

# St John's with Holy Trinity, Ryde

Where *All* are Welcome



**13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

For health and safety reasons we regret that St John's church building is currently closed for public worship. Please check our facebook page and website for up to date information

Our **10am Holy Communion service this Sunday** will be in **Oakfield School Hall**.

Entry will be via the school car park which is accessed from the bottom of Malborough Road.

The car park is available for our use.

Please keep to the paths and follow social distancing guidelines. Tier 1 Covid guidelines require us to wear a mask indoors, to use the hand sanitiser provided and to complete a Track and Trace register.

The 'rule of 6' still applies.

**Midweek (Thursday) Communion** will take place in the **Church Hall at 10.30am** with the same guideline requirements

We remember the hope.  
We remember the promise.  
We rejoice that the salvation we hope for is coming to us.

St. Paul invites us to live  
in the City of God,  
where grace abounds:

May the peace of God  
which surpasses all understanding  
guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Rejoice always for the Lord is near. -  
Philippians 4: 7

## Online services

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 various times

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

## 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

My brothers and sisters, <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; <sup>21</sup> hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## John 1.6–8, 19–28

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an

answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ <sup>23</sup> He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ <sup>26</sup> John answered them, ‘I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

The other Readings for today are  
**Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11 and Psalm 126**

**Collect:** God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thought for the Day**  
**By Mike Brooke**

As we reach the middle of Advent, we're still waiting in hopeful preparation. This unique and uncertain year has been marked by lots of waiting, so we should be good at it by now! Waiting to come out of lockdown, isolation or quarantine; and waiting with hope for the world's scientists to make a successful vaccine. Now we'll have to wait our turn to get it.

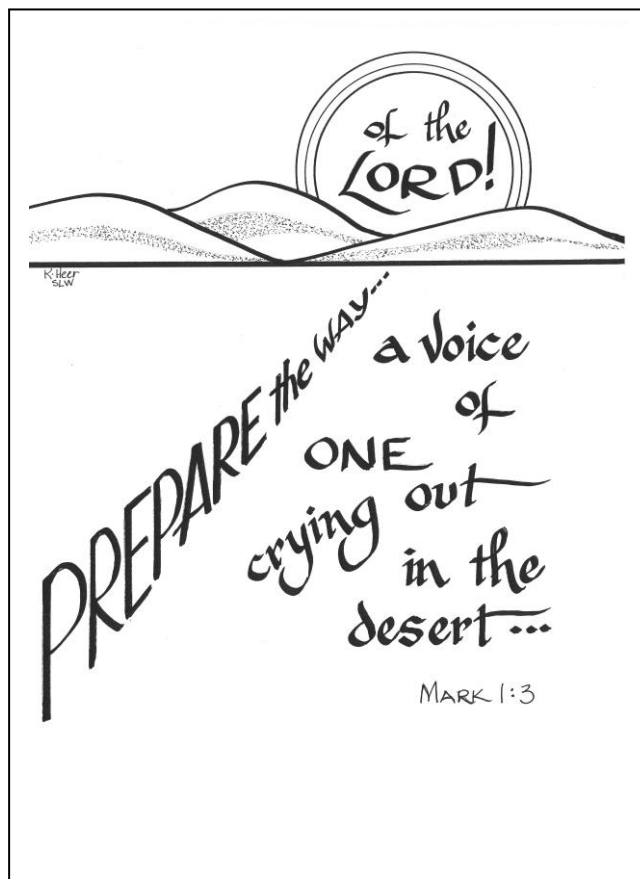
Of course, we are also counting down to the festivities of Christmas Day. But that's all about looking forward to something physical, temporal and passing: the presents, the food, the decorations, etc. But what we really need to have is that same sense of excited anticipation, all the time, for something much more wonderful: when Jesus will come to us again.

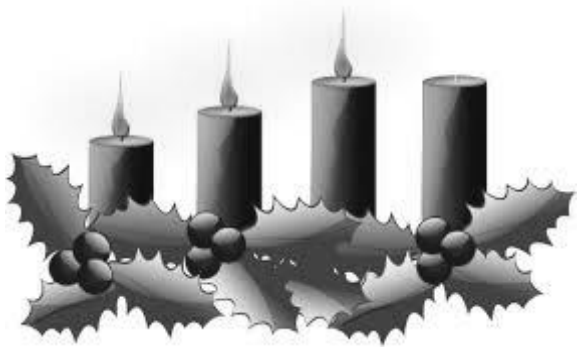
And that's what the other side of Advent is all about. It's what we Christians mean by our certain hope, because it's a hope founded on a promise. And what's a promise? Well, it's something that we give our word upon, something that will happen because we solemnly undertake to do it. So where do we find the promise of the new Christmas, when Jesus will come again? Well, it's in the word of God – the Bible.

Thought for the Day continued...

At the beginning of his gospel the Apostle John calls Jesus both "The Word" and "The Light": a promise and a light that shines eternally in the darkness. He adds to our sense of anticipation because he tells us about another John, the Baptist, who was sent by God to testify as a witness to that Light.

Meanwhile, we must keep waiting; not just for the celebration of the birth of God as man, over 2000 years ago, but for that sure and certain hope of a new life, an eternal life, in a state of unending joy and happiness that we can't even imagine.





A Prayer to say as you light your third Advent Candle:

**God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins: Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. Amen**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God,  
We offer you our prayers in this season of Advent  
Watching and waiting in the sure and certain hope of Jesus' return, and the expectation of your perfect kingdom.

We pray for the Church,  
That she may be a beacon of truth and love in the world,  
shining with your glorious light.  
We ask that you give grace and wisdom to those who speak, teach and work in her name.

### **Tell Out My Soul**

**Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings  
give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me  
the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour  
shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might,  
the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure,  
from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord,  
the mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions  
lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills  
are put to flight,  
The hungry fed,  
the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul,  
the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise,  
and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children  
and forever more!**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Open the hearts and minds of all your people, that we may hear your voice and respond in joyful service.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the world, for peace and reconciliation between nations, between communities and between individuals.

We pray for those whose lives have changed beyond their control and who are living with uncertainty and fear, or without hope for their future. May they come to know the peace of trusting in you.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the sick and suffering. For all those who are stricken by the Covid pandemic and those who are caring for them.

We pray for those we know who are unwell at this time. We ask that you will surround them with your healing love.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for those we love who are now no longer with us, for Matthew Fox, Graham Dyer and Jackie Keene, and those whose names we hold in our hearts. May they rest in your perfect peace until the day when they awaken to see Jesus. We pray for their family and friends. Comfort them in their loss and sustain with the hope of your kingdom to come.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for ourselves .

Make us ready, ready to give thanks for your coming, ready to see the ways in which you come to us now, and ready to welcome you when you come again.

**Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.**

**By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen**

RIP Anniversaries: Rita Betteridge (Mon), Audrey Cartwright (Fri),

Friends of Matthew Fox may like to know that his funeral will take place on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. He will begin his final journey at St John's, where we will say some prayers at the South door. You are welcome to come and watch him leave, but please respect the privacy of his family as we pray and do not come into the driveway (by car or on foot)

### **Notices and Information**

Pray for Ryde has now resumed the original pattern of prayers on zoom on Monday evenings only at 7pm and a short united service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 7pm (the next being 27<sup>th</sup> Dec) The link if you would like to join us is:

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

There will also be a **zoom Carol Service** on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 7pm. Link to follow in next week's new sheet.

**Our Advent Study Groups** continue (on zoom and in the Hall) on **Thursdays** (17<sup>th</sup>) at 11.30am and on **Mondays** (14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>) from 7.20pm. 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](mailto:stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

**Sides people needed:** The move from our own church building to sharing premises with Oakfield School will bring many advantages, but also require additional organizing. While we were 'between lockdowns', our wonderful churchwardens, Val and David, have taken on the role of Sides person; to support them in future, we must help them. We are looking for **volunteers** to become a small team who will carry out the usual duties of meeting and greeting the congregation as well as some additional responsibilities. The team would have to arrive at the school, at least 30 minutes before the start of the service. If possible (not compulsory) help with setting out 'socially distanced' chairs would be

appreciated. They will need to put out the hand sanitizer and to collect every one's details for the 'track and trace' system. After the service, they would, if possible, help to put chairs away and leave the hall tidy for the school to use again on Monday. If you can help, please speak to Linda Brooke, Rev Sue or a church warden.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** in aid of the Foodbank. **Thank you to all who have donated so far. We delivered 47Kg of food and £20 to the foodbank this week.** Please continue to leave donations in the bags provided. Next week we will be collecting for dinner: Tea, coffee, squash, long-life milk, tinned vegetables or tomatoes, tinned meat, rice, pasta and sauces, tinned potatoes or instant mash, sponge puddings, tinned fruit or rice pudding or custard and any pet food or toiletries. Please make sure that food items have long use by dates. This will be our final week collecting.



The Parish Office is open on  
Wednesday mornings  
Telephone 01983 564433

We can be contacted by email:  
[rev.sue.stjohnsryde@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sue.stjohnsryde@gmail.com)  
[stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com](mailto: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

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Follow us on facebook for up to date  
information:

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



### 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 [contactcentre@iow.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@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 😊

Please be aware that there is a current **email/facebook scam** whereby people are seemingly contacted by their vicar and asked to send money or vouchers for an urgent pastoral need.

The name of the vicar is being obtained via church websites and so the contact can seem very genuine. We would NEVER contact you in this way. If you are in any doubt please call whoever the communication seems to be from on a number you know already.

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

Tel: 407432 email: [stjohnsryde@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsryde@gmail.com)

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# CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

All services (except 10.30am Christmas Eve)  
in Oakfield School

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec**

## 6.30pm The Christmas Story Re-told\*

We are unable to host a traditional carol service and invite you to sing, but will tell the Christmas story in words and music.

**Christmas Eve**

**10.30am Communion - in the Church Hall**

## 4pm Nativity Creativity\*

Come and make a nativity scene to take home as we recall the story of the first Christmas. The seating for this service will be arranged in family 'bubbles'

## 9.30pm "Midnight in Bethlehem" \*

Come and celebrate the coming of Christmas Day at the time it will be celebrated in Bethlehem

**Christmas Day**

## 10am Christmas Communion Service

It is possible that plans may have to change, so check on



'St John's and Holy Trinity Ryde' @stjohnsryde

or

Look us up on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**\* These will require (free) pre-booking** – contact us on

01983 564433 or 617174

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL**