

GIFT DAY (Next week, Sunday 16th September): Financial giving is an important part of discipleship, so please consider prayerfully your response to our annual Gift Day. We are about to embark on roof repairs which will cost in excess of £10,000, after which we hope to resurface the church drive. We do not receive any external funding, so need to raise these funds ourselves. Please pick up a copy of Portsdown Post today for further details. **ADVENT FAYRE 2018**, Saturday 1st December (12md- 3.30 pm) planning is already underway; please put the date in your diary and think about how you can help.



Diary Dates

Sunday 16th September: Annual Gift Day
 Saturday 1st December: Advent Fayre
 Saturday 6th July 2019: Summer Festival

CONTACTS

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For other contacts, see the back of Portsdown Post, available at rear of church

Welcome to our services today
Prayer Ministry is available during & after The 10.30 Service
Please join us for refreshments after The 10.30 Service.

Sunday 9th September 2018 – 15th after Trinity

0800 The 8.00 Service (Holy Communion 1)
 1030 The 10.30 Service (Holy Communion)

This Week's Activities

Monday 1030 Homegroup (Dave Fowler)
 Wednesday 0900 Morning Prayer
 1415 Christ Church Wives
 Thursday 1000 The Thursday Service (Holy Communion)
 Friday 1000 Open Church Coffee Morning
 1400 Wedding of Luke Fitzgerald & Jennie Harper
 Saturday 0900 Church Cleaning
 0900 'Who Let the Dads Out?' (in church hall)
 1500 Ordination of Sarah Sharland
 (at Exeter Cathedral)

Mission of the Month: Church Army

Sunday 16th September 2018 – GIFT DAY

0800 The 8.00 Service (Holy Communion 2)
 1030 The 10.30 Service (Holy Communion)
 1800 The 6.00 Service



Visit us at www.christchurchportsdown.org

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: James 2:1-17

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. **2** Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," **4** have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6** But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? **8** If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. **9** But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. **11** For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. **12** Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. **14** What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but

does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Mark 7:24-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord

24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. **25** In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. **26** The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. **27** "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." **28** "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." **30** She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. **31** Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. **32** There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. **33** After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. **34** He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). **35** At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. **36** Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ