



# St John the Evangelist – a beacon on the hill



## St John's Newsletter for February 2025

**Inspiring a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, sharing our faith, pastoral care, making disciples and by being the heart of the community**

### Verse of the Month

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

### Services at St John's 10.00am unless otherwise stated

Date		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Presentation of Christ	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fourth Sunday before Lent	Morning Worship
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Third Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Second Sunday before Lent	Morning Worship

### Refreshments following Sunday Service

Do stay for refreshments after the Sunday Service. A great time for a chat and to get to know each other.



### Licensing of our Priest-in-Charge

The Diocese have advised that the **Licensing** of the Revd Tobias {Toby} Joseph Lancaster as Priest-in-Charge of our parish will take place on **Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm** in St John's Church. Toby will be Licensed by the Right Reverend Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes and Installed by the Revd Matthew Foy, Assistant Archdeacon of Hastings. The service will be in the context of the Eucharist and will be followed by refreshments.

Please note this date in your diary and join in welcoming Toby and his family to the parish.

Toby will commence duty on 10th March, but will not be moving into the Vicarage for a month or two until various works have been completed.

## WEEKLY EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

**Monday - Singing for Fun** – Do come along and join this friendly group.

Opens at 10am for coffee/tea and biscuits and time for a meet up before the singing which starts at 11am. You will sing a variety of popular songs “*just for fun*” with Stephen Page.

Cost £5.00 per session which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit.

**Tuesday and Thursday - Common Grounds Coffee Café** - Open from 10am to 12noon



Café sells a variety of coffees (filter, latte, cappuccinos), teas and hot chocolate plus cakes and savouries. There are also cold drinks  
There is a free top up of filter coffee and tea.  
Come along and visit the café and perhaps bring a friend. There is always someone to chat to. Dogs and children welcome.

**Tuesdays 10am to 12noon – The Chatty Craft Club – Takes place in the Church**

Come along, have a chat and make new friends. Bring your own materials/crafts or use the materials which are already in the Church. Come and use your skills or learn new ones. Free to attend. **MAKE SURE YOU LOOK AT THE LARGE VARIETY OF CARDS ON SALE NEAR THE SERVERY – all at very reasonable prices.**

The Common Grounds Coffee Café is open at the same time for drinks and food.

**Meetings for the Month**

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm – Domestic & Outreach Committee in Church Room

**Advance Information**

**Electoral Roll.** 2025 is the year when the parish Electoral Roll is *renewed*. This means the existing Roll is scrapped and a new one is prepared. Those wishing to have their names on the Roll will have to complete an Application Form. Formal notice will be given in March and application forms will have to be completed and returned by 1st May.

**Annual Meetings.** These are to be held on **Wednesday 21st May** commencing at 7.00pm in St John's Church. The first meeting is for the election of Churchwardens. This will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting {APCM} when various reports for the year 2024 will be presented and Deputy Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members elected. The first meeting is open to all those on the Electoral Roll and others who live in the parish. At the APCM, only those whose names are on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. Please note this date in your diary.

*John Mercer, PCC Secretary*



**'St John's Holy DustBusters'**

Many thanks for all those who came along in January. The date for the next “St John’s Holy DustBusters” will be **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February** from 10am to 12 noon. Come along and join in the fun of cleaning together. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Maureen Hinkley*

Contact - by speaking with me 01424 754872 or by email [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com)

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Please sign up and use for all your **holiday bookings**

You can find our easyfundraising page

here: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshollington/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-rbd21-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshollington/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1)

Over £1.2 million was raised in travel donations last year

Give your 2025 fundraising a boost!



Causes raised over £1.2 million last year from **holiday bookings** - don't let St John's Hollington miss out!

## Diocesan Family Support Work

Extract from recent newsletter from Family Support Team

*Dear Friends,*

*The Christmas festivities seem a long time away, as life for our families has settled back to their ongoing struggles. Despite our help with extra food and presents at Christmas, many families experienced a particularly difficult time with energy costs in the cold weather, so it was a real relief for them to have access to our winter fuel fund which is so generously supported by many individuals. The continued rise in general prices across food, energy and petrol is of great concern still, and practitioners are spending a lot of time helping families with budgeting and accessing other sources of support and advice. We are very fortunate to have very close links with CAP, Citizens' Advice Bureau and other more local groups which can give families specialised advice.*

*We hope shortly to be able to announce new members of staff across various areas of our work, following the departures of valued team members at the end of last year and the need to expand our back-office team to support the frontline work.*

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

## Collection of food items for Diocesan Family Support



Very many thanks to those in the congregation and the Singing for Fun Songsters who generously donate items for the families supported by the Diocesan Family Support team. All items collected go to the Diocesan food bank where they are sorted and distributed to families in need.

Items requested are same as last month: Tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit

## Quiz Afternoon in aid of St John's Building Project

Saturday, 8th February at 2 p.m. in St John's - organised by Marilyn Holdstock

Sorry if you were hoping to come but all tables have been sold

### OUR TOWN

Talk up Hastings, so they say,  
The town's image was sinking fast.  
But now we have a shopping mall,  
The doom has now been passed!

I love the Alexandra Park,  
Peace and beauty all around.  
Tennis courts and beautiful flowers  
And much wildlife to be found.

Now the quaintness of the Old Town,  
With the aire of smugglers and contraband.  
The fishing huts and cockle stalls,  
The shingle and the sand.

The cliff tops walks at Fairlight,  
Along the South Downs way.  
A stroll around Rye and Winchelsea,  
Would really make my day"!

So listen here, one and all,  
Don't be fed up with all things bad.  
Look to Hastings and use it,  
Condemn the people who abuse it,  
It's the best you've ever had!

*Marilyn Holdstock*

### Local Morning Prayer Group (Everyone Welcome)

Do join for Morning Prayer. Log in and try this small group meeting for Morning Prayer.  
Takes place every **Wednesday and Friday at 8am on zoom**

Sessions are led by parishioners and open to anyone regardless of the church attended.  
Morning Prayer takes the form of bible readings, followed by a very short reflection on one of the readings, thought for the Day, open prayers followed by the Lord's Prayer and closing with the Grace. Lasts for approx 20/25mins.

You can either log on *via the calendar on St John's website*  
<http://stjohnshollington.co.uk/stjohns/> or use the zoom link below

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9055256447?pwd=aFn25c6K5prf9w4RJKlumWuiZILTLo.1>

The daily plan can be requested by emailing [tommotompkins@aol.com](mailto:tommotompkins@aol.com) or can be found via link on St John's calendar under morning prayer.

**Please remember in your prayers**

St Clements & All Saints: Emmanuel;  
Christ Church Blacklands; Holy Trinity; TEAR Fund;  
High Glades Medical Centre; Hospital Chaplaincy Team

Parish of the Good Shepherd;  
Christ Church St Leonards; St John's, Pevensey Road;  
St John's Standing Committee;  
Street Pastors; Christian Aid;  
All teachers, support staff and education specialists

Please also remember those who are named in the St John's Prayer Leaflet

**SUPPORTING THE WORLDWIDE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PRAYER**



Of the estimated 1,070 Christians who were living in Gaza when the war started, only some 600 are still trying to survive in Gaza. Hundreds have left, crossing the border to Egypt. Many of the remaining Christians found shelter in the Greek Orthodox church, or in the Catholic church. Early in the conflict, on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, it became clear that this was not a guarantee of safety: during a bombardment of a nearby target by the Israeli military, part of the building collapsed and 18 Christians were killed. At least 30 from the small Christian population have been killed by bombardment or shooting. Like other Gaza citizens, the 600 have returned to where their homes were before they were destroyed. The church buildings still provide a place of shelter at this time.

Let us join these Christians in their prayers:

That peace will remain in the land;

For God to speak words of wisdom and comfort to those sheltering in Gaza;

For protection over the community of believers and opportunities even in this situation to share the gospel. *Amen*

In absence of a Vicar - Please contact [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com) for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Funerals

The Diocesan website can be accessed via this link:- <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/>

You can subscribe to the Diocesan e-news via this link:-

<https://diochi.us4.listmanage.com/subscribe/post?u=7a86e90c11bd11bb3e7fe22e6&id=1b2e7005c3>

Deadline for the next Newsletter is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025. Please send Items via email to [newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk)