

St John's with Holy Trinity, Ryde

Where *All* are Welcome



January 10th 2021

Worshipping as St John's

Following the island's elevation to Tier 4, swiftly followed by a National Lockdown, the churchwardens, the PCC and I have decided that in order to keep everyone safe and to follow the 'Stay at Home' instructions, we will not gather to worship, either at the school or in the church hall during January. We will review this decision in time to advise you of the arrangements for 7th Feb.

We will continue to publish and distribute the news sheet in this format and put prayers etc. and information on our facebook page.

As before – the Church is still active, just in a different way. As always Please do not hesitate to call me for any reason.

Rev Sue



Baptism of Christ

Breath of life and love,
disturb the dark clouds
of fear and anxiety
that trouble our lives,
and in this gentle breeze,
as clouds disperse,
may we sense hope
and healing, as your light
breaks in and through
our hearts and minds,
and shines out in the world.

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Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Acts 19.1–7

¹ While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ² He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' ³ Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴ Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – ⁷ altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1.4–11

⁴ John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have

baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**The other readings for today are
Genesis 1:1-5 and Psalm 29**



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reflections and prayers

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS

Thought for the Day
By Linda Brooke

The early verses of Mark's gospel take us straight to the measures John was taking to prepare the way for Jesus. He called people to repentance and baptised them - probably a full body immersion in the River Jordan. Two simple actions, the first much more difficult and much more important than the second. The church uses such long words, but basically, you need to recognise that you have done wrong things; admit it and say sorry to God (and mean it). You do have to do your best not to repeat the wrongdoing, and we all know this is a struggle. After that, you can be baptised and can say you are a member of the Christian church. Most people of my generation were baptized as children in a symbolic act, although some adults do have a baptism in rivers or even the sea.

John himself recognized that this was only a first step to salvation. We still need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus comes to John and demonstrates - first, he is baptised by John in water and then the voice of God is heard. Mark describes it as the heavens being torn apart and the spirit descending like a dove.

Before His resurrection, Jesus promised all his disciples that they too could receive the Holy Spirit; that is the story of Pentecost, when flames were seen on the disciples' heads.

Several years later, the early church was growing fast and St. Paul went to Ephesus. There he found a group of believers who obviously lacked some spirituality.

Thought for the Day continued...

"Have you received the Holy Spirit?" he asked and they did not even know what that was. Sadly, many people today do not know the Holy Spirit and do not know how to be baptised in the Spirit. That 'certain sort of something' is lacking in their lives.

Baptism means to become totally immersed - those disciples of John went into the river Jordan, but today the water baptism is often a symbolic act. But the total immersion in the Holy Spirit is never symbolic. Some describe it as a feeling of great warmth, other say they hear a sound like wind. For others, there is just the quiet, deep certainty of acceptance. However the Spirit enters into you, you will know it and can never lose it.

It's easy to be achieve baptism in the Spirit, but so hard to make the commitment. First you have to really want it, then say to God that you are sorry for all the wrong you do and have done. And you must honestly mean to do better (don't worry if it's a constant struggle - forgiveness is God's ongoing gift).

The hymn which I have chosen and you can listen to on You Tube has words that you can also pray "O Holy Spirit, make me new, make Jesus real to me, give me his purity"

Then simply and prayerfully ask, "Lord Jesus, I really want to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, please fill me with your love."

O Holy Spirit Breathe on Me

<https://mymidi.audio/downloads/song-by-warren-n-mainly-piano-f-gb/>

O Holy Spirit breathe on me,
O Holy Spirit breathe on me
and cleanse away my sin;
fill me with love within:
O Holy Spirit breathe on me!

O Holy Spirit fill my life,
O Holy Spirit fill my life;
take all my pride from me,
give me humility:
O Holy Spirit breathe on me!

O Holy Spirit make me new,
O Holy Spirit make me new,
make Jesus real to me,
give me his purity:
O Holy Spirit breathe on me!

O Holy Spirit, wind of God,
O Holy Spirit, wind of God,
give me your power today,
to live for you always:
O Holy Spirit breathe on me!

Norman Warren (born 1934)
© Norman Warren/Jubilate Hymns

You might also like to sing
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
and / or
Breathe On Me Breath Of God

Prayers of Intercession

by Linda Barnett

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed Him as your beloved Son and anointed Him with your Holy Spirit. We thank you that You have washed us clean and that You continue to inspire and refresh us. Give us strength and wisdom and lead us to be more like Christ.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

At this time we are unable to meet together we pray God of heaven and earth in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all creation not even coronavirus that is able to separate us from your love. May your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers, looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath and willing everyone to know the gift of full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Lord in your mercy...

Lord although we are not able to meet together we pray for our church, we thank you for the ministry of Sue our vicar as she ministers to us all at this difficult time, for the work of Dion our curate and for our lay readers Mike, Linda and Bevaly, and the support given by our church wardens David and Val. Strengthen, guide and

surround them with your Holy Spirit, and continue to fill us all with compassion to show your love to others. Lord in your mercy...

Lord we pray for all schools at this time, especially Oakfield School. We pray you surround the teachers and all who work there with your protection, the children of key workers and the vulnerable children at school, bless them as they are working in a different way.

For the children that are working at home, may they continue to feel connected with their friends and not feel isolated as they also work in a different way. Lord in your mercy...

Lord, we thank you for the doctors and nurses and the health care workers and all those in the front line, especially at this time when they are working under extreme pressure and dealing with some very difficult situations. Protect them, give them the strength to deal with the situation they find themselves in and please keep them safe and may we always remember their dedication in the care of all. Lord in your mercy...

Father God, we lift up all who are facing illness whether in body or mind. We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Lord in your mercy...

God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Grant them space to express their fears. Hold them close through the coming days.

RIP: Sandra Puddick, Vera Morill and Peter Camplin

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We remember those whose anniversary falls this week. **RIP**

Anniversaries: Doreen Robinson (Mon), Ida Thomson (Wed), Roy Smith (Fri), Mimosa Bond, Roger Woods, and Nicholas Frampton (Sat)

Lord you promised us a share in your eternal life, may all who died in Christ come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom.

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

Notices and Information

'Together in Prayer' Beginning on Wednesday 13th January at 7pm we will gather via zoom to pray for the world, for our community, our friends and for discernment over the future of St John's. Jenny Georgiou will be leading the first session which will last for 15-20 minutes.

If you would like to join us the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82038775345?pwd=dll2cjNGdUV1QTZxMXBPcnUwaVdjdz09>

Pray for Ryde meet together on Zoom for prayers on Monday evenings at 7pm and a short united service on the 4th Sunday of the month at 7pm. The link if you would like to join us is:
<https://zoom.us/j/96569728174?pwd=eVBXckx5RE1pU0I3Y3FnWXBwZGRidz09>

The Parish Office is now closed due to the lockdown but will be checked weekly, we can still 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

Readers:

Mike & Linda Brooke – 614424
Bevaly Rackett – 407432

www.achurchnearyou.com

Follow us on facebook for up to date information:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsryde>

If you or anyone you know is struggling 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

... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



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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