



www.christchurchportsdown.org



www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk

We are now holding attended services in both churches. If you attend any service, it is essential to follow Covid guidelines. You must attend alone or as part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. Face coverings must be worn (unless medically exempt). Advance booking is not required. We are also continuing online services.

Sunday 2nd May 2021 (5th Sunday of Easter)

9.30am Morning Worship at St John's

10.30am Morning Worship online

11.00am Holy Communion at Christ Church

Midweek Service & Activities

Tuesday 10.00am Funeral of Pamela Shaw at St John's

Thursday All Day Christ Church being used as Polling Station (*see over*)

Thursday 7.30pm Christ Church Mission Support Committee (*via Zoom*)

Sunday 9th May 2021 (6th Sunday of Easter)

9.30am Holy Communion at St John's

10.30am Morning Worship online

11.00am Morning Worship at Christ Church

ANNUAL MEETINGS

St John's APCM will be held on Sunday 4th July (*time tbc*). We need to elect 2 churchwardens and 4 PCC members.

Christ Church APCM will be held on Wednesday 14th July (*time tbc*). We need to elect 2 churchwardens, 1 Deanery Synod member and 6 PCC members.

A PCC is responsible for the operation of their church, including the spiritual wellbeing of church members, the practical care of church buildings and the church finances. The coming year will see important decisions made about the future of our parishes. If you are on your church's electoral roll, please consider whether you could be part of your church's PCC.

CHRIST CHURCH POLLING STATION

On Thursday Christ Church will be used as a polling station for the local elections. Therefore the church building will be out of bounds to church members (unless they are voting). NOTE: This is the church building, NOT the church hall.

CHRIST CHURCH HALL – DO NOT ENTER

The removal of the floor in Christ Church Hall has revealed the presence of asbestos. This was safe all the time that the floor was in place but is now potentially dangerous. Therefore no-one should enter the building under any circumstances. We have arranged for it to be professionally and safely removed. This must take place before we can continue work on the church hall floor.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christ Church's Mission of the Month for May is Christian Aid. Christian Aid Week runs from 10th to 16th May. You can support in the following ways:

- Pick up an envelope from the back of Christ Church and place it with your donation in the collection bowl at any service during May
- Quiztarian Aid, a fun filled online quiz suitable for all the family, takes place on Saturday 8th May at 7pm.
Sign up beforehand at caweek.org/quiztarianaid.
- There will be a cake sale outside Christ Church after The 11.00 Service on Sunday 16th May.
- Make an online donation at caweek.org

CONTACTS

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

Sunday 2 May 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Readings

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25–31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever. ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. ²⁸ For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship, or those who go down to the dust kneel before him? ³⁰ He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him; this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come. ³¹ They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn, declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

1 John 4:7–21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 15:1–8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen