



# St John the Evangelist

# Newsletter



SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

ADVENT FOUR

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 17 December (*O Sapientia*)

10.00 Mass and Holy Hour – Fr Brendan Clover

### Sunday 18 December – Advent 4 (*O Adonai*)

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Service of Lessons and Carols

### Monday 19 December (*O Radix*)

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Tuesday 20 December (*O Clovis*)

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Wednesday 21 December (*O Oriens*)

10.00 Mass – Revd Prebendary John Andrews

### Thursday 22 December (*O Rex*)

12.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Friday 23 December (*O Emmanuel*)

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

### Saturday 24 December

10.00 Mass and Holy Hour – Fr Brendan Clover

16.00 Dress-up Crib Service

23.00 Midnight Mass

### Sunday 25 December – Nativity of the Lord

10.30 Family Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer

## Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

Last weekend was significant in the Parish with a magnificent performance of Handel's Messiah, a great sermon from Revd. Rosey on Sunday morning, outreach work in the afternoon, and a Christingle which attracted new families into St John's. Many thanks to everyone who had any part in things and to our Outreach and Community Committee of the PCC for all the work behind the scenes.

This Advent is the longest the season can be with Christmas Day on a Sunday so there is still time for some spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ child. On this Sunday Advent 4 the Gospel of Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from St Joseph's viewpoint. He was betrothed to Mary who, 'before they came together... was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit'... St Joseph is presented as 'a just man' faithful to God's law and ready to do his will. Having given up the idea of divorcing Mary secretly, Joseph took her to himself because he then saw God's work in her with his own eyes.

We should never underestimate what all this meant. The later readings from the New Testament speak of the pregnancy of a young woman who was not married, yet (hence the ancient term "virgin") she was brave enough to agree to be the mother of someone who was sent by God to reverse what had gone wrong with humanity. She knew that culturally she would possibly be stoned for being pregnant before she was married. She would certainly be despised and rejected as a woman and if Joseph, her fiancé, had rejected her she would probably have never been acceptable as a wife to another man in an arranged

.../cont

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Isaiah 7:10-14 (Reader: Peter)

Psalms 24:1-6

**R: Let the Lord enter, let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory**

Romans 1:1-7 (Reader: Gary)

St Matthew 1:18-24

Intercessor – Diane

cont/...

marriage. All this, and yet she was brave enough to agree to be part of God's plan to restore the balance and break the power of sin.

Because of this, the Christian Church has always regarded Mary as one of the greatest human beings. Even Muslims hold her in the highest esteem. The culture of the middle east at the time of Jesus is shocking to us. Two out of every three people were slaves. Girls did not go to school. All marriages were arranged. Women had to cover their whole bodies in public. Only sex workers left their heads uncovered!

This week let us give thanks to God for the sheer courage of Joseph and Mary. Joseph did not follow his own plans but entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the One who will fulfil the prophesies and open the time of salvation. That is what we are called to do.

Wishing you a happy and holy Advent,  
Fr Brendan

## PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

<b>Saturday 17 December</b>	Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary. Eglantine Jebb, founder of the Save the Children Fund
<b>Sunday 18 December</b>	Our Church and parish and the residents of Catemead, The Hyde, Patchcroft and Freelands
<b>Monday 19 December</b>	First Day of Hanukkah. All Jews who celebrate this festival of light
<b>Tuesday 20 December</b>	Members of Government, both local and national, who are faced with tough decisions that they may do what is right, and not that which is easy
<b>Wednesday 21 December</b>	All who will be alone during the approaching festivities
<b>Thursday 22 December</b>	The Thursday market traders and their customers
<b>Friday 23 December</b>	All young people who have died needlessly in recent days and all who have care and responsibility for young lives
<b>Saturday 24 December</b>	Christmas Eve. Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave her first born son to the world
<b>Sunday 25 December</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

<b>Friday 6 January</b>	Epiphany Party at the Vicarage after the 19.30 Mass
<b>Sunday 8 January</b>	Baptism of Christ – hot meal in the Church Hall after 10.30 Mass Details to follow
<b>Saturday 18 February</b>	Jumble Sale in the Church Hall – 14.00 to 16.00. Details to follow.

### Winners of the 100 Club for November are:

First: 34 Mike , Second: 23. Martin, Third: 76. Mike **Congratulations!**



## CLEVEDON FOOD BANK NOTICES

### OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS (please note in your diary...)

#### OPEN:

**Clevedon**

**Monday 19th** - Friday 23rd  
December 2022

**Friday 30th December**

(open normal times  
thereafter)

Yatton Foodbank Open as  
normal 9.30am - 11.30am

Nailsea Foodbank - open  
as normal Fridays 12.30-  
2.30

Portishead Foodbank -  
open as normal Fridays 12  
pm - 2 pm

#### CLOSED:

**Monday 26th**

December (Boxing  
Day )


For emergencies outside those times, our mobile phone (07722 769529) will be monitored and we will endeavor to get back to you as soon as possible.

#### Donation/activity

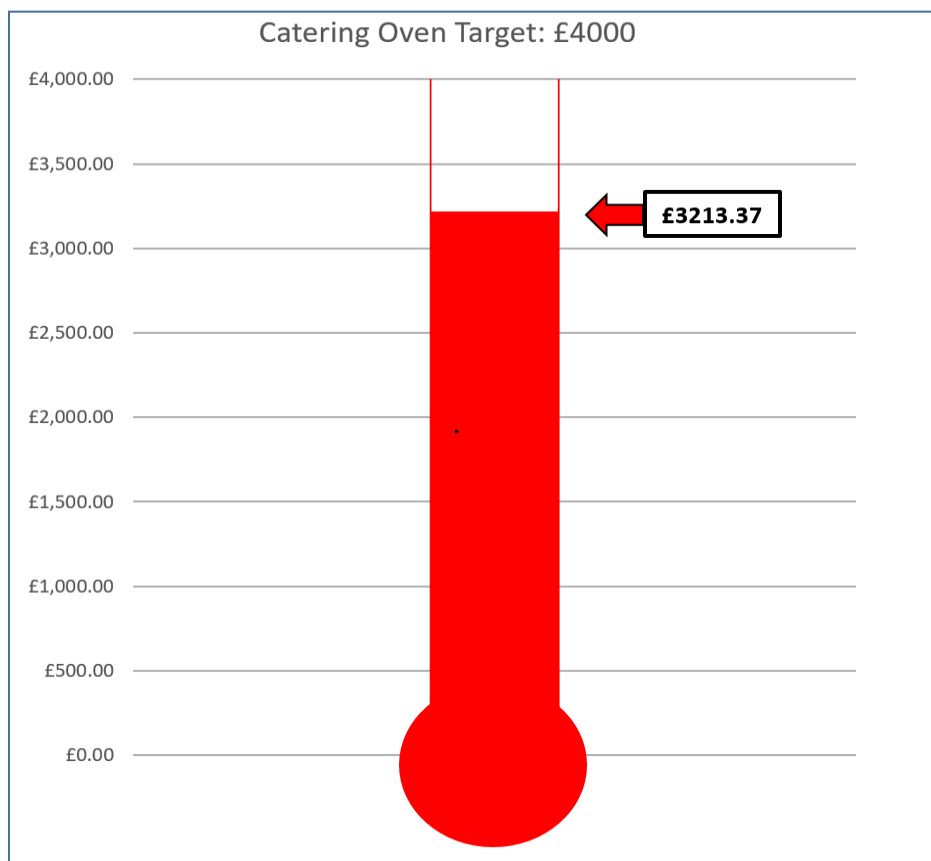
**Advent calendars:** these mean so much more if they're in  
children's hands at the right time!

#### Most helpful if with us by

Last two weeks in November, please!

<p><b>Donations of vouchers:</b> As a change to previous years we will no longer be accepting Christmas gifts- we have asked for vouchers (£5 &amp; £10) High street, Supermarkets.</p> <p>For anyone wishing to donate direct - these are our bank details  Clevedon and District Foodbank CIO Account Number: 41477102 Sort Code: 40-17-50</p>	<p>Friday 1st December, please...</p> 
<p><b>Donations of Christmas food:</b> please check our website and social media for the most-wanted items – this will be regularly updated.</p>	<p>The first week of December, please!  (Please check the sell-by/use-by dates are long enough...)</p>

**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.

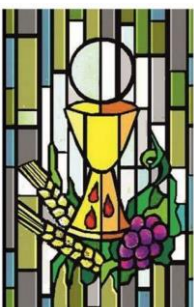
Planned Giving Scheme standing order forms are available inside the south door entrance. If you wish to join this scheme, please ask for more details from Nicola or Gary, Churchwardens or Fiona, PCC Treasurer. Thank you.

**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.



**"The last thing I remember, I was sitting in a staff meeting. Apparently, I died of boredom."**

## **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.



### 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

## ANSWERS TO CELIA'S LATEST QUIZ

**1: Unknown - Bible doesn't say.**

**2, Edward III**

**3. Ecuador**

**4. 506 for 4**

**5. Dykes**

**6. 1690s**

**7. Coconuts and dates**



8. Jacques

9. Jonathan

10. 1950s

11. Geneva

12. West Suffolk

13. Capuchin

14. George Fox

15. Canada

16. Oboe

Gordon's

a: Old Ditch; b: Williton; c: Dundon

## Christmas Greetings



Adrian and Pauline Highams wish everyone at St John's a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year xx

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to all my friends at St John's, Betty xx

# CASSOCK

## A BIG THANKYOU FROM KEVIN



A very big and heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to buying my first Cassock! It was a wonderful and very moving surprise when it was announced on the Sunday after my acceptance for training for ordination. I was measured for it during the summer at J and M sewing in Newcastle and am pleased to say it has arrived in time for me to wear it tomorrow at Mass when I shall be preaching. I shall always treasure and look after it and every time I put it on it will remind me of the wonderful family of St John's who will be always kept in my prayers. Thank you !!

### 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 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.