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A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Portsmouth and Havant are now in Tier 4 of the government Covid-19 restrictions. This applies to both of our churches. Attended church services are still permitted, but you should not attend if you do not live locally and must not travel from outside of the Tier 4 area. Even if you do live locally, do consider carefully whether you should attend. You must not attend if you are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

If you do attend, be aware that our buildings have a significantly reduced capacity. If that capacity is reached, then no-one else will be allowed in. You must not interact with anyone outside of your household or support bubble whilst in the building and only with one other person whilst outside.

It is important, and part of our Christian witness, that we observe these procedures for our own safety and for the safety of others.

The following will all be simple services.
Congregations are not permitted to sing.

Thursday 24th December 2020 (Christmas Eve)

5.00pm Christmas Communion at St John's
7.30pm Christmas Communion at Christ Church
(these two services take the place of our usual Midnight services)

Friday 25th December 2020 (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

Sunday 27th December 2020 (1st Sunday of Christmas)

9.00am Holy Communion at St John's
10.30am Morning Worship online
3.00pm Holy Communion at Christ Church

Sunday 3rd January 2021 (Epiphany)

9.00am Holy Communion at St John's
10.30am Morning Worship online
3.00pm Service of the Word at Christ Church

CONTACTS

Vicar	Revd Andy Wilson (day off Monday) vicar@christchurchportsdown.org purbrookvicar@gmail.com
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CHRISTMAS EVE

Collect

Eternal God, who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hebrews 1.1-4

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he

appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Luke 2.1–14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

CHRISTMAS DAY

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:

accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

John 1.1–14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020: 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2:15–21

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.