

St John's

Prayers:

Loving Father, we thank you that your love is the foundation of all creation. Help us to imitate the love that Christ poured out for us upon the cross. Give us the grace and strength to display that love to all that we meet. We especially pray for:

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

RIP: Jos Forbes, Rita Wade and Valerie Wright.

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

25th October 2020

Welcome!

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

Services

Sunday 9.30am - Parish Communion (with Holy Baptism)
Wednesday 10.30am - Holy Communion

Individual Prayer

10.30am-12.30pm Sundays and Wednesdays

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

**'You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.'**
Matthew 22:37

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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Last Sunday After Trinity

Collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings:

[1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)

[Matthew 22:34-46](#)

Short Sermon by the Assistant Curate, Jonny Rapson

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

These are some of the most famous words Jesus ever spoke in this life. In fact, they are so famous and well known that it might not even be worth having a sermon! But it is often the things that are right in front of us, that tend to be the most overlooked. Jesus reminds us that we are commanded to love God with every fibre of our being and that, in turn, should lead us to love our neighbour as well as ourselves.

The word love is often overused in our world today. This can often be misunderstood as affectionate love. Yet, the foundation of biblical love is rooted not in affection but rooted in commitment. We learn the true meaning of love from Jesus on the cross for the whole world. Was it affection he showed us? Or was it an unwavering, unshakable commitment to rescuing us from sin and death on the cross?

It is this commitment to love that underpins our entire existence in this world. A foundation placed upon the world since God said 'let there be light.' Our world is not driven by money, by greed, by violence, by illness, or by any other evil we may face. The Bible shows

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us that God poured out his love upon the world in the act of creating, a love that is subsequently poured out upon the cross for all.

Jesus said: 'On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' If love is the foundation of the earth we walk upon, then it should also be the foundation of everything we do. Jesus reminds us that it underpins the law and all that prophets did in their time on earth. Therefore it should underpin all that we do here in church and beyond.

We love because he first loved us. Love is our inheritance, it is our birthright, and it forms our very being. We draw closer to God when we love him and love one another. This is what we are called to do every day of our lives.

It is likely an impossible task, to which we will probably fall short. However, we are called to persevere and imitate the unwavering love Christ has for us. It is a challenge that God calls us to for our entire lives. We are faced with a choice: A choice to become who God made us to be. Let us then make God's love the foundation of all that we do, and through that, we will draw closer to the one who first loved us.

