

Songs of Praise 6:00pm in Church

Worship, testimonies, poems and readings. Come and Join us for this very special time of praise and encouragement.

Quiz Night

Saturday 3rd December, 6:30 - 9:00pm. £3.50 per person (8 people per team). Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Prizes for raffle appreciated. RSVP by 26th November to David Donald. (See Church Directory for contact details.) All proceeds will go to the Winter Shelter.

Saturday 3rd December & Weekend - Unique Opportunity! Exercise your body on our next walk (5 miles, easy going from Appledore) before exercising your mind in the evening at our quiz night and your spirit on the 2nd Sunday of Advent! Or possibly all 3 at each event. Contact Corinne Hyde (see Church Directory) for walk details.

Christmas Stocking Service

A service for all ages at 10:30am on Sunday 4th December. Small wrapped gifts for men from the list below, to be given out at the Foodstop Christmas Dinner and beyond, very welcome. (One item per gift). Also welcome, unwrapped chocolate bars or biscuits.

Gloves, hats, scarves, socks, shower gel, deodorant, razors.

Taizé Style Prayer Vigil

The next prayer vigil will be on 11th December from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. A time to receive and meditate to the sound of Taizé in a candlelit church. Members of the prayer ministry team will be available to pray with you.

Men's Breakfast

The next breakfast will be 17th December at 8:30am at the Captain's Table. Please let David Donald know if you will be there. (See Church Directory for contact details.)

An Opportunity for Service

Are you looking to serve Christ in a church school? Could you offer to become a governor? Vacancies exist at present at All Souls School, Cheriton High Street. Please contact Revd Angela Oakey-Jones, Rector, cherrychurch@outlook.com 07508 300397 and/or Ms Sarah Morris, headteacher, smorrisallsouls@hotmail.co.uk, 07769 064855

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Sunday 27th November 2016
Advent Sunday

Get Connected

Welcome to St John's!

We warmly welcome you if you are visiting us today. If you would like to know more about the life of St John's do collect a welcome pack, available at all our services. At our 10:45am service you can go to our Welcome Desk near the door where someone will be able to give you a Welcome Pack and answer any questions you may have.

Refreshments are available in the Church Hall after the All Stars and 10:45am services. Do join us for coffee and a chat.

What is Advent?

The Christian season of advent begins today and lasts for four Sundays ending on Christmas Eve. The Advent celebration is both a commemoration of Christ's first coming and an anticipation of His second coming. Just as Israel longed for their Messiah to come, so Christians long for Jesus to come again.

The word advent means "arrival" or "an appearing." Christians often speak of Jesus' first and second comings to earth. His first advent would be the Incarnation—Christmastime. His second advent when he returns to judge all people and take up his kingly rule.

One of the most common Advent traditions involves the use of the Advent Wreath which has four coloured candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. The four candles which are lit on successive Sundays represent important foundations of our faith - the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary the mother of Jesus. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the centre white candle is lit; this is the "Christ Candle," a reminder that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come.

Celebrating Advent can be a good reminder of what the season is truly all about, and therein lies its greatest value.

May you all know God's peace this Advent,

Steve

What's on this week.....

Monday 28th November	Tuesday 29th November
8:30am Morning Prayer, Church Hall 7:15pm PCC	
Wednesday 30th November	Thursday 1st December
8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Staff Meeting, Church Hall 10:00am Taylor Toddlers, Grace Taylor Hall 2:00pm Primetime 3:30pm Shooting Stars, Church Hall	9:15am Open the Book Assembly 1:15pm Twiglets (Toddler Group), Church Hall 7:00pm On Fizz (Youth Group), Grace Taylor Hall 7:45pm Choir & Musicians Practice
Friday 2nd December	Saturday 3rd December
1:00pm All Stars Team Meeting 5:30pm Brownies 7:15 Rangers	Church Walk from Appledore 10:30am Family Christmas Activity morning, Church Hall 6:30pm Quiz Night, Church Hall
Sunday 4th December - Morning	Sunday 4th December - Evening
9:15am Morning Worship, Grace Taylor Hall 10:30am All Age Christmas Stocking Service in Church	6:00pm Winter Shelter Dedication Service, Salvation Army, Canterbury Road <i>Note: No Worship@6</i> 7:15pm <i>No Sunday Nighters</i>

Greetings

Ben and Tors send their love and greetings to everyone. All is going well at Emmanuel and the children are very happy at school.

Family Christmas Activity morning

Saturday 3rd December from 10:30am – 12:00noon at St. John's Church Hall



Come and join us as a family in preparing for Christmas: We'll be decorating the church Christmas tree, making window decorations for the church, personal crafts to take home, refreshments, and other activities.

Intrepid walkers raise cash for abandoned Chinese children



Some 23 members and friends of St John's, along with five assorted dogs, undertook a sponsored 10 kilometre walk recently to raise funds for International China Concern, which cares for many children in China. Our Primetime group of over-60s sponsors one of them. It was a very windy day but spirits were sustained with home-made flapjack and the determined effort raised a total of £275.