

St John's

Prayers:

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work.

We pray for healing and wholeness for those who are sick: Peggy Aris, Scott Bradley, Susan Khazoom, Ruth Gillespie, Brenda Hunt, Susan Jones and Bridie O'Shea.

Be with us, Lord, at this time, that we may be a people of hope.

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

20th December 2020

Welcome!

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

Physical Services

Sunday 9.30am - Parish Communion with Holy Baptism
Wednesday 10.30am - BCP Holy Communion.

Online Service

Our weekly online service is available [here](#).

**"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
(Luke 1:38)**

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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The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

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. Amen.

Readings:

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#)

[Romans 16:25-27](#)

[Luke 1:26-38](#)

Short Sermon from Jonny Rapson, Assistant Curate

Our Gospel reading from Luke, foretelling the birth of Jesus, shows a meeting of two worlds. The earthly realm of Mary, and the heavenly realm of the Angel Gabriel who brings her not just news, but some of the most important news to ever be received. This news required one of God's most trusted messengers; the Angel Gabriel. We could speculate that if the birth of Jesus took place today, would God opt for a different method of communication? The message could be put in a newspaper? Or someone could message Mary on Facebook? Tweet it? Record it on a YouTube video?

However, if God had used these methods, in an age of fake news, it is possible that no one would have believed it. Even with all the joy that technology brings, it is safe to say that God would still maintain the decision to send the Angel Gabriel. That tells us that this news was of such importance, that God was not willing to let the message get lost in translation. Mary is delivered this message clearly by the Angel Gabriel. There is no ambiguity, She will bear a son, and he will be the Son of God. With an angel stood before her, Mary is perplexed, but there can be no claims of fake news, as the proof is stood there in this merging of the earthly and heavenly realm.

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'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary is one of the first to be told of God's amazing plan for all of creation. She has been entrusted with looking after this child until his time comes to rescue the people of God. She will, one day soon, hold in her arms the one who will bring an end to death and suffering. She may not be sure of what the task entails completely, yet she still replies with 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

This is a promise she keeps for every day of Christ's life on earth and she goes on to walk with Him until the very end. Never once abandoning Him as others do. While this journey she makes with Christ is full of highs and lows, it ultimately brings the joy of the world as Jesus conquers death in his resurrection.

We are called today to do the same. This year has brought with us challenges none of us could have expected. Yet, we are called to not fall away during difficult times, but to hold fast to Jesus as we walk with him. The destination, as Mary found, is a joy that cannot be matched. This Christmas, Mary reminds us that, not only must we follow Christ, but that there is always hope in the joy that Christ brings us. Amen.