

# St John's

## Prayers:

Loving God, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, who forgives our sins and heals our infirmities. We ask for your healing touch for your people in need in every situation and pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

**Sick:** Lolita Alvira, Peggy Aris, Scott Bradley, Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Sian Harries, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason, Alex Michael and Sue Ralfe.

**RIP:** Rita Wade.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

## Contacts

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The Parish Office is closed.

**Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer at home. Join them [here](#).**

# St John's Church

## Pew Sheet

### 18th October 2020

## Welcome!

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

## Services

Sunday 9.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 5pm - Engage

Wednesday 10.30am - Holy Communion

## Individual Prayer

10.30am-12.30pm Sundays and Wednesdays

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

**'Are any among you suffering? They should pray.  
Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.**

**Are any among you sick?  
They should call for the elders of the church  
and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.'**  
James 5:13-14

## **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](http://www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk)

Please do check our website for future updates

# St John's

## Luke the Evangelist

### **Collect:**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Readings:**

[Isaiah 35:3-6](#)

[2 Timothy 4:5-17](#)

[Luke 10:1-9](#)

### **Short Sermon by Lydia McLean, Licensed Lay Minister**

Today is St Luke's Day - the physician - quite a gift for a hospital chaplain! Jesus told the seventy to 'heal the sick'. Well! Most of us are neither doctors nor miracle workers. But in hospital chaplaincy, when a patient reveals their troubles, a way of opening up the conversation to spiritual things, is to say, 'I'll remember you in my prayers, if that's alright', or 'Would you like to be mentioned in the prayers in church?' Some people may say no and you have to honour that. But you might be surprised by how many people are comforted to think that someone is praying for them - and this may open a door inside them - perhaps gratitude to God when they get better, or simply feeling that God and his people are there, and do care about them.

Today, Jesus is sending out his disciples to 'carry out their ministry fully'. He gives them instructions to say, 'peace to this house'. The calling he gave them is the very essence of healing ministry, 'be satisfied with what people give you, cure the sick—learning contentment, pray for healing, and point towards the life of Christ'.

The healing ministry of the Church is prayer, and being present in God's presence. Miraculous things can happen when we are open to the divine within, between, and around us. The miracle of Christ's healing is found in the loving touch for those who feel unlovely and unloved. The miracle of Christ's healing comes from the energy of the Spirit that is shared in the healing touch. The miracle of Christ's heal-

# St John's

ing is found in listening, opening ourselves up to divine encounter and allowing ourselves to be transformed from within. The miracle of Christ's healing is peace, grace, faith, hope, and love and is a shared ministry, not just for specialised people - clergy, chaplains or licensed lay ministers - but by all those open to the working of the Holy Spirit of God. This miracle is one of presence, of prayer, more of learning to be Christ in the world - through the indwelling and energising of the Holy Spirit within us.

The calling to healing is the calling to be people of peace; the true healing - shalom; the wholeness which God offers. The calling to healing is to be prophets, declaring the presence of God who is all in all. The calling to healing is to open ourselves to the healing power of Christ and to live into that healing as we share it with those whom we meet. And the ultimate calling is to point to the life which Christ offers us, the healing which is offered to all people and to be able to say, with grace and love, the kingdom and presence of God, has come near. Praying at the bedside of hospital patients, is an invitation for them to receive the Divine healing and the peace that passes understanding, which is open to all.

It's still somewhat scary, as it involves being open to God and open to one another - but it is a journey taken in partnership - with the community of healing and faith which is the Church, and with our Divine Creator, the wounded healer who is Christ, and the comforter who is the Holy Spirit.

As we reach out to one another with the healing of Christ in our hearts, we are proclaiming through our healing touch and in our prayers for one another, 'Look, the kingdom of God has come near to you'.

It's good on this St Luke's Day to speak about healing and prayer as part of the Church's mission. Luke was called by Paul, 'the beloved physician', in his letter to the Colossians (Col. 4.14). He also gave us a Gospel which shows Jesus reaching out beyond the margins to bring people in - a harvest of souls for the kingdom and for God. Thanks be to God. Amen.