

CONTACTS

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NOTES AND NEWS

Andy & Jacqui thank everybody for their Christmas cards and greetings and wish you all a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Our next **UNITED SERVICE** will be on **Sunday 12th January**, 10.30am at Christ Church. There will be **NO SERVICE** at St John's on that day.

If you would like to receive this notice sheet each week by email, please send a request to parish.office@christchurchportsdown.org



Welcome to everyone attending our services today
Please join us for refreshments after the services

Sunday 22nd December 2019 – 4th Sunday of Advent

0800	CCP	The 8.00 Service (Holy Communion 1)
1000	SJP	Service of Lessons & Carols
1030	CCP	The 10.30 Service
1800	CCP	Carols by Candlelight
1800	SJP	Compline

This Week's Services

Christmas Eve	1500 CCP	Family Carols: The Greatest Journey
	1600 SJP	Crib Service
	2330 CCP	Midnight Communion
	2330 SJP	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	0800 SJP	Holy Communion
	1000 CCP	Family Communion

Sunday 29th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

0800	CCP	Holy Communion 1
1000	SJP	Holy Communion
1030	CCP	The 1030 Service: Baptism of Theo Northcott

CHRIST CHURCH
www.christchurchportsdown.org



Mission of the Month: *The Children's Society*

Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after this evening's Carol Service. Donations of mince pies are welcomed.

The Greatest Journey - Christmas Eve 3pm:

Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and help retell the Christmas story

ST JOHN'S
www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk



Crib Service - Christmas Eve 4pm:

Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and help retell the Christmas story

The Christmas Tree Festival continues in the Church until 6th January

New Year's Eve Party: Tuesday 31st December 2019

Please come to this party to help us welcome in 2020.

Venue St John's Church Hall at 8pm.

All church members welcome – just turn up on the night.

Please bring some food to share. Bring your own drink and a glass.



#FollowTheStar daily Christmas reflections

Sign up to the #FollowTheStar Christmas journey at <https://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar> and receive reflections each day from Christmas Day to Epiphany (5 January) to your inbox. Alternatively, install the #FollowTheStar app on your phone.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 7:10–16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18–25

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord***

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**