



Christingle Double Whammy

Our Christingle service takes place next Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM. It will once again be an action packed, visual and child oriented service.

This year we have decided to do a second Christingle service at St Francis School in Taw Hill on Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM. Doing it at that hour means we get to do it in the dark.

We will do the St John's Christingle event with complete with oranges, candles, Christingle play etc Unfortunately, Bexy Simpson is going to be in Spain on that day so we will have to make use of her understudy that afternoon.

A Christmas Gift From St John to St Francis: Making the Christingles is a huge job if done by a small number of people, but if done by a large group, it is manageable. We would like to offer a gift to the people of St Francis by producing the Christingles for their Christmas Eve service that morning. It happens to be a Sunday so we are setting up a Christingle factory in the Church Room. If some people from 9:00 AM were able to stay behind and make some Christingles, and some 11 o'clock members were able to arrive early, we could make the Christingles both between the services and immediately after the 11 AM. I think it is what Honda call "Working Just in Time". Speaking of Christmas

St John's Christmas starts on Saturday at 12 noon. At the time of writing we are looking forward to the *Seniors' Christmas Lunch* which will see Sharon, Carol, and Mary stepping down after many years of faithful service.

Christmas in a Bun. On December 15 from 10:30 AM until 2:00 PM the Rock Cafe will be serving *Christmas in a Bun*. You can exhaust yourself racing around *Marks & Spencer's*, *Next*, *Homebase*, and *Boots* knowing that you can collapse in a heap in the Rock Café. Mary Southgate will be presiding over this event which has proved very popular in past years. (There will be a vegetarian option.)

A Big Thank You to John Evans and Paul Nichols for their hard work in enabling St John's to deliver the bulletin through a new solution which overcomes the problems we were experiencing sending it as a pdf document from the parish office mailbox. The web page which now hosts the bulletin is on the church website, but this page is not public and can't be found in searches. The new way of sharing this also provides you with a list of previous bulletins so you can easily catch up.



Prayer Meeting - TOMORROW!

The next monthly prayer meeting will be held in church tomorrow, Monday 4th December, from 2pm to 3pm and will be led by the Monday homegroup. This is a great opportunity for all who are free during the day to meet together for just one hour to pray for the many needs of the world, our nation, our town, our church and our people. **If you would like to attend but need a lift**, please sign your name on the list on the table in the church foyer and we will arrange for you to be picked up and taken home again afterwards.

Buying Christmas presents on line?

Don't forget, when doing your online Christmas shopping, that many websites (including Amazon) will give a donation to St. John's if you go in through www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshaydonwick Please visit the website for more details – it's very easy to do and will benefit St. John's. In addition, there is an app that you can download if you use mobile devices.



Counters and bankers

We are so grateful to the people who are on the rota to count and bank our offerings each week. **However, we have recently lost a couple of our counters and are down to 13 people on the rota**, which means that when the new rota is drawn up for January to April 2018, the counters will be on duty once every 6 weeks which is more often than we think is desirable. **So we are looking for four more counters. Could you be one of them?** Counters work in pairs to count the money immediately after the 11am service is finished. The only rewards are the grateful thanks of our Churchwardens and Treasurer, coffee or tea and biscuits, and the knowledge that they are performing a valuable and important service. Our treasurer, Andrew, will be preparing the rota for January to April in a couple of weeks' time. **If you would like to join the loyal band of counters and bankers, please have a word with Andrew (tel: 01793 725526) as soon as possible.**

Hard to believe:

If we needed proof of the secular nature of Britain today, it was provided this week on national television. Ben Shephard asked a contestant on ITV's *Tipping Point*, "Which Biblical figure do Christians believe is the son of God sent to save mankind from death and sin?" The reply was "Pass".



Christmas flowers

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers used to decorate St. John's over Christmas, **please pass your donation to our Treasurer, Andrew, by next Sunday, 10th December.** If your donation is to mark a special occasion or is in memory of a loved one, we will note this in the Bulletin on Sunday, 17th December **if you let Andrew have a note in writing with your donation.**

Please Pray: Sadly, it is a time of loss and bereavement for a number of members of our church family: **Tony & Jill Nash & family** after the sad loss of Tony's mum this week; **Julie Jarman** for strength and peace when she speaks at Paul's funeral on Wednesday 6th. **Brian and Lesley Mead, Frank, Dan and Amy** as they mourn the loss of their father and grandfather. **The invitations to our Christingle service and other Christmas services**, as they go out on paper to school children locally, via the ROCK café and Pram club and also through our website and social media. At the first anniversary of **Molly's** death we remember her with thanksgiving.

Mon 4th	9.30-11.30am 2-3pm 7.45pm	Pram Club Prayer Meeting led by Monday Homegroup Choir practice for the Carol Service
Wed 6th	1.00-3.00pm	Craft Club in Church Room
Fri 8th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Café
Sat 9th	11.15-12.15pm 1-4pm	Children's Choir Practice Christingle orange making for Craft Clubbers & anyone else who would like to join us.

Please pray for our church family	
Mon 4th	Faure & Louise Breytenbach
Tue 5th	Ian Bridge
Wed 6th	Allan & Cathy Brown & Sophie
Thurs 7th	Peter & Grace Burrett
Fri 8th	Richard & Christine Burston
Sat 9th	Donald & Daphne Carter
Sun 10th	Cecille Cobcobo

The Communion Table:

We will remove the communion table from the dais before choir practice on Monday evening.

A questionnaire seeking your opinion will be sent online, and will be available on paper.

No decision will be made until the New Year.

Services Next Week - Advent Sunday			
Sunday	9am	Holy Communion 1662	Raymond Adams
10th Dec	11am	Morning Praise	Raymond Adams
	4.30pm	Christingle Service	Raymond Adams

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk or Telephone 726000. All items for the bulletin to the office in writing by first thing on Wednesday. Thank you.

St John's Haydon Wick

Sunday, December 3rd 2017

Advent Sunday



"A Door Opened"

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion	Peter Fletcher	Hebrews 9: 1-15 Matthew 15: 1-20
11.00am	Morning Praise	Peter Fletcher	Exodus 30: 1-10 Hebrews 9: 1-15