



www.christchurchportsdown.org



www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk

Sunday 31st January 2021 (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

Due to the high levels of Coronavirus (Covid-19) infection in our area, all attended church services and meetings are currently suspended. Some opportunities for worship are listed below.

10:30 Morning Worship (online)

Today's service will be streamed live on the Christ Church Facebook page: **[facebook.com/ChristChurchPortsdown](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchPortsdown)** and on the Christ Church Portsdown YouTube channel. All the readings and the collect for today are at the bottom of this sheet.

You may also like to watch:

- The Church of England national service on [facebook.com/thechurchofengland](https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland) from 9.00am on Sunday
- Songs of Praise on BBC1 (Sunday 1.15pm).
- Several other churches are also streaming services, which can be watched online at any time during the week.
- Our services from previous weeks are available to watch on the Christ Church YouTube channel or via [achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com).

We are also producing **midweek reflections** through this time of lockdown. They are being released on the Christ Church facebook page each Wednesday morning (and can then be viewed at any time). We are considering The Beatitudes, which can be found in Matthew 5:3-10.

Taking part: If you would like to contribute a reading or prayers to one of our online services (and are able to record your contribution) then please get in touch with Andy.

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE

The Church of England's free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers is still available 24 hours a day at no charge on 0800 804 8044.



Sunday 7th February 2021 (The Second Sunday before Lent)

10:30 Morning Worship (online)

There will be an additional meeting of **St John's PCC** on Thursday 4th February at 7pm via Zoom. PCC members should already have details of this meeting.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

Our sister church at Crookhorn is providing the following online opportunities:

Toddlers – Wednesdays at 10am – contact clare@cogs.org.uk

Tots 'N Tunes – Thursdays at 10am - contact clare@cogs.org.uk

Parentalk: The Primary Years – a course for parents of under 12s.

Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm, starting on 10th February. Contact office@cogs.org.uk

Further details of these activities can be found at cogs.org.uk

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Christ Church Mission of the Month for January is Portsmouth School Pastors. To find out about their work, or to make an online donation, please go to streetpastors.org/locations/portsmouth

CONTACTS

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Sunday 31 January 2021

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, who's beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Malachi 3:1–5

³ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Psalms 24:7–10

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ⁸ 'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.' ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ¹⁰ 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Hebrews 2:14–18

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.

Luke 2:22–40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.