



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 6

Candlemas 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

IN 2020 WE ARE URGENTLY SEEKING TWO NEW CHURCH WARDENS to be elected at the Annual Church Meeting which will be held on **Sunday 26 April 2020 after the 10am service**. Every Church of England parish is required to have two Church Wardens and Christ Church has always done so until recently. However, David Simpson, who was elected two years ago, has been the sole Church Warden for the last year and so has had to do the work of two people. He has done a sterling job and we are very grateful to him. However, he has decided not to seek re-election and so in 2020 we are urgently seeking two new Church Wardens. This job is too much for one person but is eminently do-able and rewarding with two. It is vital for the future of Christ Church that we again have two Church Wardens to share the work. The Church Council is committed to creating a small team of people who can regularly and actively support the two new wardens. For example, helpers could assist with routine administrative and financial management tasks; they could open and close the Church when contractors are on site and they could, as is happening already, share duties at the main 10am Sunday service. Every assistance possible will be given to our new Church Wardens. I encourage anyone who is committed to the future of Christ Church and who feels they may have a calling to this role to think about it, pray about it and come and talk to me. Obviously, the role will not suit everyone. For that reason, it is important for anyone who might be interested to speak to me in the first instance. **It would an unthinkable crisis for Christ Church if we were unable to elect a pair of Church Wardens once again.**

THE ANNUAL MEETING will also elect 3 representatives on to the Church Council together with 4 representatives onto the Merton Deanery Synod (who will also be ex-officio on the Church Council).

THE ANNUAL REPORTS: This year we are trying to expand the list of reports – you'll get a note from Sara asking for a report if you lead/coordinate some aspect of the life at Christ Church! Thank you.

THE BACK GARDEN: in the midst of a gloomy winter, it is uplifting to see the transformation of the jungle that was the "wild" garden into a place of beauty and peace. It will look even better as spring approaches and the shrubs and flowers that will be planted take root and blossom. Thank you to all the generous donors who have funded this work and to those who have coordinated the project and given of their time and expertise led by Karen Chinn. We are creating a green oasis for everyone at the Church and in the wider community.

SPONSORING A REFUGEE FAMILY: There is huge goodwill and determination by the Church's Working Party and from the congregation as a whole to make a success of this project to rehouse in Merton a family of refugees. There are, of course, risks to be shouldered by the Church but the Church Council is working hard to understand these and make the right decisions to give a family a new life in our community. There will be more information after the Working Party and the Church Council have met again next month.

ECO-CHURCH: The Working Party is active and committed to reducing the Church's environmental footprint for the benefit of the whole world. Work continues towards achieving a Bronze Award and we are grateful to those who are working on this, led by Ian and Lucy Christie. A Lent programme will be launched on February 23.

CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP: It is very encouraging to report that after a number of years the Church is again running a weekly activity session for toddlers and their parents and carers on Wednesday mornings. There has been a strong start despite the inclement weather and already large numbers have come along to the group in the refurbished Church Hall. Please speak to Mair Rabagliati if you would like to help. You don't need to have any toddlers in tow to offer assistance to the group!

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:

ASH WEDNESDAY falls on **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26**. There will be a **Parish Eucharist at 8pm** which will include the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish it.

LENT 2020 – once again there will be a Lent Course in Church. There will be two sessions each week for 5 weeks – on Tuesday afternoons (**2pm till 3.15pm**) and on Tuesday evenings (**8pm till 9.15pm**). The dates are: **March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**. Each week both sessions will follow the same material—so you are welcome to come along to whichever time and day suits you best – i.e. no need to come twice! This year we will following a course linking in to the Church of England Lent Campaign for 2020 – **LIVE LENT – CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION**. The course we will be following is part of the Sage Bible Studies and the topics to be covered are: **CREATION, STEWARDSHIP, FALL AND REDEMPTION, MONEY and LIFESTYLE**. Each week we will be studying and discussing Bible passages, and relating these to our care of God’s world. Please sign the list at the back of the Church – and please bring a Bible with you!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2020

Palm Sunday April 5

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Celebrate Together with the blessing and procession of palm crosses

6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)

Monday April 6

8pm-8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) and Address by the Vicar

Tuesday April 7

8pm-8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) and Address by the Vicar

Wednesday April 8

8pm-8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) and Address by the Vicar

Maundy Thursday April 9

8pm-9pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper

followed by stripping of the Church and a silent vigil till 10pm

Good Friday April 10

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 – Three Hours at Christ Church

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

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) with the Choir

Easter Day April 12

6.30am Sunrise service—blessing of the new fire and renewal of baptism vows followed by 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)

There will be a charitable collection at Easter Day Services for the work of the CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY. Our Link Missionary, Michael Green, will be speaking at Christ Church at 10am on Sunday March 15 about the work of the Church Mission Society – do come and hear him tell us about CMS.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes so much to the life and work of Christ Church. Please do try to continue to make regular Church attendance a priority so that our worship can continue strongly as the whole Church family of Christ Church gathers together Sunday by Sunday – and please pray for two new Church Wardens!

With prayers and best wishes, *Michael J Burns*