



Christ Church, West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 19

21 March 2022 – the 1st day of Spring!

To Members and Friends of Christ Church:

Here are three matters for your interest and attention:

SPONSORSHIP OF A REFUGEE FAMILY

This is the announcement made on Sunday 20 March by Chris Larkman:

“The good news is that the Parish Refugee Project Steering Group has now formally agreed to welcome a young Syrian refugee family into the flat we have rented in Morden. The family is father, mother, 8-year-old son, one year old daughter and mother is expecting a baby in September. They will have their hands full – and so will we! The family are currently in Egypt having arrived there via a circuitous route fleeing from all that was happening in their home country of Syria. They should be arriving here in about 6-8 weeks' time and we will be supporting them for an agreed period of 2 years. The plan is to help them get established in this country to be able to go on to live here independently. This will be a major challenge for them – coming to a completely different culture and language.

We have a fantastic parish team supporting the project. They have been working hard to prepare and equip the property to meet our family's particular needs and have made plans for language lessons and interpreters. Thank you to the many people in the parish who have offered, and continue to offer help, and to give generously to this project in terms of time, money and other gifts, and talents. Going forward, we will be approaching you all for more help and support. And of course, your prayers.

Meanwhile Clare has drawn up a list, which is at the back of the church, of smaller, new items that are needed for the flat. Anything from a tin opener to a double duvet – so if anyone has any of these items available, please sign up on the list. Items can then be brought to church over the next couple of weeks and left in the box at the back of the church, or, if you would prefer, we can arrange to pick them up from you.

With all the horrors of what is happening in the Ukraine, it feels good to be able to do something for one family who has had to flee their motherland. We pray for the family as they arrive and begin their new life, and we pray that we can offer them a warm welcome, always being sensitive to their needs and expectations”. Chris Larkman.

We are very grateful to Chris and Clare and the Christ Church Steering Group for their strong leadership of this exciting if challenging project and for all those who have generously been giving help in these important planning stages.

PTO

SILVER ECO-CHURCH AWARD FOR CHRIST CHURCH:

The first meeting of our small Eco Church Group was three years ago and we're thrilled that we've just achieved a **Silver Award**. Huge thanks are due to Lucy Christie for heading up this project. **Lucy Christie has written this article for the April edition of the Bridge, the Diocesan newsletter:**

"Highlights have been our annual Creationtide display of pictures, artwork and objects contributed by the congregation. Establishing a prayer link with the team at A Rocha Kenya. Involving children and young people in their groups with making our communal Christmas card, making insect hotels, growing sunflowers and taking part in the Churches Count on Nature and RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch surveys. Organising a speaker event in the lead up to COP26 and hearing from Tearfund, Sustainable Merton and Young Christian Climate Network. Our Lenten Fasts for Creation with Bible verses and ideas for each week.

Lucy Christie, Eco Church Group Leader, said, 'What's made the difference is weaving care for Creation into so many of our church activities from cleaning to youth work, and from finance to social events.' We worked hard through major renovations of our church hall to include actions that would reduce our carbon footprint. We've improved our land with wildflower beds, bee and butterfly-friendly planting, boxes for birds and bats and new spaces for recreation and contemplation. We've written many articles in our church publications and website. The biggest challenges have been keeping focus and energy on Eco Church during the Covid-19 pandemic. And, calculating our carbon footprint for a comparison before and after our hall renovations. We'll be using the Church of England Energy Footprint Tool and 360° Carbon from now on. Vicar, Michael Burns, says, 'It's good to play our part in tackling the biggest challenge humanity faces – the climate crisis.'

And our main achievement? All these activities to demonstrate our care for God's Earth and all Creation are no longer just Eco Church – but simply *church*". Lucy Christie.

OUR SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022

Palm Sunday April 10

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist with procession and the blessing of our palm crosses and Junior Church

6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)

Monday April 11—Tuesday April 12—Wednesday April 13

8pm-8.30pm Compline led by the Vicar with meditations from 'The Things He Carried'

Maundy Thursday April 14

8pm Sung Eucharist followed by stripping of the Church and a silent vigil of prayer till 10pm

Good Friday April 15

10am Meet at the Lantern Methodist Church in Worple Road for the Procession of Witness through Raynes Park organised by Churches Together in West Wimbledon

12 noon till 3pm – Good Friday Three Hours

12 – 1: A quiet reflective time led by the Vicar using meditations and recorded music

1 – 2: Silent prayer before the Cross (do come and go as you wish)

2 – 3: The Last Hour Liturgy of the Cross: Readings and Music

Easter Day Sunday April 17

6.30am Sunrise service—blessing of the new fire, renewal of baptism vows and a light breakfast

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist - a service for everyone with Easter eggs for the children

6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)

With my prayers and best wishes to you all, **Michael Burns**