



St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021

ADVENT 4

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 18 December

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 19 December – Advent 4

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover
Preacher – Rt. Revd. Mike Hill

17.30 Said Evening Prayer from the BCP

Monday 20 December

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 21 December

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 22 December

10.00 Mass – Fr Robert Ward

Thursday 23 December

12.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve

17.00 Family Crib/Christingle Service

18.00 Vigil Mass – Fr Robert Ward

23.30 Midnight Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 25 December – Nativity of the Lord

10.30 Mass of Christmas Day – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 26 December – Feast of the Holy Family

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Monday 27 December – St John the Evangelist

18.00 Mass with Carols – Fr. Brendan Clover

Tuesday 28 December – Holy Innocents

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 29 December – St Stephen

10.00 Mass – Fr. Brendan Clover

Thursday 30 December

12.30 Mass – Fr Robert Ward

Friday 31 December

10.00 BCP Mass – Rev. Preb. John Andrews

Saturday 1 January – Mary, Mother of God

12.30 Mass with Carols with Parish Cell OLW – Fr. Brendan Clover

Sunday 2 January - Christmas 2

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Said Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 3 January

18.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 4 January

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 5 January

10.00 Mass – Rev. Preb. John Andrews

Thursday 6 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

19.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Robert Ward

Friday 7 January

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 8 January

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 9 January – Baptism of the Lord

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Said Evening prayer from the BCP

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Micah 5:1-4a (*Reader: Peter*)

Psalm 80:2-3;15-16;18-19

R: Let the Lord enter, let the Lord enter!

He is the King of glory

Hebrews 10:5-10 (*Reader: Gary*)

St Luke 1:39-44

Intercessor – *Celia*

The Choir will begin this Taize meditation during communion. Please feel free to join in the prayer.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and

Bless his holy name

Bless the Lord, my soul,

who leads me into life.

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.

Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

This Sunday we welcome Bishop Mike Hill, formerly Bishop of Bristol, as our preacher. In the evening we have a service of Readings and Carols. The clock is ticking down to Christmas.

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies. (Thomas Pestel)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

It is, of course, Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century when the Christian Church reinterpreted the Mithraic festival of *Natalis Solis*, the Birthday of the Sun, as the occasion of the Saviour's birth. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth.

The Christmas season is celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. And it is full of Festivals: Stephen, the first Martyr; our own St John the Evangelist; the Holy Innocents; Thomas Becket; the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. There are many opportunities to immerse ourselves in these celebrations as Mass is offered every day.

May God grant you a happy and holy Christmas,
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.

The Clergy's Recommendations for Advent Reading

Fr Brendan

My recommended Advent reading is John by Niall Williams.

'What invisible drama plays, what passes to and fro in the columns of air above them, none knows, but the disciples think: perhaps the time is arrived at last.'

Aged, blind and perilously frail, John the Apostle has walked ten thousand miles to tell of love. In a hundred years he has lived to witness sights and scenes that now cloud his mind. Of his followers, there are few remaining, banished with him to an island where they wait as storm clouds whip the island with rain. They wait for the world to free them from exile. They wait for signs that seem like they will never come.

But eventually a sign does come and together the disciples leave the island. They embark on a journey that will change their lives forever: a journey filled with purpose and fear which will test their belief - in love and in each other - to breaking point, and John must face his biggest battle yet.

Prebendary John

I would recommend To Be a Pilgrim by Basil Hume. It is an old book (1984 though it has been reissued since then) but still very relevant to anyone who seeks to follow Christ. Hume explores spirituality is a series of short thoughts, the sort of work you can dip in to and it is a great encouragement answering many of the questions any of us might face. It is an easy read.

It is published by St Paul Publications. ISBN 085439 231 9. It is available on Amazon price £9.99.

If anyone thinks they might like to read it but cannot get hold of it they would be welcome to borrow my copy.

Fr Robert

I'd suggest something like Tom Wright's 'Luke (or Matthew) For Everyone'. It is not academic, is easy to read and be bought for about £10 from Amazon.

Advent Saturday Church Opening

Saturday 18th December -10.30 am and 1.00 pm

The Church will be opened this last Saturday in Advent, to show off our beautiful church to our local community. Light refreshments will be available. We plan to sell our draw tickets and the remains of the items from our church shop. It's an opportunity to raise some much needed funds as well.

Thank you to the volunteers for giving up their Saturday mornings to be on hand to welcome visitors to the Church, those who have provided hospitality, those who have provided Christmas gifts for sale and those who studied the history of the church to be able to share their knowledge and guide visitors around our beautiful building. Nicola & Kevin.

BREAD AND SOUP CHARITY ADVENT LUNCHES



The final Advent Charity Soup Lunches takes place Thursday, 23 December, 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.

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/>

ANSWERS TO CELIA'S QUIZ ANSWER ME THIS- - -

and GORDON'S POSERS

1. Elton Road 2. Jersey 3. Haifa 4. 1963 (November) 5. Jacob 6. Cutty Sark 7. Agate 8. Macbeth 9. Desperate Dan 10. Oliver Cromwell 11. Small antelopes 12. Martina Navratilova 13. Lunar rocks 14. George I 15. Kent 16. While Shepherds Watched	a: Crossing for an old sailor?: Saltford; b: Booming bird? almost: Bitton c: Teeming with pigs?: Hambrook d: No upland for ewes?: Ram Hill
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Saturday 18 December 19:00	The Grand Draw live streamed from The Vicarage.
Monday 27 December St John the Evangelist 18.30	Mass with carols, followed by cheese and wine at the Vicarage
Thursday 6 January The Epiphany	Mass at 19.30, followed by cheese and wine at the Vicarage
Sunday 30 January Candlemas	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 27 February Last before Lent	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 27 March Mothering Sunday	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 17 April Easter Day	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 29 May Ascension Day Festivities	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 26 June	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 24 July	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass
Sunday 21 August	Celebration Sunday – cakes and wine in Church after Mass



Happy Christmas

Betty would like to wish everyone a very happy and joyous Christmas

*Christmas blessings to our lovely church family.
With our love and best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas.
Fr Robert and Debra*

*Happy Christmas wishes to everyone
from Mark, Helen, Edward & Andrew Calloway*

*Best wishes for a very happy and peaceful Christmas
Nicola, Kevin & Hannah*

*Janet and John Scammell wish all at St John's a joyful Christmas.
We hope 2022 brings peace, good health and happiness to all.*



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.

Please follow us on our 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.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

supported by the trussell trust

HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS CHRISTMAS

In the week leading up to Christmas Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton foodbanks will be giving out Christmas hampers, and parcels to local individuals and families in crisis. Please support us by purchasing an item from the shopping list

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

- Christmas Cake
- Savoury Biscuits
- Hot Chocolate
- Chocolate/ Sweets
- Toiletries
- Long Life Squirty Cream
- Long Life Juice
- Pringles
- Soft Drinks
- Tinned Salmon

Don't forget...
You can help transform more lives with a financial donation too.





www.clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk
info@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales 1163153

Important Public Notice

Statutory School Admissions Arrangement Consultation

Proposals to Alter The Admission Arrangements Applying For St John the Evangelist Church School

The Consultation:

In accordance with the requirements of the 2021 School Admissions Code, the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust is proposing to remove the designated catchment area for St John the Evangelist Church School which is currently used to prioritise admission applications in the event of oversubscription (Criterion 3).

This proposal is subject to public school admission arrangements consultation according to the timeframe and arrangements set out below. It is proposed that the catchment area will be officially removed on 1 September 2023.

The reason for removing the catchment area is to generally improve the level of fairness for all children. It will no longer be the case that admission applications for children living within a defined catchment line on a map will be prioritised over those applications for children who live more locally when measured by straight line distance. Proximity of the home address to school will determine the application priority whereby those living closest to the school by straight line measurement will be given the higher priority. This also helps to support the principle of a wider school choice for parents and children.

You may view the proposed School Admission Arrangements and changes here:

North Somerset Admissions – BWMAT

The consultation will open on **3rd December 2021** and will close on **21st January 2022**.

During this period, you are invited to submit any comments concerning the proposals by letter or email:

Please e-mail: AdmissionsNSom@bwmat.org

Please write to: Admission Arrangement Consultation (North Somerset)
Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust
Flourish House
Cathedral Park
Wells
BA5 1FD

What happens next?

Following closure of the consultation, the Admission Authority will meet to consider any comments returned during the consultation period. Within eight calendar weeks of the consultation ending, a response will be published on the school website and consultees will be informed of this.

Once agreed in final form the Admission Authority will publish the 2023/24 Admission Arrangements on the school website by 15th March **2022**.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19th December

5.30pm LESSONS AND CAROLS

24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm FAMILY CRIB & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

6pm Vigil Mass

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

26th December - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

10.30am SOLEMN MASS

27th December - FEAST OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

6pm MASS WITH CAROLS

28th - 31st December

Mass at the usual times

1st January 2022 – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

12.30pm MASS WITH CAROLS

2nd January – SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.30am SOLEMN MASS

5.30pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

6th January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

19.30pm SOLEMN MASS and Vicarage Party