



## Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 13

January 26 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,



**From a recent Sunday: a picture of the calling of the first disciples by Arto, 10.** Since Christmas, it has been good to think about the early life of Jesus during our Sunday zoom services – his baptism, his calling of the disciples, his first miracle of turning water into wine and one of the first episodes of healing. It's about walking with Jesus in his footsteps as we try to be faithful disciples in 2021. I found this prayer recently which I liked:

***Take from us, Lord, any sense that we haven't much to offer you. Even when we feel that our gifts are meagre and ordinary, help us offer them joyfully to you, that you may transform what we think is just water into the rich wine of your kingdom, full of blessing. Amen.***

### LENT 2021

But we are moving on in our journey – and before we know it, Ash Wednesday and Lent will be upon us. I assume that we will all still be in lockdown and therefore all our Lenten activities will be home based via zoom. So, this is the 2021 Christ Church programme for Lent:

**ASH WEDNESDAY, 17 February at 8pm** – a simple Service of the Word by zoom with two hymns to last about 30 minutes. The order of service and the zoom link will be sent out on Tues 16 February.

**SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT AT 8pm (Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31).** There will be a short 40-minute zoom session using the USPG study course for 2021 '**For such a time as this**' exploring ecological justice. Each evening there will be a 'view from our world', a bible reading, and then a few questions to ponder, finishing with a final prayer. The material is available electronically from **me**. A free printed booklet will also be available – please let **me** know if you would like a paper copy. Details: [www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime](http://www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime)

**PTO**

**LENT CARBON FAST:** Ian and Lucy Christie are planning to review and update the Carbon Fast which was published last Lent. This will be circulated to you all when it has been prepared.

**BISHOP'S LENT CALL:** Each year we try to support generously the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call. This year all money raised will go towards projects in **Zimbabwe** supporting food security, water supplies, and infrastructure in our Link Dioceses of Central Zimbabwe, Matabeleland, Masvingo and Manicaland. **The Diocese of Jerusalem:** helping our new Link Diocese in Jerusalem to support up to 50 vulnerable families to feed themselves. **The Diocese of Southwark:** St Matthew, Redhill Food Bank; Wandsworth Food Bank; Norwood & Brixton Food Bank: Together Southwark; Lunch box Library; LewCAS. Details of how you can give via Christ Church will be published later in Lent.

### **3 MORE SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL LENTEN STUDY AND DEVOTION AT YOUR OWN PACE:**

**"LIVE LENT – God's story, our story"** invites each of us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it through our everyday lives. It is the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2021. It encourages us to take a fresh look at evangelism, exploring how Jesus and his first followers communicated the good news of God's love. For each of the 40 days of Lent, this booklet includes a short Bible passage, a reflection and a prayer. It costs £3 including postage and will be posted to your address. If you would like a copy please can you let **me** know as soon as possible – and by **Wednesday 3 February** at the latest. This is a tight timescale – but I have to order them and then send them out – and we all know that postal deliveries are disrupted at present. You can either drop £3 in cash direct into the Vicarage or send me a cheque payable to M J BURNS FEES ACCOUNT. The address for either method is 46 Pepys Road, Raynes Park, SW20 8PF. There is no rush to pay me – the rush is to let me know so that I can get the accurate order in to the suppliers! It has been written by Canon Stephen Hance and details are via [www.churchofengland.org/livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent)

**ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE JERUSALEM** has developed an online Lent course which may interest you. **"A river through the desert: a Lenten pilgrimage"** is in six parts and everyone who registers for it will be sent study notes along with photos, bible passages and questions for reflection. There will also be a short YouTube film each week which the Dean, Canon Richard Sewell, (formerly at St Mark's Wimbledon) has made on site. If you would like to join the course please let **me** know and I will forward you the materials when they are sent to me. I am afraid that they are only in electronic form so I am sorry to those who will be excluded from joining in. This is a free resource but St George's would like to invite all those who can afford it and would like to support the College whilst they are in the midst of a financial crisis to make a donation. They would welcome any amount however large or small, but as a guide they suggest £10 for an individual. To see options for different ways and means of giving please go to the College's giving page: <https://www.saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com/giving/> If you are able to make a personal donation to St George's College, please mark it 'Lent Course' if possible.

**WOULD YOU PREFER TO STUDY MARK?** Peter Sills, former Curate at Christ Church, wrote a book a few years ago called **The Time Has Come**, which covers the whole of the Gospel of Mark – the lead Gospel for this year. It contains a daily reading, reflection, and points for prayer. It was well reviewed some time ago by Rachel Boulding in the Church Times, who said 'The reflections offer more substance than most of what passes for Bible devotions, and each end with a short spiritual exercise. Like a good preacher, Canon Sills takes the reader imaginatively into the Gospel, and draws parallels with his readers' inner lives.' Copies are £8 incl p&p. If you let **me** know you are interested in buying the book, I can send you the details of how to obtain a copy direct from Peter.

With my prayers and best wishes to you all, *Michael Burns* 8946 5954 [ccww.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:ccww.vicar@gmail.com)