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Sunday 21st February 2021 (First Sunday of Lent)

Due to the high levels of Coronavirus (Covid-19) infection in our area, all attended church services and meetings are currently suspended. Some opportunities for worship are listed below.

10:30 Morning Worship (online)

Today's service will be streamed live on the Christ Church Facebook page: **[facebook.com/ChristChurchPortsdown](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchPortsdown)** and on the Christ Church Portsdown YouTube channel. All the readings and the collect for today are at the bottom of this sheet.

You may also like to watch:

- The Church of England national service on [facebook.com/thechurchofengland](https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland) from 9.00am on Sunday
- Songs of Praise on BBC1 (Sunday 1.15pm) from L'Abri Fellowship at Liss
- Several other churches are also streaming services, which can be watched online at any time during the week.
- Our services from previous weeks are available to watch on the Christ Church YouTube channel or via achurchnearyou.com.

REVEREND JOHN GRAY

We are sorry to report that Revd John Gray, who was curate at Christ Church from 1986 to 1988, died on Tuesday. John had continued to minister in retirement at St Jude's Southsea until early last year. Please remember Wendy in your prayers.

BIBLE STUDY for LENT

The Zoom-based Bible Study, led by Revd Matt, is meeting on Tuesday evenings during Lent. The study will follow the account in Mark's Gospel of the events leading up to the crucifixion and culminating with the resurrection. If you would like to join the group for Lent do contact Matt (details overleaf). If you would like to join but can't make Tuesday evenings, let us know.

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE

The Church of England's free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers is still available 24 hours a day at no charge on 0800 804 8044.



Sunday 28th February 2021 (Second Sunday of Lent)

10:30 Morning Worship (online)

Taking part: If you would like to contribute a reading or prayers to one of our online services (and are able to record your contribution) then please get in touch with Andy.

MAGAZINE – PORTSDOWN POST

The Christ Church magazine continues to be available online at christchurchportsdown.org/more/magazine . Thanks to Ruth Fowler, who edits the magazine each month. She would welcome articles for inclusion at magazine@christchurchportsdown.org .

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Christ Church's Mission of the Month for February is CMS. We support Bev Richardson's ministry at Colegio San Andres, a Christian school in Asuncion, founded by missionaries and part of the Anglican Diocese of Paraguay. You can catch up with Bev's work and, if you wish, donate to support her, at churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/bev-richardson/

PLEASE PRAY

- for spiritual renewal during Lent
- for those who work in our hospitals and other frontline settings
- for all facing illness, loneliness or mourning during this difficult time

CONTACTS

Vicar	Revd Andy Wilson (day off Monday) vicar@christchurchportsdown.org purbrookvicar@gmail.com
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Sunday 21 February 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 9:8–17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹² God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷ God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalms 25:1–9

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me. ² Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. ³ Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. ⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long. ⁵ Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. ⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. ⁷ Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way. ⁸ He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly. ⁹ All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

1 Peter 3:18–22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1:9–15

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.' ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'