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The
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#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.

Christ Church
Portsdown



St. John's
Purbrook



Welcome to everyone attending our Services today

Please join us for refreshments after the
10.00 & 10.30 services.

Sunday 29th December 2019 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

0800	CCP	The 8.00 Service (Holy Communion 1)
1000	SJP	Holy Communion
1030	CCP	The 10.30 Service: Baptism of Theo Northcott
1800	SJP	Compline

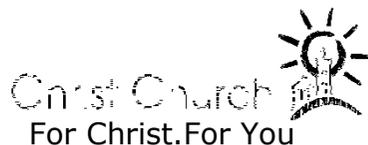
This Week's Activities

Tuesday	2000	SJP	New Year's Eve Party
Saturday	0900	CCP	Church Cleaning



CHRIST CHURCH

www.christchurchportsdown.org



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

Today, we would like to welcome Theo Northcott & all his family & friends as he comes to be baptised.

ST JOHN'S

www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk



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.

NOTES AND NEWS

Andy & Jacqui are on leave this week from Monday 30th to Friday 3rd (inclusive).

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 5th January

0800 CCP Holy Communion 2 (*Revd Andy Wilson*)

1000 SJP Baptism (*Revd Andy Wilson*)

1030 CCP The 10.30 Service: Holy Communion
(*Revd Tyrone Hillary*)

1800 SJP Compline

1830 CoGS New Wine Celebration (*Speaker: Joslyn Arnold*)

Sunday 12th January

0800 CCP Holy Communion 1
(*Revd Andy Wilson / Sandra Morgan*)

1000 SJP **NO SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S**

1030 CCP The 10.30 Service: United Service
(*Revd Andy Wilson / Revd Janette Smith*)

1800 SJP Compline

Sunday 19th January

0800 CCP Holy Communion 2 (*Revd Andy Wilson*)

1000 SJP Holy Communion (*Revd Andy Wilson*)

1030 CCP The 10.30 Service (*Revd Laura Cameron*)

1800 CCP The 6.00 Service
(*Sandra Morgan / Revd Andy Wilson*)

1800 SJP Compline

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

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalms 148

¹ Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. ² Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host. ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light. ⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. ⁵ Let

them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; ⁸ Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing; ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; ¹² Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord. ¹³ For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 2:10–18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' ¹³ And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13–23

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

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'