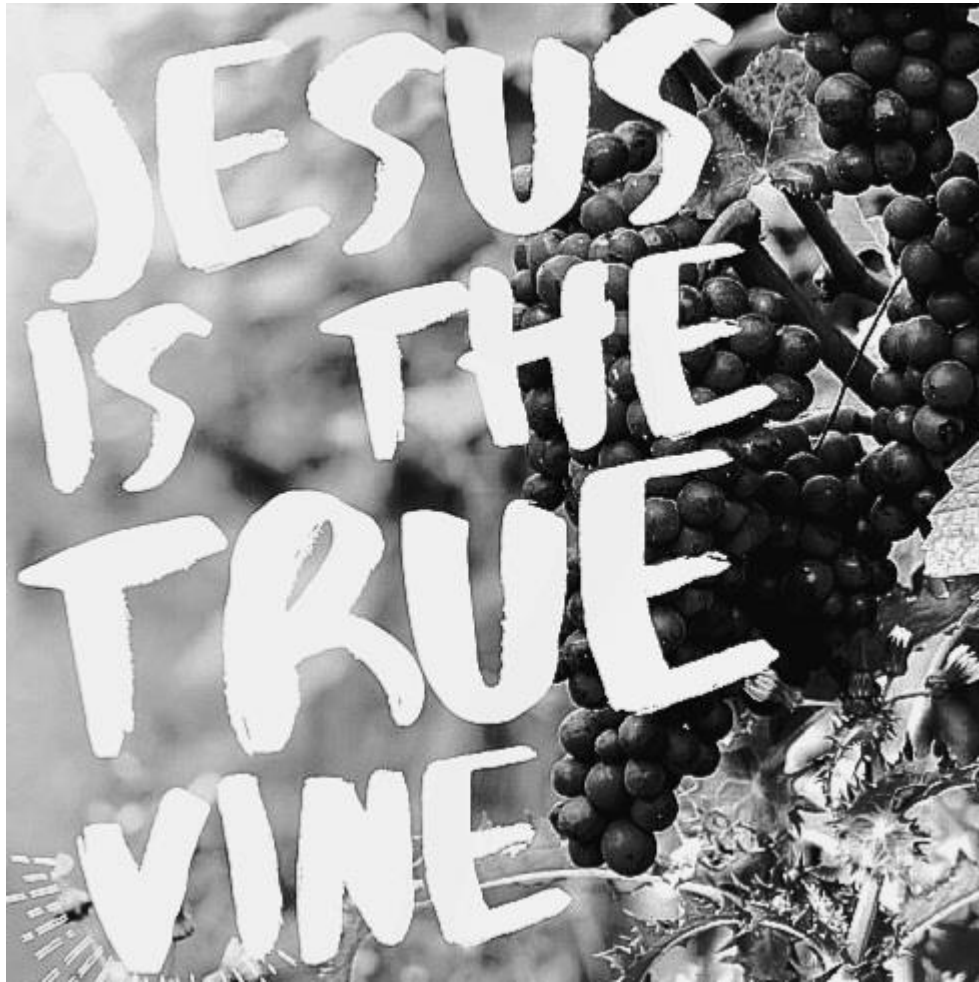


*St John the Evangelist
Burgess Hill*



*Sung Eucharist
& Holy Baptism*

28th April 2024

Fr David Charles - Celebrant & Preacher

**Welcome to St John the Evangelist – the Parish Church of Burgess Hill
Please take this pew sheet home with you**

stjohnschurchbh.org.uk

A very warm welcome to the Parish Eucharist this morning.
If you are a visitor, we are delighted to have you with us –
please do make yourself known to one of the clergy or sidespeople.
The arrows that you will see throughout this book may help as suggestions
regarding posture: ↑ stand → sit ↓ kneel

The Gathering

↑ *When the bell is rung, please stand to sing the processional hymn.*

Hymn (NEH 109)

*Refrain: **Hail thee, Festival Day,**
blest day that art hallowed for ever;
day wherein Christ arose,
breaking the kingdom of death.*

2. Daily the loveliness grows,
adorned with the glory of blossom;
green is the woodland with leaves,
bright are the meadows with flowers.

4. Rise now,
O Lord from the grave, and cast off
the shroud that enwrapped thee;
leaving the caverns of death,
show us the light of thy face.

1. Lo, the fair beauty of earth,
from the death of the winter arising,
every good gift of the year,
now with its Master returns.

3. He who was nailed to the cross
is Lord and the ruler of all things;
All things created on earth,
worship the Maker of all.

5. God of all pity and power,
let thy word
be assured to the doubting;
lo, he breaks forth from the tomb!
See, he appears to his own!

The Greeting

The celebrant greets the people:

✠ In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Words of welcome may be said.

Prayers of Penitence

The Priest gives the invitation to confession:

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

We now sing the Kyries:

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

The Priest proclaims the Absolution:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver ✠ you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo (*sung*)

**Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on Earth.
Lord God, heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father.
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit.
In the glory of God the Father, Amen, Amen, Amen.**

The Collect

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer.

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

➔ *We sit for the two readings which precede the Gospel reading.*

A **Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles. (Acts 8. 26 – 40)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22

Response:

My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever. **/R**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations. **/R**

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **/R**

A **Reading** from the First Letter of John. (1 John 4. 7 – end)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (NEH 113)

**1. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!**

**3. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O Death is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**

**2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.**

**4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!**

Gospel Reading

↑ *We stand to greet Christ who comes among us in his Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(St John 15. 1 – 8)

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

→

Sermon

The Baptism

of Joey Matthew Sheppard

We sing the first half of the following **Hymn** (NEH 264) for the procession to the font:

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings.**

**2. The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning,
that brightens up the sky.**

Please now follow the separate Baptism service sheet.

We sing the second half of the hymn, for the procession back to our seats:

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

**3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden –
he made them every one.**

**4. He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.**

Prayers of Intercession

→ / ↓ In the power of the Holy Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

*The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:
the Church, the world, our local community, the sick, the departed.*

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy (or)
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Please pray for those unwell to be comforted, and restored to wholeness and healing: Paula Dance, Jill Horn, Revd Felicity Davis, Carol Butler, Roy Thomas, Viv, Kevin & Theresa Hutson, Lawrie Robinson, Anthia Carter, Rod Smith, Kit Widdowson, Dorothy Halsey, Sam R, Alan & Kate Rhodes, Andrea Saunders, Michael Godfrey, Donald Church, Tony & Judy Cripps, Annie Ellis, Paul Simpson, Charles Vigor, Kathy Sadler, Joyce Robinson, Helen Lethbridge, Tim Helm, Trudie, Pat Gallagher, Christine Hunt.

Please also pray for the souls of the recently departed: John Kimberley (priest), Kathleen Pigeon, Roy Horn, Averil West; **and those whose anniversaries of death occur this week:** Kathleen Stacey (28th Apr), Frederick Davey, Lena Henry (29th Apr), Rosina Atkinson Henry Mann, Eva Smith (30th Apr), Florence Roberts, Gladys Whittington, John King, Harry Shine, Pearl Wood (1st May), Brian Groombridge, Joy Pickett, Lucy Partridge, Sandra Catnach, Brian Corbett (2nd May), Rowena Gooch (3rd May), Mary Howden-Simpson, Ben Bishop (4th May).

At the end, the Priest concludes with these or similar words:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

↑ *The Priest introduces the Peace:*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the risen Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Deacon says:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the following hymn, the altar is prepared.

Hymn (CFE 399)

**I. Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with men, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way.**

Refrain:

**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.**

**2. Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table,
host to the Twelve,
love, only love, is his mark.**

**3. Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength,
wine for our joy,
“This is my body, this is my blood,”
love, only love, is his sign.**

**4. Love is his sign, love is his news.
“Do this” he said, “lest you forget
all my deep sorrow
all my dear blood,”
love, only love, is his news.**

**5. Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own,
chosen and called,
family, brethren, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.**

**6. Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
“love one another,
I have loved you.”
Love, only love, is his law.**

**7. Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit,
God ever one,
love, only love, is his word. /R**

The Priest takes bread and wine, and prayers at the preparation of the altar are said:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made,
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that this, my sacrifice and yours,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

↑ The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts –

... for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory:

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Priest recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly:

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

→ / ↓ Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us now pray with confidence, as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sung:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The Priest invites people to receive Holy Communion and uses the following invitation:

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Priest and people receive Communion.

If you are a member of another church or denomination and are accustomed to receiving Communion, you are welcome to receive at St John's. However, if you do not wish to take Communion, but would like to receive God's blessing, please still come forward – bowing your head, and holding your service sheet in front of you, as a sign to the priest.

The Choir sing hymns and other works during the administration of Communion:

Choir Anthem: I am the Light (Geoff Weaver)

Prayer after Communion

→ / ↓ *Silence is kept. The Priest then says the Post Communion prayer:*

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

We join together in the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Please remain seated for any Notices.

The Concluding Rite

↑ *Please stand for* **The Blessing**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

May Christ, who out of defeat brings a new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn (NEH 112)

**1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthral us.
Alleluia!**

**3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!**

**2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!**

**4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!**

**5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given;
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!**

The Dismissal

The Deacon says:

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



Vicar: Fr David Charles

01444 244340

vicar@stjohnschurchbh.org.uk

Parish Notices



**Sponsors are sought each week
for the pew sheet, tabernacle candle
and church flowers.**

*This week the tabernacle candle has been sponsored by
Kit, as Bernie's ashes were laid to rest yesterday;
and also*

*“to wish a happy 17th Birthday to Amelia. May God bless you on
your birthday and always. Love Mum, Dad and Josh.”*

Celebrate or commemorate a special or important date
for a £10 donation.

Please give Colin your message & donation.

NEXT SUNDAY – Sunday 5th May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00am: Fr David (celebrant & preacher)

10.00am: Fr John Twisleton (celebrant) & Fr David (preacher)

Acts 10. 44 – 48 | Psalm 98 | 1 John 5. 1 – 6 | St John 15. 9 – 17

The 200 Club at St John's – drawn 7th April:

1st : 19 (£50) | 2nd : 92 (£20) | 3rd : 73 (£10)

Contact Di Tipler or a Churchwarden if you wish to join.

THE SPIRE CAFÉ:

sandwiches, paninis, and jacket potatoes plus the usual cakes.
*Please do stay behind after Mass on a Wednesday to enjoy a snack,
or pop in on a Thursday – when the IT support group are also on-hand
to help with any computer related problems.*

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10am – 1pm.

***Support our vital and valued café,
and the ministry of community hospitality it stands for.***

Singers who are interested in joining the **Come and Sing Day**
hosted again this year by Burgess Hill Choral Society:
make a date in your diary for **Saturday 8th June in St John's Church.**
More information coming soon.

Our Organ Restoration Please continue to support the project if you can. **The Bishop of Chichester will be coming to rededicate the organ within the main 10am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 16th June** – the Feast of St Richard of Chichester. This will be an important day in – and for – our parish: please cement the date in your diaries now.



Coffee Morning 18th May: 10am-1pm

in aid of St John's Organ Fund and Family Support Group

There will be stalls at the back of Church, Cakes and Preserves and Refreshments to enjoy.

**Also, our Fundraising Concert for the Organ Appeal
Neil Brand's Silent Comedy Triple Bill**

St John's Church **Saturday 18th May 7 pm**, Tickets £10 available online from ticketsource.co.uk/stjohnschurch; also from the Church café, or on the door.

See on the reverse side of the pew sheet for more information.

SPRING CHARITY - ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

With the summer months arriving, we chose this charity, as, living in a coastal region we know that the lifeboats will be called upon by people in our area and throughout the whole country when in trouble in the water – whether swimming, canoeing, paddle boarding or boating; whatever the incident, they are on hand to help and save lives. Around 1500 people work as seasonal lifeguards on over 248 beaches and rescue on average 29334 people as well as 5600 VOLUNTEER CREW MEMBERS throughout the UK and Ireland rescuing on average 9379 people annually - ... could this be you when on holiday or on a day out at the coast? Whatever the emergency, these dedicated volunteer crews are ready to go out in all weathers and sea conditions to help – please can you now help them with a donation in the envelope in the pews and/or by becoming a member – your help would be gratefully received.

Thank you. Di & John

D-Day Anniversary Celebrations in St John's Park on **Thursday 6th June at 6pm**. are being co-ordinated by Burgess Hill Town Council. We at St John's Church will be participating with a cake table, and we invite any bakers to come forward to offer their assistance for this. Please advise a Churchwarden if you can help by baking something for us to raise additional funds.

We will also be asking for cakes again for the **Town Summer Park Event** on **Sunday 23rd June, 11am-3pm**. All assistance is greatly appreciated in helping with these stalls and from our wonderful stealthy bakers ... let's get the ovens baking!! We manage to raise a good amount from these events, and we get some fantastic visibility out in the community for our town's Parish Church.

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Readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, other material from Common Worship*



The three greatest silent comedians come together for one awesome show presented and accompanied live on the piano by dynamo and much-loved broadcaster Neil Brand

Charlie Chaplin's *The Rink* / Buster Keaton's *The High Sign* / Harold Lloyd's *Never Weaken*

St John's Church, Burgess Hill

Saturday May 18, 2024, 7 p.m.

Doors open 6 p.m. with licensed bar available before the performance

Tickets £10; accompanied under 16s free

All proceeds in aid of St John's Organ Restoration Fund

Tickets available from the Help Point in Burgess Hill, on line from www.ticketsource.co.uk/stjohnschurch or on the door.

DIGITAL GIVING AT ST JOHN'S

Here is our QR code for digital giving at St John's: if you have a QR-capable smart phone and scan the adjacent code, it will take you straight to our digital giving page.



PARISH OFFICE 01444 230499

For all enquiries and bookings, please contact our Parish Administrator **Amelia Georgiou, who is available in the Café on Thursday.** Alternatively, the Office is effectively open when Amelia works from home:

OFFICE OPEN 9.30am - 12.30pm Mon-Wed

Email: admin@stjohnschurchbh.org.uk | **Facebook:** [FB.me/stjohnbh](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnbh)

Website: stjohnschurchbh.org.uk | **Registered Charity: 1165166**