

St John's with Holy Trinity, Ryde

Where *All* are Welcome



15th November 2020

2nd Sunday before Advent

We regret that in line with government regulations we are currently closed for public worship

The Parish Office is closed but the telephone messages and post will be checked on Wednesday mornings
Telephone 01983 564433

**But we are still here
with you and for you.**

We can be contacted by email:
rev.sue.stjohnsryde@gmail.com
stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com

or by 'phone
Priest in Charge: Rev Sue Theobald
Tel: 01983 617174

Assistant Curate: Rev. Dion Mabey
Tel: 07596147561

Readers:
Mike & Linda Brooke - 614424
Bevaly Rackett – 407432

Website: www.stjohnsryde.org.uk

Follow us on facebook for up to date information:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsryde>

**Gracious God, take from us
any anxiety we might face
as this day, with its baggage,
opens the door and enters in.
May we see opportunities
that yesterday were missed,
blessings in the little things
we might normally walk past;
time enough to set aside
a space to read your Word,
say a prayer, sing a song,
strengthen faith and know
you're there, always there,
whatever this new day might bring.**

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Online services

Whilst we are in Lockdown you can share in a service of **Spiritual Communion from All Saints Ryde** on their website here:

<https://www.rydeallsaints.org.uk/>

This is a pre-recorded service and is available from 9am on a Sunday.

or join **Portsmouth Cathedral** live on Sunday at 11.00am

<https://www.facebook.com/portsmouthcathedral/>

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

¹ Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14–30

Jesus said to his disciples, ¹⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went

off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶ But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have

invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The other readings for today are
Zephaniah 1.7, 12–18 and Psalm 90.1–8, (9–11), 12



Beauty For Brokenness

<https://grahamkendrick.co.uk/songs/graham-kendrick-songs/spark-to-a-flame/god-of-the-poor-beauty-for-brokenness>

**Beauty for brokenness,
Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering,
This is our prayer
Bread for the children,
Justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset,
Your kingdom increase.**

**Shelter for fragile lives,
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsmen,
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed,
Rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak.**

**Chorus: God of the poor
Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion, we pray,
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need.**

**Lighten our darkness,
Breathe on this flame,
Until your justice burns brightly again;
Until the nations learn of your ways,
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise.**

Chorus ...

Thought for the Day
By Bevaly Rackett

When we read today's Gospel we must remember that it is a parable, a story meant to teach us a moral or spiritual lesson, in particular what the Kingdom of heaven is like. So, even though it strangely says 'For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away,' it is not referring to the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.

In fact, Jesus repeatedly tells us that we must look out for the poor, the orphan, the widow, the weak, the excluded. This is how we help bring about God's kingdom here on Earth.

As the whole body of Christ we all have different talents necessary for the entire body. This parable shows us that we should use those gifts in the service and mission of God. Some will have many talents, obvious and visible; some will have fewer talents, working behind the scenes but noticeable if they become absent. And some will have limited talents but just as vital. Sometimes people with little talents choose not to bother to use them to help the kingdom grow, thinking they are insignificant. Those people are the ones who will lose out in the Kingdom of God.

TFTD continued...

Because when we get to the day of our judgement, God will be as thrilled with the efforts of those with a little talent as he is with those with much. Just as we are all just as thrilled that our rubbish is collected and our parcels delivered as we are with high profile preachers, politicians and scientific experts (probably more so!)

So, trust that God has given you at least some talent. Whatever it is ask yourself how can I use it for the sake of others? If you can pray, pray frequently and diligently; if you can offer comfort, do so willingly and cheerfully; if you can pay for things others cannot afford, do so generously. Do not worry about the size or shape of your talent, just use it with enthusiasm to help and encourage one another and build each other up and you will enter into the joy of your master (the Kingdom of God) with a full and peaceful heart.



Prayers of Intercession

By Jenny Georgiou

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gifts and talents you have given us. Please give us courage and strength to use these gifts to grow your kingdom as you desire. Save us from burying our talents, make us eager to use what you have given us to your glory. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for our church here in St John's and everywhere working in such a different way now. Bless all our efforts to worship at home and online in your service. Bless our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Lay Readers and our brothers and sisters in other Churches, all working out the way forward according to your will, that we may all follow Jesus on earth. Lord in your mercy...

Lord Jesus Christ the King, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the United States. May there be unity, wisdom and guidance, peace and justice for all. Lord in your mercy...

Loving Father, thank you for the joy of these beautiful, colourful autumn days. Help us to fully appreciate, and to take care of this wonderful world we live in. Thank you for hope the news this week has given us. A vaccine to beat this horrible disease. Thank you for the skill and patience of the researchers and scientists who've worked and work so hard to find a cure. Thank you for the doctors

nurses and all health workers caring for people with COVID19 and all illnesses. Keep them safe, healthy and strong. Lord in your mercy...

Gracious God, may your compassion and healing love be felt by all who suffer in any way. May we support with loving prayer and practical help wherever we can. In our hearts we remember those known to us..... Comfort, strengthen, and heal them with your presence.

We remember those who've died this week, especially Matthew Fox. And those whose anniversary of death falls this week especially Rita Miller (Wed), baby Ashley Savage (Thu), and Peter Norris (Fri), Comfort those who mourn with the knowledge that death is not the end. Lord in your mercy...

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the road to eternal happiness, open our hearts and our heads to your truth. Help us to multiply, manifold the talents you have given us.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Please also pray for those who are being licensed as Readers over this weekend via Zoom: Dr Coleen Jackson, Clare Watson, Liz Quinn, Sue Moss, and Mandy Hollingsworth.

Opportunities to pray together this coming week.

In a letter to the nation, which can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/20201104%20Joint%20letter%20ABC%20ABY%20to%20the%20nation.pdf>

the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London have urged us all to be calm, courageous and compassionate as we go through this second period of lockdown. They have also called the Church of England to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November. You can find prayers here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

They have suggested that we all stop to pray at **6pm** each day.

Midday Prayers

Whilst we cannot pray together in church this month, we would like to invite you to join us on zoom each Monday to Friday for 15 minutes of Midday Prayers, The NEW ZOOM LINK for this week is:

<https://zoom.us/j/98707065312?pwd=TKQxOE44bFA2ODQ5cmw4M1Z4NlV5Zz09>

The meeting will be open from 11.45am each day for 15 mins of fellowship before we pray.

Following the 2020 hours of **Pray for Ryde** the team have decided to continue to pray together via Zoom for 15 minutes every day at 7pm during the coming lockdown. The link if you would like to join us occasionally or regularly is:

<https://zoom.us/j/96569728174?pwd=VBXckx5RE1pU0l3Y3FnWXBwZGRidz09>

Notices and information

We were saddened to hear that our friend Matthew Fox died suddenly but peacefully in his sleep on Monday night. We will miss him and his cheerful enthusiasm for life. Please pray for his family at this difficult time.

We are still awaiting clarification of the rules which now govern how we can open for private prayer. We will email and facebook as soon as we know.

Every Little Helps

Would you like to help us raise funds when you shop online with no cost to yourself? Register with **easyfundraising.org.uk** or download the app to your phone, choose St John's with Holy Trinity Ryde as your charity and each time you shop through a registered outlet they will make a donation to us. Lots of places are included - from supermarkets to Amazon. And every penny is a help right now.

Songs of Advent



From Luke's Gospel

St John's Advent Bible Study Groups

Songs are very much at the centre of our celebrations of Advent and Christmas. Luke's Gospel has a series of songs which form part of his introduction to the story of Jesus.

We will be looking more deeply at these songs on

Thursdays at 11.30am

(first session via zoom, then hopefully in the church hall)

26th Nov, 3rd Dec, 10th Dec, 17th Dec

Mondays from 7.20pm (via Zoom)

30th Nov, 7th Dec, 14th Dec, 21st

All resources provided. This is a 4 session course. Each Monday and Thursday session will cover the same content and you can swap between the two. Everyone is welcome.

Contact us via stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Isle of Wight Council Helpline

The council's helpline remains open for anyone that needs additional support and will revert back to a seven day service.

Call (01983) 823600 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, and between 10am and 3pm at weekends for support.

You can also email contact.centre@iow.gov.uk

How the helpline can help

This helpline is for anyone who needs help because of self-isolation, who is alone with no local network of friends, family or neighbours and needs support, or who feels vulnerable and may need assistance with:

- help to access pharmacy medication delivery services and healthcare needs;
- access to online shopping delivery services or small essential shopping requests;
- signposting to partner agencies for support with issues arising from isolation including welfare, finance, mental health, childcare issues, crisis advice and support or other caring responsibilities.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with their mental health these numbers may be helpful. These are difficult times - **you do not have to be at breaking point to ask for help.**

Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text: 85258

Samaritans - Provides confidential, non-judgemental emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those that could lead to suicide. You can phone, email, write a letter or in most cases talk to someone face to face. Telephone: 116 123 (24 hours a day, free to call.)

Don't forget that just picking up the 'phone and calling a friend can be the thing which helps to get you and them through the day 😊

If you know someone who would appreciate a call and have obtained their permission to give us their name and number, please let Rev Sue know.

Weekly News Sheet: Please send any items for the news sheet to Bevaly Rackett by **Wed 2pm.**

Tel: 407432 email: bevalyrackett@hotmail.com

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