

# St John's with Holy Trinity, Ryde

Where *All* are Welcome



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

**4<sup>th</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

## **Advent Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.

- *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

## **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/>

## **Romans 16:25-27**

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – to the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ!

## **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he

will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her. <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.

The other Readings for today are  
**2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16 and**  
**Psalms 89.1–4, 19–26**

**Collect:** Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thought for the Day**  
**By Linda Brooke**

How do you view the story of Mary, the Angel Gabriel and the Virgin birth? Her position as the mother of the infant Jesus has always been the subject of controversy. There are plenty of people (some of them within the church itself) who will tell you that there is another, more simple explanation, that Joseph really was the father of the child and the virgin story was just a cover up. There are also many who revere Mary as a saint; believing that she was also conceived without sin, thus making her more venerated than other saints and having a special place in heaven.

We should look closely at her story. She received the Angel's message with a minimum of protest, without cynicism and with total obedience. Artists through the centuries have tried to capture the picture; the majesty of the angel and the simple purity of the girl. But there is so much more. The angel tells her not to be afraid and she is not. He tells her she will have a child and she mildly protests "it's not possible, I am a virgin". The angel offers her support in the form of her cousin Elisabeth, also pregnant with a miracle baby.

Thought for the Day continued...

The angel says "Nothing is impossible with God" and her response is simply "Let it be with me in accordance to your word".

Mary's simple acceptance of God, her trust in him, and her faithful obedience are the example we should strive to follow. However you view Mary herself; those are the qualities that we can copy ourselves in our walk with God.



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

**God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession by Rev Dion**

Gathered together here in Oakfield School representing St Johns church; as part of Gods universal church let us pray together for the coming of his Kingdom, the Kingdom God promised and announced to both King David in ancient times and to Mary by the Angel Gabriel. Lord of heaven, may we your Church be quiet enough to hear your voice, humble enough to move your way and excited enough to spread this good news.

In the Church that looks for you among the people who proclaim you, with all who seek to serve you, among all who dedicate their lives to you, with all who proclaim that they love you, now with us as we worship you with the other churches in Ryde, this diocese, this country and the church throughout the world, Living God; let your Kingdom come

We pray for your wisdom and guidance to all in authority and power as universal governments struggle to manage COVID, restrictions, vaccines, tiers, lockdowns, and the economy. We pray especially for our key workers as they continue to work tirelessly for the greater good of the nations. We are not alone as we know by your Spirit you are there among us. Living God; let your Kingdom come

O Lord our God, make this place and our homes places of loving acceptance and developing faith; teach us in all our friendships to grow in generosity of spirit. So we give thanks for the hospitality and friendship from all at Oakfield school. We give thanks to the teachers for their skills and ministry. For the students for their unique individuality and enquiring minds. Living God; let your Kingdom come

Father we pray to you for our damaged world; and as we approach Christmas we think of those for whom celebration is a distant thought, for the outcasts and the poor, unemployed and the homeless, for the scorned and rejected, with refugees and those who suffer injustice. We ask for your peace, healing and reconciliation in their lives. Whilst giving thanks for the many agencies local and national offering help and support, thinking especially of the Island Foodbank. Living God; let your Kingdom come.

Healing God we pray to you for all who are in pain or sorrow, illness and anxiety. For those concerned with the future and concerns around COVID. bringing before you by name (see news sheet). And we pray for those whose life on earth has come to an end, thanking you for their lives here

amongst us and celebrating their life and achievements. Comfort those who mourn and help us to support them in the loss and grief. Living God; Let your Kingdom come.

Lord of Heaven, we thank you for your faithful promise to us, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. We welcome his Kingship in our lives. Living God; Let your Kingdom come.

**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: Charles Calder,  
Barbara Hill, Carol Bello-Baamonde  
(Sun), Barry Lowe (Sat)

### **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.

<https://zoom.us/j/93685507749?pwd=QWIXaHIMUIVuRUtPYmZyOTdaZERqdz09>

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

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 over the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Dayspring,  
come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows  
put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel

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

O come, O come,  
great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel

**Our Advent Study Groups** conclude On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> via zoom. If you would like the link please contact Rev Sue

**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.** Today is our final week collecting.

The Parish Office is closed for Christmas however

We can be contacted by email:  
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or by 'phone

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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>

**Please note. There will be NO 10am service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December.**

Details to follow in our next news sheet of alternative services.

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

Tel: 407432 email: stjohnsryde@gmail.com

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# CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

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

**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

617174 or [stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com)

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL**