

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

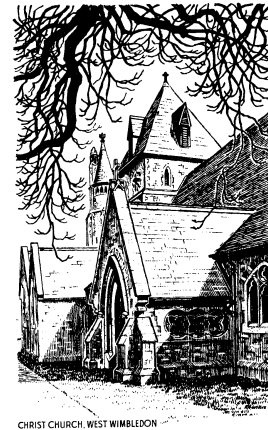
The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

Isaiah 7.10–16

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1.18–25



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Readers: Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks
Pastoral Visitor (SPA): Sarah Castle
Director of Music: Tom Theakston



Sunday 22 December 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs
of this present age to see, with her,
our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will and with her rejoice
in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Green Prayer

Birth and Rebirth
Beneath the surface of your story
is an inescapable fact.
You entered this world
as vulnerable as any one of us
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins,
all that can separate us from God
exchanged by your Grace for Love.
We cannot comprehend the reasoning,
only marvel that Salvation comes to us
through a baby born in a stable,
who reaches out to a world in need.

Excerpt from https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm

Sunday 22 December 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent

READINGS FOR THIS MORNING:

Isaiah 7. 10-16; Matthew 1. 18-end

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

HYMNS: 469, 130, 117, 318, 364

6.30pm Carol Service
Followed by refreshments



FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Hilary Brazier; Carol Green;

Those who have died: Harry Watson;

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Dawn Stageman (2015); Richard Thurgood (2010); Siàn Edmunds (2009);

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

Tuesday 24 DECEMBER

11am *No Morning Prayer*

4.00pm **Family Crib Service**

11.30pm **Midnight Mass**

Wednesday 25 DECEMBER

8.00am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00am **Parish Eucharist**

(do bring a gift you've opened to show us)

NEXT SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS 1

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm BCP Evensong

Tuesday 31 DECEMBER

11am *No Morning Prayer*

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

NATIVITY PLAY—COMMENTS RECEIVED: “That was a wonderful Nativity play - my favourite in 22 years of seeing them at CCWW! Congratulations to all the production team and to all the children. Well done to all concerned, it was a lovely show. Up to professional standards. It was absolutely brilliant! Yes, the nativity was absolutely fantastic!!!! Very well written and of course directed. All the children looked adorable and they sung beautifully too. Thank you so much to you amazing Junior Church Leaders and Lucy and Eleftheria. You are so talented, it was absolutely fantastic and I loved every moment. Wish I could see it all over again...???” So many congratulations to everyone.

TODAY—Activities for Children: There are paper puzzles and craft activities for children in the Truman Room. Please help yourself at any time during the service

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD: An ECO IDEA. A giant card is on display at the back of church. You can write your Christmas message to everyone in the church. If you like, the money saved on cards can be donated to a charity you're supporting this Christmas. Obviously you can still decide to send individual cards if you wish but this is just one simple idea to be kind to the planet and still be friendly to your friends in the congregation!

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS—please take ones addressed to you.

MINCE PIES will be welcome for 'after service refreshments' at the Carol Service tonight.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE on Wednesday 1st January 7.30pm Service of Prayers for Peace at St. John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, SW20 9DB. All welcome.

2020 CHURCH DIARIES—have now arrived and are available for you to take. **No charge.**

WIMBLEDON FOODBANK Thank you to everyone who responded to the Reverse Advent Calendar appeal with such generosity. Three large collections have been taken to the Food Bank, including a lot of chocolate, and they are extremely grateful for your help in adding festive treats to the regular food parcels. Normal collections will start again after Christmas. The Food Bank website lists their most urgent needs.

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH BY DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD: We now have a card reader and if anyone wishes to donate to the Church by card then please see the Churchwarden, David Simpson, after the service. We would also be delighted if you wish to set up a monthly direct debit payment to the Church as this remains the best way to support Christ Church on a regular basis - David can help with this too.

CHARITIES supported by our Christmas Service Collections: Merton Faith in Action and Christian CARE Association will receive 50% of our Christmas collections this year. **Merton Faith in Action** runs a Homeless Drop In Centre every Wednesday and Friday providing meals, shower & laundry facilities, clothing & food parcels, internet access and support with applications for jobs, housing & benefits and help with accessing other local services. **Christian CARE Association** offers help to people in Merton with befrienders who can listen & support at times of crisis; they provide food and household essentials, baby essentials, children's clothes, including some school uniform and second hand furniture for families in need. They also organise an annual party and summer outing and arrange for some children to attend summer camps.

BRUNO BEAR TODDLER GROUP: We are planning to reopen on Wednesday 15 January 2020 9.30-11.15am for pre school children and their parents/carers in term time. In preparation for this:

1. Unwanted toys books dolls trikes etc in good condition would be much appreciated to supplement what we have already
2. We continue to look for adults of whatever age to help with running it on a occasional or regular basis for welcoming as well as putting equipment out and away or serving refreshments etc Please contact Mair Rabagliati.

HARRY WATSON: The funeral is on **WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2020 at 9.20am** at North East Surrey Crematorium,, Lower Morden Lane, Lower Morden Lane. Morden SM4 4NU. It will be followed by an informal gathering at Lower Morden Garden Centre in Lower Morden where people can buy coffee and cakes. All will be warmly welcome to attend.

