

St John's with Holy Trinity, Ryde

Where *All* are Welcome



29th November 2020

1st Sunday of 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:

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or by 'phone

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Website: www.stjohnsryde.org.uk

Follow us on facebook for up to date information:

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

**In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission,
that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.**

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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 Corinthians 1.3–9

My brothers and sisters: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13.24–37

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴ ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that

summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Thought for the Day

By Rev Sue

As I write this, there is uncertainty as to how we will be able to celebrate Christmas. What will it be like this year? Will we be able to gather with our families? Will we be able to get all the things we traditionally associate with our festivities? Will we be able to gather in church?

This year Advent waiting may have a different feel to it. But it will still be a time when, as we light each of the candles on our Advent ring we will remember the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary the mother of Jesus. The candles which illuminate the history of salvation, the story of God's people, watching and waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

When we think about Christmas Day, there may be uncertainty over *how* we will celebrate, but not over *what* we will celebrate. Emmanuel, God with us, the Christ child come among us.

But of course, Advent is not just about getting ready for Christmas, it is about preparing for Christ's return. Again, there is certainty and uncertainty. We can be sure that Christ *will* return, that the kingdom will come, that there will be a new creation, but not *when*.

So, let's tap in to that sense of uncertainty that is currently a feature of all our lives. Let it help us be alert, be watchful, be ready, as we prepare our hearts, not just for the joy of Christmas but for the joy of Christ's return.

The other readings for today are
Isaiah 64.1–9 and Psalm 80.1–7,

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

<https://youtu.be/q1BEf88YTFQ>

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

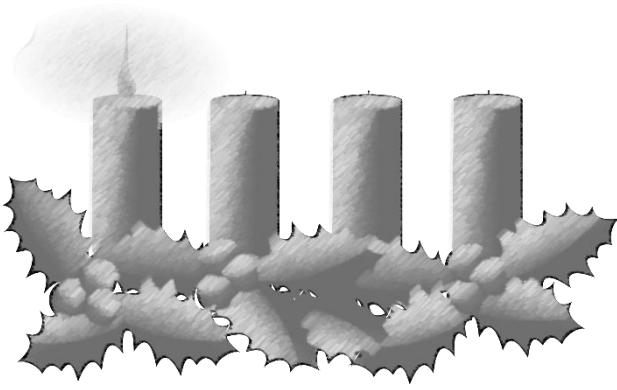
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

O come, Thou Day-Spring,
come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows
put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way
that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.



Advent Candle Song

(Tune: Angel voices ever singing)

**Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.**

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Prayers of Intercession

By Mike Brooke

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer, and that God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy through the coming in glory of his Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we pray that we may seek and find Christ in the scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Bless all your servants in ministry, Lord, whatever their role in furthering your kingdom in this broken world. Help them bring Christ

back to the centre of all people's lives. We especially pray for the situation with our church building. Please Bless Sue and wardens David and Val as they seek solutions.

Lord, in these dark and worrying times we pray for the world. We pray earnestly that all those who have the responsibility and authority to govern do so with justice, truth and the mind of a servant. We pray for normal life to be re-established soon and for all those working towards that goal. We pray that all world leaders will always speak and act with wisdom, truth and in a spirit of conciliation.

Lord, as the rates of sickness and death due to Covid 19 continue to rise, we pray that your Holy Spirit may bind up the broken hearted and restore the sick. Please give courage and stamina to all NHS workers and hospital chaplains as they deal with this dreadful disease. We especially lift to your healing arms those we know who need that healing in body, mind or spirit.

Lord, we pray that the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death. We thank you for all those who have now departed this life, but were dear to us while they lived. May your holy angels carry the faithful departed to your eternal home.

We pray that, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,

RIP: Matthew Fox and Graham Dyer

RIP Anniversaries: Norman Bartlett, Mary Maycock (Sun), Dennis Cox (Mon), Pamela Watson (Wed), Catherine Crang, Ken McSwan (Thu),

Opportunities to pray together this coming week.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London have called the Church of England to pray 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 together at **6pm** each day and you can join them on facebook.

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=TkQxOE44bFA2ODQ5cmw4M1Z4NTV5Zz09>

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

The **Pray for Ryde** team are also praying together via Zoom for 15 minutes every day at 7pm during the coming lockdown. We are also meeting on Sunday 29th at 7pm and this time will include a short service. The link if you would like to join us occasionally or regularly is:

<https://zoom.us/j/96569728174?pwd=eVBXckx5RE1pU0I3Y3FnWXBwZGRidz09>

Notices and information

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.

Our Advent Study Groups continue on **Thursdays** at 11.30am (first session via zoom, then hopefully in the church hall) On 3rd Dec, 10th Dec, 17th Dec

Mondays from 7.20pm (via Zoom) 30th Nov, 7th Dec, 14th Dec, 21st

All resources provided. 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.

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.



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.)

Isle of Wight Council Helpline

The council's helpline remains open for anyone that needs additional support. 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

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 😊

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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Being St John's in a new way

Sadly, for health and safety reasons we are unable to gather in the church building for the foreseeable future.

The church hall is still open. But we are still able to Live, Pray and Serve in our community. We can still be present, worship and share God's love.

This will, I know be sad news for you all, but it is also a great opportunity to live out that phrase we all know so well,

“the Church is the people not the building.”

It will give us a chance to set worries about the building aside and discern how God is working in this place, in a time of change for everyone. It will help us to see more clearly what needs to be done for the building to serve the community in the future.

We are delighted and very grateful that Oakfield School have offered their hall for worship on a Sunday and over Christmas.

On a Thursday we will worship in the Church Hall.

We are planning to resume services on Sunday 6th December.

Details of services, and instructions etc. will be in the next Weekly News Sheet, on Facebook and www.achurchnearyou.com

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
(Isaiah 43:19)*