



# St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

ADVENT 2

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)

### Saturday 9 December

10.00 Mass at All Saints, Weston super Mare

### Sunday 10 December – Advent 2

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Mark Smith

17.30 Evening Prayer

### Monday 11 December

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Tuesday 12 December

10.00 Mass at All Saints, Weston Super Mare

### Wednesday 13 December - St Lucy

18.00 Mass – Fr Robert Ward

19.00 Carols by Candlelight, All Saints, Weston super Mare

### Thursday 14 December – St John of the Cross

12.30 Mass – Revd Prebendary John Andrews

### Friday 15 December

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Saturday 16 December

10.00 Advent Quiet Morning at St John's

### Sunday 17 December – Advent 3

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Lessons and Carols for Christmas

## Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

Bear with me as each week I repeat this introduction...

There is a poem by Rowan Williams and it is called 'Advent Calendar'. It is a haunting piece: austere, deep, searching, suffused with wintry aches and longings we recognise as peculiar to this season. The language is as spare as naked trees, tough as hardened earth. It is intended to make us shiver. Its dense texture needs patience to grasp its complexity; its flinty Anglo-Saxon words are unsoftened by soothing Latin or French cadences.

The four stanzas each elaborate a different simile: 'he will come like' the fall of the leaf, like winter's frost, like darkness following a late afternoon flash of sunlight, like the cry of night-time. It stands in a long tradition of northern Europe poetry in which the cold short days around the winter solstice echo our wintry spirits when our light burns low.

The point about imagery is that we shouldn't explain it, for that would be to explain it away, reduce poetry to prose.

Here's the second stanza:

*He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
Opens on mist, to find itself  
Arrested in the net  
Of alien, sword-set beauty.*

Week two is quieter. Its image is of the frost stealing silently across a misty landscape that seems to retreat into itself in hibernation. It's a beauty not its own, says the poem, 'alien', given to it from somewhere else, but clothing it nevertheless in place of the leaves that were

.../cont

The Mass readings for this Sunday:  
Isaiah 61:1-2 && 10-11 (Reader: Celia)  
Psalm 84

**R: Let us see, O Lord. your mercy and give us your saving help.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Reader: Peter)

St John 1:6-8 & 19-28

Intercessor - Judith

When we put God first,  
all other things  
fall into their proper place.

cont/...

stripped away in the first stanza. In a poem by R.S. Thomas, frost and rime encrust the heart, freezing its capacity to respond to the impulses of grace. And here the image of a tranquil winter's day is interrupted by two words that suggest that all is not as it seems. The earth finds itself 'arrested' in a beauty that is not just alien, but 'sword-set'. So winter has caught and held the earth in a fierce and unrelenting grip, like the Snow Queen or the world-weary rejected lover whose frozen heart is echoed in Winterreise, Schubert's winter journey that leads into oblivion.

How can God come like that?

Perhaps because our teeming souls, always restless, never still for long enough to notice God or our own selves need to be frozen by an arresting beauty that transfixes us, holds us in place, making it impossible for us not to pay attention, allow his truth to penetrate our being as the frost penetrates the soil.

The cold and dark and silence of winter is necessary if the earth is to lie undisturbed so that the life that lies latent deep within it can come to birth when the time is right. Advent should make us stand still, watch and pray, become alert to God and the world and our human condition. So it's a metaphor of renouncing falsehood, being true, embracing the one who comes into our lives often by stealth, often unnoticed, arresting us by his grace and truth.

May the God of grace and truth be with you this Advent.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan

## PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

<b>Saturday 9 December</b>	Our Blessed Virgin Mary, her shrine in Walsingham and all who work there, especially Fr Kevin, priest administrator
<b>Sunday 10 December</b>	Our Church and parish and the residents of Byways Caravan Park, Cavell Court and Strode Court
<b>Monday 11 December</b>	All travellers by land, sea and air
<b>Tuesday 12 December</b>	Jane Frances of Chantal – founder of convents for women who wanted to follow their faith but couldn't tolerate the deprivation of traditional convents
<b>Wednesday 13 December</b>	Lucy of Syracuse whose name in Latin means light and has so become associated with the One True Light. A beacon in these dark times
<b>Thursday 14 December</b>	John of the Cross. Poet and teacher of the faith. Our market traders in Clevedon, the artisans and customers
<b>Friday 15 December</b>	All members of Government, local and national, with far reaching decisions to make that affect us all
<b>Saturday 16 December</b>	Our Blessed Virgin Mary. All pilgrims who visit shrines dedicated to her
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	Our Church and parish and the residents of Catemead, The Hyde, Patch Croft and Freelands

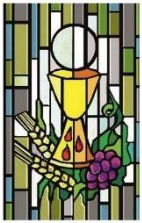
## MASS TIMES



Below are the Mass times for St John's.

Sunday – 10.30 am  
Monday – 6.00 pm  
Wednesday – 6.00 pm  
Thursday – 12.30 pm  
Friday – 10.00 (Book of Common Prayer)

On Tuesdays at 10.00 am and Saturdays at 10.00 am  
Mass will be said at All Saints, Weston Super Mare, BS23 2NL



## 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.

## 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 Betty, our Sickness Point of Contact (SPOC), 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Saturday 9 December</b>	<b>Christmas Wreath Workshop – 10.00-12.30 and 14.00-16.30</b>
<b>Thursday 14 December</b>	<b>Clevedon Children Sing for Christmas – 16.00</b>
<b>Saturday 16 December</b>	<b>Advent Quiet Morning – 10.00 – 12.30</b>
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	<b>Celebration Sunday - St John the Evangelist</b>
	<b>Lessons and Carols for Christmas – 17.30</b>
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>Christingle Family Service – 16.00</b>
<b>Sunday 7 January</b>	<b>Celebration Sunday - Epiphany</b>
<b>Sunday 11 February</b>	<b>Celebration Sunday – Sunday before Lent</b>
<b>Sunday 10 March</b>	<b>Celebration Sunday – Mothering Sunday</b>

## Clevedon Children Sing for Christmas!

is a choral outreach project for children aged 7-11, continuing this Thursday from 4-5pm in St John's Church Hall BS21 7TH and weekly until 14 December when there will be a performance in St John's Church at 4pm, to which all are welcome. Andrew Kirk will be leading this with support from Fr Brendan and other church helpers. Free Entry! For a registration form, please contact [andrewkirkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkirkmusic@gmail.com) or see the church website [www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)  
Please encourage any children of family members, friends or neighbours to come along to sing a wide selection of popular festive songs and carols at this special time of year! See the poster at the end of this newsletter.



## ***Advent at St John's***

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Advent Sunday**

5.30pm 'From Darkness to Light' - a service of music and readings with Henbury Singers and friends directed by Andrew Kirk

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December - 7.30pm Clevedon Choral Society Christmas Concert:**  
Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit pour Noël' and music by Gustav Holst and others

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at All Saints Weston-super-Mare**  
7pm Carols by Candlelight

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

10am-12.30pm Advent Quiet Morning

10am Mass, three talks on Prayer by Fr Brendan at 10.45, 11.15, 11.45, 12.15pm  
Benediction

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3**

5.30pm Lessons and Carols for Christmas

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 4**

4pm Christingle Family Service

11pm Midnight Mass

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Family Christmas Mass

# Christmas Wreath Workshop

Saturday 9th Dec 2023

10.00am-12.30pm and

2.00pm-4.30pm.

St John's Church Hall, Queen's Road,  
Clevedon.

All materials and tuition provided

£25.00

Includes light refreshments.

All proceeds to St John's Church Hall  
Restoration Fund.

To book email:

[SarahLewis@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:SarahLewis@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)



## 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.



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.



**Chat and Craft** is taking a break over Christmas. Next meeting will be on Thursday 4th January.

## CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"You can always tell when he's going to preach from the book of Romans!"

### Could you represent St Johns on the council of Churches Together in Clevedon?

There are 12 Clevedon Churches in CtiC, and together we are able to achieve things which would not be possible alone. For instance it was Churches Together which set up the Food Bank, and before that Clevedon Care, although both are now independent charities. Currently the biggest project is the chaplains. You may see them in the town centre or in the Hill Road area, wearing their grey sweatshirts. They are members of local churches who have been trained to offer support to local businesses and market stall holders. We also support Changing Lives and YMCA, and refugees in Clevedon.

CtiC organises united events such as the Good Friday service in Queens Square.

The council meets 6 times a year, when representatives from all the member churches get together to share what is happening in the town and discuss the way forward. It is always interesting and sometimes inspirational to meet representatives from the other churches and hear what they are doing. I have been representing St Johns for a number of years, and have loved doing it, but find I can no longer manage the meetings.

If you feel this could be for you, speak to Gary, Nicola or Fr. Brendan or Judith.

Sue Rossiter

### 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

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)



## CLEVEDON DISTRICT FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Clevedon District Foodbank will be providing over 600 Christmas hamper bags to people and families this Christmas time.

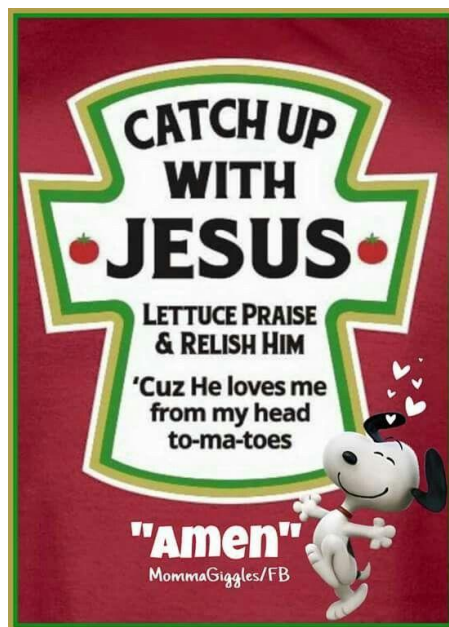
If you would like to help, we would appreciate any of the following donations. Please drop the donations off at Neads Court Unit 3 Knowles Road Clevedon by **as soon as possible**.

- Cranberry Sauce
- Stuffing
- Christmas Cakes
- Other Cake eg Mr. Kipling
- Biscuits
- Mince Pies (dated January 2024)
- Crackers
- Pringles
- Hot Chocolate

We have enough tins of ham and tins of salmon.

People can of course donate at the Foodbank on Monday or Friday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am.

**THANK YOU!**



### 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.



## Church Flowers

Would you like to sponsor church flowers to celebrate a birthday or commemorate an anniversary?

We would be very happy to dedicate the church flowers to you or a loved one if you let us know in advance. There is a flower rota available at the back of church.

Front pedestal suggested minimum donation £10

Statue of Mary suggested minimum donation £5

We may not be able to provide specific flowers to order but will try our best. There will be a card and holder available for you to write a special message to display with the flowers.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

**at St John the Evangelist, Clevedon**

**One-off gift or give monthly, quarterly, or annually**

Your generosity is vital to enabling St John's, Clevedon to continue and grow in the way we serve our whole community. We would therefore like to invite you to consider supporting our work by joining the Parish Giving Scheme. It is quick and easy to join online or by telephone and all regular gifts given through the scheme are covered by the direct debit guarantee. You can make a one-off gift or give monthly, quarterly, or annually, whichever is most convenient and if you are a UK taxpayer you can also gift-aid this to enable us to recover a further 25% of the value of your gift from HMRC. The financial details of what is given will be confidential to our Treasurer, but I will be aware of the overall response and will write to thank all those who respond.

To start giving to Clevedon St John by PGS you can sign up online by visiting [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code below. Use the search tool to find our church and then select 'Regular Giving.' Alternatively you can setup your gift by telephoning 0333 002 1271 and quote our unique PGS Parish Code - **010601377** or you can request a paper registration form by emailing [pgsregistrations@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:pgsregistrations@bathwells.anglican.org) or by calling 01749 670777

If you need further information or want to talk this through with someone, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Coaker, Chair of St John's Finance Committee, Angela Edgar, Treasurer or Fr. Brendan Clover, whose contact details can be found at the top and bottom of this newsletter.



## **St. John's 100 Club**

The 100 club is an easy way you can help raise money for St. Johns. It only costs £12 per year (equivalent to £1 / month) and you will be entered into a drawer every month with a chance to win a prize.

Over the last 15 years the 100 club, has raised over £12,000 for the church and has paid out almost £8,000 in prizes.

Providing we have more than 80\* people join we will pay out £40 in prizes each month and any profit over £510 will be paid to the Church but there is no upper limit, the more the merrier and the more money that will be raised for the church.

The three prizes are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £25
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £10
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £5

*\*If there are less than 80 members, there will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.*

**If you join the Club before 18 December 2023, your name will go into our additional 'Special Christmas Draw' with a chance to win £30 for 2024 members only.**

We would like to thank Arlene for all the hard work she has put into setting up and running the 100 club over the last 15 year. Without her dedication, the church would have been at least £12,000 poorer. Arlene has now decided it is time to hand over the reins, so please don't let all her hard work go to waste and join today.

Please contact any of the organisers to enquire about joining, to get your application form and to be allocated a number, or two. Talk to any of us in church or by emailing using one of the email addresses below.

Remember, Christmas is just round the corner so why not buy your family and friends a number as an early Christmas present.

**Fiona Dixon**    [fional.dixon@btopenworld.com](mailto:fional.dixon@btopenworld.com)

**Angela Edgar**    [PCCTreasurer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:PCCTreasurer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

**Nicola Coaker**    [churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk)

## **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/>



## ***Celia Quiz Answers!!***

1. Mount Ararat
  2. On year(Nancy Astor)
  3. Camel
  4. Martin Shaw
  5. 1895
  6. 1876
  7. Rugby, Warwick, Evesham, Pershore, Tewkesbury
  8. The Mystery Of Edwin Drood
  9. Escudo
  10. Thomas Jefferson
  11. Hungary
  12. Berwick Rangers FC
  13. Ely
  14. Louis Pasteur
  15. Pansy
  16. Beethoven
- GORDON'S
- a: Ditchheat; b: Evercreech; c: Clanville

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.

*All Saints Church*  
*All Saints Road BS23 2NL*



**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**

*Carols by Candlelight*

*in aid of Weston RNLI*

**Harmonia Sacra**

**Bristol Brass Consort**

**Director: Peter Leech**

**Organist: Matthew Nicholls**

**Celebrant: Fr Brendan Clover**



**FREE ENTRY with Collection for RNLI**

**The Parish of All Saints with St Saviour**

**Website: [allsaintswsm.org](http://allsaintswsm.org)**

**Email: [allsaintsandstsvaiour@btconnect.com](mailto:allsaintsandstsvaiour@btconnect.com)**





# ***HE IS BORN***

## ***"Il est né"***

Charpentier's Messe de Minuit pour Noël  
and music by Gustav Holst and others

Musical Director  
**Matthew Clark**

Accompanist  
**Richard Lennox**



**Saturday 9th December, 7.30pm**

**at St John the Evangelist Church**

Queens Road, Clevedon

**Tickets £14**

Includes a drink

**available on the door and from**  
Clevedon Choral Website

Members of

**making  
music**

**[www.clevedonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.clevedonchoralsociety.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No: 294276







Nailsea Choral Society  
DIRECTOR: TOM WILLIAMS

JOHN RUTTER'S

# GLORIA

and other works for a Christmas season featuring:  
**BRASS ENSEMBLE** and **ORGANIST**

**SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023**  
7.30pm | Nailsea Methodist Church

Tickets: ADULTS £15 U18s £5 | [www.nailseachoral.org.uk](http://www.nailseachoral.org.uk)



Registered charity no: 263411