



www.christchurchportsdown.org

www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

Attended church services are currently permitted, but with limited numbers and tighter restrictions than before. Please note the government regulations for Tier 2 state that if you attend a service, **you must not interact with anyone outside of your household or support bubble** whilst in the building. We expect to be able to find a seat for you, but there is the possibility that any service could be full, in which case you may be asked to not enter the building.

**9.00am Communion at St John's**

**10.30am Morning Worship (online only)**

With guest speaker Ian Coombs (Children's Society). This service will be broadcast live on the Christ Church Facebook page, **facebook.com/ChristChurchPortsdown** and the Christ Church Portsdown YouTube channel.

If you would like to donate to the work of the Children's Society, please do so via the Christ Church Christingle link:

**<https://thyg.uk/CUS049978>** or scan this QR CODE



**3.00pm Communion at Christ Church**

**7.00pm Martin Luther Church (German speaking) at St John's**

**TUESDAY:** Funeral of John Partridge at Christ Church

(Due to government restrictions, only family and invited guests will be able to attend)

**THURSDAY 9.00-4.00 (approx.):** St John's open for independent, private prayer.

## **Next Sunday: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

**9.00am Service of Christmas Readings at St John's**

**10.30am Service of Christmas Readings online**

**3.00pm Service of Christmas Readings at Christ Church**

The children at Christ Church have been preparing for Christmas with an online Christingle. Look out for their unique interpretation of the Christmas story online soon.

During Advent there will be video reflections posted on the Christ Church Facebook page and YouTube pages. You can view the first two of these now. The third reflection ('Joy') will be available to view from Wednesday morning.

### **Christmas Services**

The celebration of Christmas in our churches will be very different this year. The situation remains fluid, but current plans are:

#### **Christmas Eve**

St John's open for individual private prayer all day culminating in:

- 5.00pm Communion for Christmas Eve at St John's
- 7.30pm Communion for Christmas Eve at Christ Church

#### **Christmas Day**

Online service for Christmas Day available to view from 8.00am

- 8.00am Christmas Day Communion at St John's
- 10.00am Christmas Day Communion at Christ Church

### **CHRIST CHURCH NORTH DRIVEWAY**

Although the PCC is ready to commence this work, and the Faculty permission has been received from the Diocese, the process in obtaining planning permission from Portsmouth City Council is proving slow. Therefore the full project will not take place for several months. With this in mind, the PCC has instructed L A Kattenhorn & Partners Ltd to carry out a temporary project to create a safe walkway on the north drive, adjacent to the handrail and to replenish the shingle in the south drive. This work is scheduled to take place from **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> until Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. From that date it will not be possible for vehicles to use the north drive (until the full project is completed in 2021).

### **CONTACTS**

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Revd Andy Wilson</b> (day off Monday) vicar@christchurchportsdown.org purbrookvicar@gmail.com
<b>Associate Minister</b>	<b>Revd Laura Cameron</b> revdlauracameron@gmail.com
<b>Curate</b>	<b>Revd Matt Grove</b> (day off Friday) matt.grove@christchurchportsdown.org
<b>Churchwarden SJP</b>	<b>Bill Jeffery</b> purbrookchurch@gmail.com
<b>Churchwarden CCP</b>	<b>Stephen Anderson</b> stephen.anderson@christchurchportsdown.org
<b>Churchwarden CCP</b>	<b>Karina Golledge</b> thegolledges@btinternet.com
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Emma Evans</b> parish.office@christchurchportsdown.org
<b>Hall Manager CCP</b>	<b>Jacqui Wilson</b> hall.manager@christchurchportsdown.org
<b>Website</b>	<b>Matt Doe</b> webmaster@christchurchportsdown.org

## **Sunday 13 December 2020**

3rd Sunday of Advent

### **Collect**

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11**

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup> For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### **Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy. <sup>3</sup> Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' <sup>4</sup> The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced. <sup>5</sup> Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert. <sup>6</sup> Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. <sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16–24**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## **John 1:6–8, 19–28**

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## **Post Communion**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.