



St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2021

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 2 BEFORE ADVENT

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

Church Services (also on-line)

Saturday 13 November

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 14 November – Remembrance Sunday

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Said Evening Prayer from the BCP

Monday 15 November

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 16 November

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 17 November – St Hugh

10.00 Mass – Revd Prebendary John Andrews

Thursday 18 November

12.30 Market Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Friday 19 November – St Hilda

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 20 November

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 21 November – Christ the King

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Said Evening Prayer from the BCP

Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

This week I hope you will forgive me, those of you who heard it, if I repeat here part of my sermon of last Sunday:

Brothers and sisters we have a problem. The total giving of our parishioners equates only to the money we give to the Diocese, £21k. There is no money for anything else. We have some great plans going forward to unlock our parish buildings, so wonderfully placed at the heart of our town, in service of the community. We are planning concerts and educational trips to the Church, our annual Patronal Festival celebrations in May, the use of our halls by the community, and so much more besides, while continuing to offer worship that has excellence at its heart.

But the truth is that day by day we are living beyond our means. Our expenses exceed our income. And this is at a time when the Diocese is making a substantial investment in us as a parish, and me as your parish priest.

In broad terms it costs around £56k for a full-time priest. This is made up of the stipend (not very much), housing and pension. We are paying £21k. And the problem with this is that when the time comes to consider what happens at the end of my three years, we have no bargaining power whatsoever.

And then there is the future of the hall, a spend of £50k or £60k given the rising costs of building materials. There's an aspiration to continue to live stream all our services which means investment in professional equipment.

Three weeks today the new Christian year begins on Advent Sunday. Today I am asking you to consider whether you can increase your giving to St John's. We are not expecting the widow's mite but 10% of earned income given to charity is the biblical instruction.

.../cont.

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Daniel 12:1-3 (*Reader: Alison*)

Psalms 16

R:

Hebrews 11:32-12:4 (*Reader: Judith*)

St Mark 13:24-32

Intercessor – *Martin*

Daily Prayer (The Office)

Evening Prayer is said publicly in church every day (except Wednesday) at 5.30pm.

Morning Prayer is said at 9.30am when there is a 10.00am Mass.

cont/...

Planned giving is best, with Gift Aid if you are paying tax, or donations via our website, or a gift in your will. We are trying to make it easier for you to give and will be installing a card reader. Whatever you can pledge will help us meet the challenges the future holds. But be ye sure of this: our very survival is at stake.

Ever

Fr Brendan



The Vicarage Telephone Number is 01275 879617.

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 at parishpriest@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 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.

Review of Sick List

If current names are to remain on the list we need to know by email to Office@.....
by **Friday 12 November** or Churchwardens Nicola or Nick.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox reminder

This **Sunday 14 November** is the last day for bringing shoeboxes to church. This is so they can be sent off in good time to reach the children they have been packed for by Christmas.

Alternatively you can pack a shoebox online at shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk

It would be very good if we had a prayer theme for each day of the week that we could all focus on, to help unite us as a parish.

Your parish priest has been trying to make time to create one but to no avail.

We are therefore looking for a volunteer.

Would you be able to look at the days of a month with the Ordo (which gives you all the liturgical detail, saints days etc.) at your side, and think of a prayer theme for each day other than Sundays when the prayer theme is 'Parish and People'? It's a relatively simple task. It just needs someone with the time to do it.

If this might be you, please have a word with Fr Brendan.

Hundred Club Winners

The winners for October are: 1st Georgia, 2nd Kay, 3rd Marianne
Congratulations to you all!

WANTED!



St John's Church urgently needs to put in place a "meet & greet" team to be available for Sunday services and also for other special services. A smile and a friendly greeting go a long way towards making a visitor feel welcome and indeed our regular worshipers too. If you are willing to be part of a team please talk with me or email me on dianemw@blueyonder.co.uk and I will set up a rota.

It would also be good if more folk were willing to read a lesson on Sunday mornings, or indeed a weekday. If you would like to lead the Sunday intercessions Fr. Brendan is willing to run a workshop to enable that. Please contact me or Fr. Brendan if you are willing to help with any of these requests. Thank you, Diane.

Advent Saturday Church Opening - Volunteers Please

We are planning to open the Church on Saturday 4th, 11th and 18th December between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm (Mass is from 10 till half past) to show off our beautiful building with light refreshments available. We are looking for volunteers to help for an hour or so to either serve hot drinks, make a cake or welcome visitors. We also plan to sell our draw tickets, the remains of the items from our church shop and indeed any other Christmassy things. It's an opportunity to raise some much needed funds as well. So, if you feel able to volunteer for an hour, feel like channelling your inner Mary to bake a cake or two, there is a list at the back of the Church to pop your name on. Please speak to Nicola or Kevin. Thank you.

BREAD AND SOUP CHARITY ADVENT LUNCHES



Please consider joining Fr Brendan for a charity lunch every Thursday during Advent. Lunches will be held in the Vicarage at 1.00 pm (after the Market Mass, which begins at 12.30. Donations please, all proceeds will be sent to Clevedon Food Bank. There is no need to book a place, though it would be useful for catering purposes to know how many people to expect! Please let Fr Brendan know of any special dietary requirements.



Chat and Craft Group is meeting every Thursday afternoon drop-in between 2 and 4pm. Bring your own project along to work on, and chat to fellow crafters. Normally we have the kettle on, but while the electrics in the church hall are being worked on please bring your own drink. I will bring biscuits. For more information talk to Sue at church or ring on 01275 877710.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- 4th Sunday of the month (not December) – Celebration Sunday – join us for a glass of wine / sherry and cake to celebrate any birthdays or anniversaries during the month

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/>

CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING



Instead of our usual Christmas Fair we going to have a BIG raffle, legally licenced and with printed tickets which we can sell to our family, friends and neighbours. Books of tickets are now available at the back of the Church to take away with you. We will need lots of prizes, so if you have any unwanted and unused presents, please bring them to Church. In addition, you will find a list of possible prizes at the end of this newsletter. A copy of this list will be at the back of the church; if there is anything in particular you would like to provide please put your name against the suggestion. Feel free to donate other things if you wish! Your

donations can be given to either Judith or Debra. If you would like to make a contribution to the main cash prize, please speak to Fiona.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

All materials and tuition provided.
£25 per person includes coffee and homemade cake.

St John's Church Hall,
Clevedon.
Saturday 27th November
2021. 10am-12.30pm.

Limited places. To book
please contact
pcctreasurer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk



CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENING



David Green is going to sing some Christmas songs and carols in the Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Friday 10 December. This event will be free, but ticketed. Mince pies and mulled wine (or tea/coffee) will be available in the interval. Donations can be made to the Trussell Trust. Please let David know as soon as possible if you would like tickets – 07798 522918 or dmewin44@gmail.com



Many of you will know that we sponsor a child through the charity Embrace – her details are in the Church porch. If you would like to further support the work of Embrace in the Middle East, please take a moment to look at their online brochure, which is full of beautiful cards and alternative gifts. The link is <https://shop.embraceme.org> or call 01227 811646



Donations to Clevedon Food Bank can be put in the Food bank bin at Tesco, taken to the Food Bank in Knowles Road on Mondays or Fridays between 9.30 and 11.30 am, or added to your local street collection. **There is also a basket in the porch at Church for your goods. Please deposit them when entering the building. Thank you. Sue**

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.

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO CELIA'S LATEST QUIZ - NOW WHAT?

1. Dial Hill
- 2: Harold
3. Jaguar
4. Jodie Whittaker
5. Behemoth
6. 1951
7. Lagos
8. Emirates
9. Emerald
10. 1700s
11. New Caledonia
12. David Copperfield
13. Chard (a variety of beet)
14. Farthing
15. Silver Fish
16. Cats

AND GORDON'S POSERS

a: Car, crossing; Ford, b: Where male swans cross the river; Pensford, c: For your number in the past: Dial
d: Channel swimmer's moor. Webb's Heath

Please follow us on our new website at: <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/> or at 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.

For those a bit more 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.



AN INVITATION TO JOIN OUR MEDITATION GROUP

A small group of friends decided, about five years ago, to join together for silent meditation. Members came from various churches around the town but, mostly, from St John's. We hoped to grow in spirituality and understanding by following simple meditative techniques practised throughout the Christian World over many centuries. We all believe we have benefited from meditation and we would like to invite you to join our group and share our experience.

Very little is required other than an open mind, and a willingness to devote a small amount of time to inviting God into our hearts. We do listen to short talks and contemplate simple themes but we also learn a lot from each other.

HOW OUR GROUP PRACTICES MEDITATION

We meet at 2.30 pm on alternate Tuesdays, at present in St John's Church due to COVID concerns, but previously in the homes of our members. Meetings last one hour. A note is circulated before each meeting, by email usually. This suggests a theme that we contemplate, and may discuss after meditation. Those that do not have email access are contacted by phone or post. As an example, Celia recently suggested the following theme, taken from Psalm 46:

"Be still then, and know that I am God"

At 2:30 pm we sit down and say a short prayer before entering 20-25 minutes of silent meditation. A prayer is then said for the peace of the world, followed by a recorded 5-10 minute talk on a meditation-related subject which we discuss together and, if we wish, share our reflections on the chosen theme. If we meet in a member's home we usually finish with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

HOW TO MEDITATE

Sit down; be still but relaxed and alert.
Try not to think about anything; spiritual or otherwise.
Open your heart and mind to God's silent presence.
Persevere.

HOW TO JOIN US

Simply talk to Ann Lindley, Celia Andrews, David James, or Fr Brendan.

If you need to contact a Churchwarden please contact Nicola Coaker or Nick Dixon. Nicola can be contacted on 07940759891 or email her at churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk
Nick's email address is churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk Thank you.

If you have any safeguarding questions or issues please email parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES

Any donations of prizes towards the Christmas Raffle will be gratefully received. If you would like to provide something listed below, there will be a list in Church on which you can mark your name as appropriate. If you would like to give anonymously, please put a tick in the 'Donated By' column.

Prizes can be given to Judith or Debra.

Raffle Prizes

Donations towards the £100 prize (2 x £25 and 5 x £10)
Bottles – wine, sherry and spirits
Store gift cards (available from Tesco and other retailers)
Theatre and cinema tickets
Restaurant and coffee shop vouchers
Local shop vouchers
Free haircuts/therapies/beauty treatments
Boxes/tubs of chocolates
Tins of biscuits
Toiletry gift sets
Anything else people can donate!

Christmas Hamper

Christmas crackers
Christmas cake
Christmas pudding
Wine
Shortbread
Net of nuts
Dates
Box chocolates

Sunday 14 November 2021 – 2nd Sunday before Advent

Finishing Line

Bible readings – Mark 13: 1 - 8

Questions

- What is the most amazing building you have ever seen?
- There are lots of troubles in the worlds. Which one concerns you most?
- One day God will “make all things new”. What do you want to see made new?

Prayer suggestion: - Pray that humans do all they can to look after God’s world.

***Father God,
I pray for those men and women,
Past and present,
Who served and serve for us nobly and bravely
Amen***

This week’s challenge: - Do something practical to show you care for Go’s world

Activity suggestions:

- Activity sheet for 2nd Sunday before Advent
- Puzzles, word searches and colouring in the Young Church Mag (YCM) for this week based on remembrance Sunday and Mark 13: 1 - 8

If you do not have access to a printer and would like the activity sheets printed out and delivered to you, please contact me (Fiona) and I’ll arrange for you to receive copies.

Good Luck from St. John’s Sunday Club Team (Sue & Fiona)