



# St John the Evangelist, Dormansland Newsletter – December 2025

<https://lingfieldparishchurch.org/>



## Thought for December

This will be my first Christmas that I celebrate together with the community and church family of St John's in Dormansland. It's been interesting putting together our Christmas services. I've tried to keep unfamiliar traditions alive and at the same time ensuring that the enormity of the birth of the Son of God as a human being is central to our worship. Please do come and invite your friends and neighbours to accompany us in our services of praise and worship over this season. There is one particular hymn that I love to sing at Christmas time. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is one of the most famous and most theologically rich Christmas carols in existence. Can you believe that for 500 years, these classic lyrics and catchy tune of this song have been a crucial part of Christmas celebrations.

Here are the lyrics:

God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
In Bethlehem, in Israel  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.



We know little about where this song came from. Of all the carols still being sung today, this is one of the oldest. It dates back to before the 16th century. Charles Dickens even mentions the song in his classic 1843 story, A Christmas Carol. We're told in the first verse that Christ was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's power. That's a powerful theological thought for all of us to consider during this season. The Bible says it like this: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b). All throughout the Bible, we read about Jesus' power to bring hope into a troubled world. Every time he resisted temptation, healed an illness, or cast a demon out of a person, he showed that the love of God was and is at work. Of course, the ultimate example of this came at the cross, in a powerful display of triumph.

So, this Christmas, don't let the word 'gentlemen' in this carol put you off course when you think about the enormity of what God did for every single one of us when he sent his Son to be born of a woman on Christmas Day. It's time at Christmastide to concentrate on not letting anything dismay us because we know that Jesus has already defeated evil in this world and one day he will come again, and the world will live in love – just how God designed it to be.

Come and join in with all our many acts of worship this season and let's sing hymns and carols with hope and gusto as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Go therefore in peace, with comfort and joyful prayer, to have a blessed Christmas season and a fruitful new year. In the name of Christ. Amen

## Services at St John's in December 2025

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Christingle, 5pm – The Five

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 3:30pm – Community Christmas Crafts

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – 6pm – Christmas Tree Lighting with Carols

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.** - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – The Five Christmas Worship Party

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.** - 10am – Parish Communion, 6:30pm – Carols by Candlelight

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 4pm Crib Service, 11:30pm – Midnight Mass

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 10am Christmas Day All Age communion

**Morning Prayer at St John's**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> at**  
10am

**Breakfast Hub**  
**Every Saturday, 9am-**  
**11am at St Peter & St Paul,**  
Lingfield



**Messy Church**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec - 3:30pm**



### Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday at 8pm  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74615258857?pwd=QXfPyoDEbLeuxPq5sCNBcQDsTcGyX.1>

Meeting ID: 746 1525 8857  
Passcode: compline

**Meeting Up & Warm Hub**  
We meet in the Centenary Room  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 10am-**  
12pm

**Wine & Wondering**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec – 7:30pm at**  
The Star Inn, Lingfield



### Friday Prayer

Jesus prioritised prayer in his busy life. We are setting aside an hour each Friday to pray from 4pm in St Andrews Chapel for the needs of the parish and the wider world.

**Saturday Lunches**  
A free simple lunch is offered in St Bernard's on the last Saturday of every month from **12.30 pm**. The next one will be on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

### Home Groups

These groups meet in people's homes on a regular basis. They involve times of Bible study/or discussion, a time of prayer and mutual support. The group meets at various homes on a **Wednesday** afternoon beginning at **2:30pm**. Please see Jackie Harrison for further information.

### Online Home Group Gathering

Join Melinda for a contemplative-focused home group that meets every other Wednesday from 11:00am to 12:00pm on Zoom on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

This is a space for reflection, connection, and quiet encouragement on our journey of faith. All are welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83085759497?pwd=YIUmUGGMAT8slzZNgoVbjYgZ2ivQZD.1>

**Meeting ID: 830 8575 9497 Passcode: 57N5yU**

