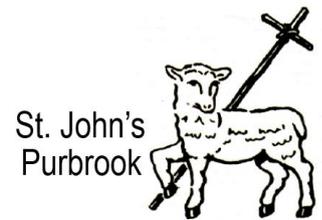


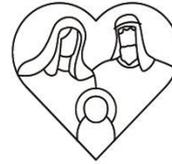


www.christchurchportsdown.org



www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk

## At the heart of Christmas



Please note that the wearing of a **face-covering** is now required by law in all places of worship for anyone aged 12 or over, unless there is a reason for exemption. All our services and meetings remain under review and may need to be changed at short notice.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Family Carol Service at Christ Church</b>
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Family Carol Service at St John's</b>
	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion at Christ Church</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Communion at St John's</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Communion at Christ Church</b>

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas)

**9.30am** Holy Communion at St John's  
(No Boxing Day service at Christ Church)

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 (Epiphany)

**8.00am** Holy Communion at Christ Church  
**9.30am** Morning Worship at St John's  
**11.00am** Holy Communion at Christ Church

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**2.30pm** Wedding of Dannika Moore and Jordan Merrick at Christ Church

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Epiphany)

**8.00am** Holy Communion at Christ Church  
**9.30am** Holy Communion at St John's  
**11.00am** Morning Worship at Christ Church

### **MISSION OF THE MONTH (December)**

This month's Mission of the Month is Children's Society. You can give online at <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate>

## ISOBEL BOOTH-CLIBBORN

Many at Christ Church will remember Isobel, who was the church's CMS mission partner in Uganda for many years. We are delighted to report that Isobel is due to get married on 8<sup>th</sup> January in Edinburgh. Shiisa is now studying International Relations and History at Kings College London.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRANGE

Thank you so much for the presents that we have received for the residents at The Grange. They are very much appreciated and really make a difference to helping the residents feel valued and thought about at this time of the year.

<b>CONTACTS</b>		
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<b>Website</b>	<b>Matt Doe</b> webmaster@christchurchportsdown.org	



## **Sunday 26 December 2021**

1st Sunday of Christmas

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **1 Samuel 2.18–20, 26**

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 148.7–14**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
8 Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;  
9 Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
10 Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing;  
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
12 Young men and women,  
old and young together;  
let them praise the name of the Lord.  
13 For his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.  
14 He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.  
Alleluia.

### **Colossians 3.12–17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your

hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 2.41–end**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Sunday 2 January 2022

Epiphany

### Collect

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Isaiah 60.1–6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 72.10–15

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.  
11 All kings shall fall down before him;  
all nations shall do him service.  
12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
the needy and those who have no helper.  
13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.  
15 Long may he live;  
unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
may prayer be made for him continually  
and may they bless him all the day long.

### Ephesians 3.1–12

**3** This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,

members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 2.1–12**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.