

St John's

Prayers:

We give you thanks and praise our God and our Saviour for all your gifts to us. Help us to be generous with what we have received. As we meet to share and hear about the work of our parish, we give thanks for all who serve this church. We pray for those who find life difficult that they too may find relief and wholeness. We pray for all who are sick:

Sick: Lolita Alvira, Scott Bradley, Helen Elliot, Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Sian Harries, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason, Alex Michael, Sue Ralfe and Finn.

We give thanks for all who gave so much of their lives to others and now rest from their labours, especially those we remember today. Amen.

Contacts

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|
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[The Parish Office is closed.](#)

Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in their homes every day. Join them [here](#).

St John's Church

Pew Sheet

4th October 2020

Welcome!

The Government has allowed places of worship to open for individual prayer and services.

St John's Church is open for services:

9.30am Sundays
10.30am Wednesdays

Our [online services](#) will continue for the time being.

**Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion:
You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it.
You crown the year with your bounty.
Psalm 65: 1a, 9a, 11a.**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.

www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk

Please do check our website for future updates

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Harvest Festival

Collect:

Father in heaven all good gifts come from you. You send the sunshine and the rain, and it is through your love and care that we enjoy harvest time. Thank you for providing so richly for our needs and help us to share the good things we have with those who have little or nothing. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Readings:

[Deuteronomy 8:7-18](#)

[Psalm 65](#)

[Luke 17:11-19](#)

Short Sermon by Jean Orpwood, Licensed Lay Minister

"Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat, thank you for the birds that sing, thank you God for everything!"

These words came to me as I began to think about this sermon. They were sung daily at lunch time at my primary school, but they can reflect our thoughts in this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, HARVEST. Normally the church would be filled with the aromas of autumn; fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce and a loaf of harvest bread at the altar. But this year is not normal, and the world has been less sweet for some. Celebrations we all enjoy are different, and we are told, may continue like this for some time yet. Saying thank you for all we receive each day is important, but it is more than just a few words.

Our Old Testament reading stresses the importance to **remember the giver** of all good gifts. The Children of Israel had been on the move for over 40 years, much of it in barren wilderness, dependent upon God for the daily food supply of Manna and quails. They were about to reach the longed for Promised Land, where all they needed for the good life would be plentiful. But the writer warns against taking life for granted and thinking that any future success would be just of their own making. He urges his readers to **REMEMBER** from whom they had received their new life and all that went with it. "You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for all that he has given

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you". Remembering the source of **all** our blessings is the first part of thanksgiving.

The Gospel reading recounts the well known miracle of the healing of 10 lepers. Although the diagnosis of Leprosy might be challenged by today's medical opinion, for all such sufferers, social isolation was the norm. A clean bill of health from the local priests was a necessity before returning to society. Jesus meets them and responding to their request for mercy, sends them to the priest. As they go they are healed, but only one returns to say thank you. Only one person realised from where his healing had come, the giver of all good gifts. It was the other nine that Jesus wondered about. They had forgotten from whom they had received their newly restored life.

Our Eucharist, the word itself means **THANKSGIVING**, is an opportunity to *remember* what God has done for us. "Do this, in remembrance of Me". Apart from all that we receive day by day, God gave His Son to live, to die and rise again, to defeat death and give us life in all its fullness. It is this that gives us the courage and the energy to work for the justice and dignity for all. Thanksgiving involves an active response not just a few words.

Today many still go hungry, even in our own country. The Trussell Trust states that nearly 100,000 folk needed help for the first time as a result of lockdown. No charity can replace the dignity of buying your own food. They believe that extreme poverty may double by Christmas in UK and foresee a projected 61% rise in the use of Food Banks. It is good that in this parish we regularly support our own Food Bank, and, as our Annual Reports show we have many opportunities for contact within the community about us. As individuals we may not be able to influence government policy, like Marcus Rashford, but each in our own way, our thankfulness to God can be shown in how we share what we have, so that others may live with dignity.

"All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above. Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love". Amen