



## Christ Church, West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 20

**August 2022**

### **To Members and Friends of Christ Church:**

**BACK TO WORK, BACK TO SCHOOL.....BACK TO CHURCH!** I do hope that you have had a good Summer wherever you have spent it and that the start of September will see us all full of energy for what the autumn will bring. I hope too that more of you will feel able to come back to church after the hiatus of the past two or more years. We are still being covid aware – for example not yet exchanging the peace and not yet administering the chalice. But I trust that you will have confidence to come and join us for our regular Sunday worship services and our Junior Church activities. You will all be very welcome.

**CREATIONTIDE DISPLAY 2022 - PLANET EARTH: Celebrating all God's Creation.** Once again during September and October we will be celebrating Creationtide at Christ Church with a display of pictures, photographs, paintings and objects from church members. Many thanks to Lucy Christie for leading on this and to all those who have contributed items.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING** will be held on **SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER** when at the 10am service Ian Christie will be speaking and Lucy Christie will be leading us in a short fun quiz on the theme of pollution, waste & recycling: a version of The Rubbish Game on time periods for decomposition. Certain food will be collected for distribution to local charities including Christian Care and the Wimbledon Foodbank – the pewsheets will give details of what will be useful to them. Our money collection will be for **A ROCHA KENYA** who we supported last year – full details will be in a harvest flyer to be published in September. **Do come and join us on Sunday 2 October to celebrate God's Creation.**

**CONFIRMATION GROUP** – a group of our young people will be preparing for Confirmation during the autumn. They will be meeting on Sunday mornings at 11.15am in the Truman Room during October and November. Sadly, this will mean that I won't be around the church at the end of the 10am service. I do regret this as I always like to greet people as they leave and to welcome any newcomers to church, even though this is sometime tricky because of our two-door church building! But I trust you will understand. **THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE** will be held at **St Matthew's Church in Durham Road on SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20 at 6.30pm** when all will be welcome to support and encourage our young people.

**TWO SOCIAL EVENTS TO COME: OUR CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT** will be held on **SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER** for all the family and **OUR ADVENT FAIR** will take place after the 10am service on **SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER**. More details of these events will be in the Sunday pewsheets.

**SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER at 6.30pm** sees our annual **ALL SOULS' SERVICE** when we remember those who have died – all are warmly welcome. Do add to the list at the back of the church the names of those you would like to be mentioned during the service – it'll be available from October 2 onwards.

**OUR SYRIAN FAMILY** are continuing to settle into their new life in the UK with the support of a committed and dedicated team from Christ Church. Regular updates will appear in the Sunday pewsheet. We continue to pray for them and we give particular thanks to Chris and Clare and all those who are working hard to give the family support in so many varied and practical ways. The family are very grateful for all the support we are able to give them.

**CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP** continues to be very popular and appreciated. However, it is quite a significant commitment for the small team led by Mair Rabagliati, which organises this Wednesday morning term-time activity (and also in setting up the hall on Tuesday evenings). If you feel you would like to offer some help, please do let us know.

#### **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

<b>SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER:</b>	10am <b>Toy Sunday</b> Celebrate Together followed by <b>Advent Fair</b>
<b>SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER:</b>	4pm Christingle Service ( <i>very suitable for younger children</i> )
<b>SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER:</b>	10am Junior Church Nativity Play
<b>SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER:</b>	6.30pm Carol Service of Lessons and Carols
<b>SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER:</b>	4pm Family Crib Service ( <i>very suitable for younger children</i> )
(Christmas Eve)	11.30pm Midnight Mass
<b>SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER:</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP)
(Christmas Day)	10am Parish Eucharist ( <i>children welcome to bring a gift to show us</i> )

**A FINAL THOUGHT:** Like all of you, I am very aware of the current anxieties and pressures that we are all under caused by many external factors completely outside our control. We are living through times of great uncertainty and instability – and that is particularly frightening for those of us who like certainty and stability in our lives.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 are these words: *“God has made everything beautiful in its time and he has also set eternity in the human heart; for there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live – this is the gift of God”.*

I do hope and pray that we can be people who do put our faith in God and that in these times of uncertainty and instability we can place our trust and our hope in Him – and that these inspiring words from the Bible will give us comfort and strength in these times.

With my prayers and best wishes to you all,

**Michael Burns**