every Thursday afternoon in the Church Hall between 2 and 4pm. Bring your own project along to work on, and chat to fellow crafters. A drink and biscuits will be available. For more information, talk to Sue at church or ring on 01275 877710.



## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!



If you would like to take one of the Communion elements to the altar during the offertory hymn, please let one of the sidespeople know when you come into Church on Sunday morning.

## Plant Sale May/June 2023

Please start thinking about this. If you are taking cuttings or splitting plants this autumn, please do a few extra for the church plant sale.



Do you have any pearls of wisdom which could be used in the newsletter? They don't need to be religious; perhaps a special gardening tip, favourite recipe or an interesting story you'd like to share with your Church family. You can even remain anonymous if you wish. If so, please speak to Nicola or Gary or email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

## Sick List

If you need to let the clergy know of anyone who is unwell and/or is needing pastoral care, please email [office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk) or mention this to David or Betty, our Sickness Points of Contact (SPOC's), after the service outside of the church building. Any requests will be passed on to Fr Brendan and names will be added to the sick list.

Calling all bakers! If you would like to provide a cake(s) for one of our regular Celebration Sundays, please add your name to the list at the back of Church. Alternatively, if you would like to celebrate a special occasion (perhaps an anniversary, birthday or exam success) please put your name against the relevant date and bring along your cake (it doesn't have to be homemade) on the day. Any questions, please speak to Sarah or Debra.



## **Answers to Celia's Festive Quiz !!**

**Sorry to everyone but I  
mistakenly put the 'b' answer in Gordon's questions instead of the  
question. Perhaps everyone was able to work it out.  
Celia.**

**1: Micah(5:2)**

**2. 1957 - Sandringham Estate**

**3. Germany**

**4. Charles Wesley**

**5. Willis**

**6. 4th (336)**

**7. South Galilee**

**8. Kermit**

**9. First Sunday in Advent(reference to the Collect)**

**10. 1955**

**11. Mexico**

**12. Chicken and cow's tongue**

**13. Bishops(red hooded robes)**

**14. Penny Post (1840)**

**15. Gas**

**16. Dublin**

**Gordon's  
a:Wellow; b: Pylle; c:Brewham N or S**

### Website

Please log into our website with as much frequency as you are able in order to bring it up the Google ratings...

It is <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/>

The website is a dynamic tool, so please send any comments, criticisms or ideas to Fr Brendan

### Fund Raise as You Shop

We have registered St John's with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Although you may only raise a few pence with every purchase, these donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistclevedon/>

### On-line Giving

Here is the link to our on line facility:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b8e3af98-2c05-4dfb-bd27-570f15c91a21> this link has been added to our Website, our Church Near You page and all our YouTube and other online offerings including social media. Please feel free to share it with all your friends to help with the ongoing good work of our Parish and the exciting outreach plans for our near future (not to mention the maintenance of our beautiful building and Hall!!) The QR code appears further on in this newsletter.

**For those technically minded, here is the QR code for our online giving. Simply scan the code with your smartphone QR scanner and be magically directed to our 'givealittle' page.**



If you need to contact a Churchwarden please contact Nicola Coaker or Gary Lewis. Nicola can be emailed at [churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

Gary's email address is [churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

If you have any safeguarding questions or issues, please email [parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)



**The Vicarage telephone number is 01275 879617**

**The Office Number is 07522 494 504**

Please follow us on our website at: <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/> or at [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/) or on YouTube 'St John's Clevedon' or on Facebook: St John the Evangelist Church, Clevedon or join our WhatsApp group.

