

Real Advent Calendar.

People who think Christmas can't happen this year because of a shortage of HGV drivers haven't understood what Christmas is all about.

For £4.50 you can buy a Real Advent Calendar for children or grandchildren. That will explain why we count down to this wonderful festival.



Sunday
24 October 2021
Last after Trinity

Please pray for our church family

Mon	Anna Richardson & Matthew Leighton
Tue	Kathleen Ridley & Harry
Wed	Simon & Sally Robertson & family
Thurs	David & Jo Rudland & family
Fri	Yvonne Rumble
Sat	Amos & Elvira Sabling & family
Sun	Mark & Mel Sansome

Prayers:

- Safety for Charmain as she visits her father in Hong Kong after his fall
- Correct diagnosis for Rachel Crosby and strength in time of worry for the family
- A swift remedy for the faulty Covid testing and for mild symptoms for those infected
- A strong commitment for companies to tackle online abuse with Innovative measures
- Greater awareness & thoughtfulness for the vulnerable in our society, for the church to find ways to set an example



A Vision
of
God

Services Next Week

31 Oct 21	9am	Holy Communion in church	Raymond Adams
	11am	Morning Praise Live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Morning Prayer in Church	Simon Robertson	Ezekiel 1:1-28
11.00 am	Morning Praise Live streamed to YouTube	Simon Robertson	John 1:1-5

Operation Christmas Child

For many years we have run our **Shoobox Appeal**. We do have flat pack boxes in church if you would like to pick one up. However, you will have to take it to *The Entertainer* yourself this year. We cannot get boxes into the town centre.

There is an easier way to do this. If you donate £20 to Samaritan's Purse, they will make up a box for you. A member of our 9am contacted me this week to say how impressed by the sheer number of gifts that went into her box last year. I guess they are able to buy in bulk. Look on their website (Operation Christmas Child).



Jar of Grace

The idea behind the Jar of Grace is that you drop a few coins into a jar every time you say grace. If you still use real coins we will always be pleased to receive your jar in the New Year. However, it feels like **The Virtual Jar of Grace** might be the best way to go again this year. (Bank details below) As every year, all gifts will be split between **Tear Fund** and the **Diocese of Luwero** in Uganda.

Account Name: PCC of St. John's, Haydon Wick
Sort code: 40-52-40
Account number: 00018582
Reference: **JOG** if not gift-aided.
JOGGA (if able to gift aid the donation.)

Thank You from Church Pastoral Aid Society

"Thank you so much for your latest quarterly donation of £412 from St John's Haydon Wick. We received your most recent standing order on 1st October 2021.

We are so grateful for your continued support, particularly at a time when churches and church leaders are welcoming all the support that they can get.

Please pass on our grateful thanks to the PCC, and to your congregation, for choosing to continue to partner with CPAS. We really appreciate your support."

One of the things CPAS do is to help churches find their next vicar (see page 3)

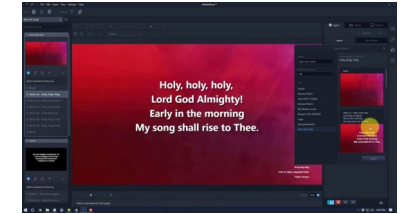


The Team in the Balcony

During every single service in St John's, we have a team operating the technical equipment in the balcony. Without those people we would have no sound and no visuals. The computers do not operate themselves. Covid has, of course, reduced the number of people who are free to help.

People willing to get involved with these areas are going to be needed.

The mixer desk would really suit someone who likes music but may not themselves be able to play or sing. If you are at home with technology, this would be a really good area to be involved in.



Vacancy Coming Up!

In about a year and a half St John's will have its first vacancy in over 30 years.

This is not quite a record in the Diocese— but it is definitely up there. Clergy vacancies can be about nine months long and we do not have any LLMs (Lay Readers) or SSMs (Self Supporting Ministers) here at St John's.

What we do have is a congregation with many members who are more than capable of leading our worship on Sunday mornings, both in terms of leading and preaching. Raymond's big task next year will be to prepare the church for his departure. And just to prove that we have already made a start, **Lesley Hawkes** will

be leading the service this morning at 9am and **Bill Hunt** will lead the 11am service for the first time.

Bill has agreed to preach in a new series in the New Year. Others in the church who will be able to follow this lead and preach for the first time. Let's not just think of men!

Our diocese knows that an over-long vacancy is not a good thing. On the other hand, many people have discovered latent spiritual gifts for the first time when there has been no vicar in post. They have gone on to use them in the future to build up the church.

My prayer is that we will be hearing from some of those people in 2022.

