

Christ Church Information Advent 2000

**Revd Celia Thomson,
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Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of hope. As the days get shorter and darker we reflect on the past and look forward to the future in the light of the coming Christ child. This year Advent Sunday is special for two reasons. Firstly, we begin using the new services of the Church of England, *Common Worship* (see article inside) which replaces the *Alternative Service Book*. Secondly, the *Christingle* and *Toy* service will be held at 3.30 pm that afternoon.

In our *Week of Accompanied Prayer* in October we were very pleased to have two Roman Catholics taking part as prayer companions. Two of us from *Christ Church* have been invited to participate in a similar *Week of Prayer* at *Sacred Heart* in the first week of Advent. Whatever the message from Rome, ecumencial relations are flourishing in West Wimbledon!

During the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* in January, there is a day conference on the Eucharist organised by the *Churches Together* in West Wimbledon. This will be on

Saturday 20th January, and we are being asked to book our places by 17th December. There are three excellent speakers and I do encourage as many people as possible to take part in the day - it will be helpful to all of us as we get to grips with *Common Worship*.

But before then comes Christmas! And in the busyness of the run up to it, don't lose sight of what it's all about - God in Jesus making the world his inseparable dwelling place.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
TO
YOU.

VICAR'S STUDY LEAVE

Under a new scheme in Southwark diocese, introduced two years ago, clergy are entitled to six weeks' Study Leave after completing seven years' service. I have now been in Holy Orders for over nine years, and I shall be taking advantage of this scheme in the new year.

I shall be away, in Italy, from 19th February until 28 March. I have already arranged for visiting clergy to cover for the five Sundays that I am away, and I shall be returning in good time for Easter, which is on 15th April.

For the first week I shall be attending a course at the Anglican Centre in Rome, entitled Communion in Mission. This is a conference about Anglican/Roman Catholic relations in the aftermath of the bishops' talks in Toronto earlier this year. The rest of the time I shall aim to be using the Anglican Centre Library to catch up with some theological reading and, of course, sightseeing as well. Having done an MA in Renaissance Studies many years ago, I have long wanted to explore the art and architecture of Rome and other Italian cities, and this is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

CELIA THOMSON



Advent marks the beginning of the Christian Year, and we are marking Advent 2000 by introducing Common Worship, the services that the Church of England will be using in the new century. Common Worship replaces the Alternative Service Book 1980, but it does not replace the Book of Common Prayer. At Christ Church we shall continue to use the BCP every Sunday at the 8 am service of Holy Communion, on the first Sunday of the month for Evensong, and on the first Tuesday of every month for the 11 am communion service.

COMMON

At Christ Church, we have already made a start to this changeover, by using the Common Worship Calendar, Lectionary and Collects for the last three years, and by using the draft Eucharistic Prayers in 1999, as well as seasonal material now incorporated in the new books. Now the time has come to use Common Worship at our 10 am Sunday Parish Eucharist.

There will in fact be very little alteration to the structure of our service. There are several minor changes in the wording of familiar parts of the

THOUGHT FOR ADVENT

As we look towards the coming of Jesus Christ this Christmastide, I wonder how many of us think about the coming of our Lord, to us, on a daily basis. Are we wrapped up already in the yearly round of lists of things to buy and to do? As we talk to children and ask them what they want as presents this Christmas, do we stop and tell them that this is to celebrate the giving of gifts to the baby in the manger? Will we become so involved in celebrating the birth of Jesus in our church that we forget to listen to Jesus as he visits us moment by moment?

Jesus gave us two great commandments: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27. Surely I cannot love myself when I am dashing around, hardly giving myself time to think! Certainly, I am not giving myself the time and space to hear Jesus when He speaks to me. As for my neighbour, do I see Jesus in the

people I meet? I know that He is there, in the homeless person lying in a shop doorway, or in the traffic warden whom I struggle to beat to my car, or the old person whom everyone ignores on the bus. I simply convince myself that I do not have the time to stop, and yet, this is one of the ways in which Jesus meets us in our daily lives!

If I am not loving myself, or recognising Jesus, how can I love God in Jesus in the way God wants? Fortunately, there is nothing that I can do to make God love me less, or more. God loves me just as I am, warts and all, 'Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you.' Isaiah 43:4. Perhaps, I could find more time in my life to give God the opportunity to tell me about the great gift of God's love for me and the giving of Jesus Christ to the world. What better gift than my time, could I offer this Christmas?

VAL HANCOCK



WORSHIP

service, for instance in Confession, the Gospel Responses, in the Creed, and in the Opening Sentences of the Eucharistic Prayer. Otherwise, the main change is that now we have eight Eucharistic Prayers to choose from instead of four. There is also a greater variety of seasonal material to use in, for instance, Advent and Lent, much of which we are already familiar with. Our normal weekly service sheet will hardly look any different. Because we use a Sunday service sheet, we have only bought 20 copies of the new book. All the material is available electronically, but you might wish to buy



your own copy for use at home (£15).

I believe that the changeover to Common Worship will prove a good experience for this church, bringing freshness to our worship and new riches to our prayers. As we have drawn our liturgy from the traditions and faith of Christians through the centuries, so now we play our own part in shaping the tradition of Anglican worship for today and for the future.



CELIA THOMSON

Cathedral to Cathedral

Recently a group from Christ Church gathered outside St Paul's cathedral for a walk to Southwark cathedral. Interestingly our guide, John Barrett, pointed out the first Christian cathedral had been built here in AD604 and that the present cathedral, dating from 1697, was the fifth on the site. This contrasts with Southwark, which did not become a cathedral until 1905, but has been a place of worship for over 1,000 years.

After a few moments we were soon away from the hurly burly of Ludgate Hill and stopping to admire a Wren house where the Bishop of London lives. Then just around the corner into an old medieval lane that for many decades was the main thoroughfare between the City and Westminster, then into a small peaceful courtyard, known as Wardrobe Place, where kings in days past kept their clothes.

We then stopped outside a Wren church, St Andrew's by the Wardrobe, where the Church Missionary Society held its first meetings, before going into Blackfriars station to see a piece of stonework from the original station of 1886 on which is carved some of the destinations, in years past, of the trains from here - such as Brindisi, Marseilles and St Petersburg.

So over Blackfriars Bridge onto Bankside where we strolled pass the newly opened Tate Modern, the home of the Dean of Southwark Cathedral known as the 'Provost's Lodgings', and the house Wren allegedly lived in when working on his cathedral across the river. So onto the new Globe Theatre and then around the corner to see the site of the old Globe. Then pass the Clink prison, what remains of Winchester palace, and the replica of the ship in which Drake sailed around the world, before stopping to see how the new works at Southwark Cathedral were progressing.

Finally, into Hay's Galleria, an old dock, where the walk terminated and we adjourned for refreshments!

JOHN BARRETT



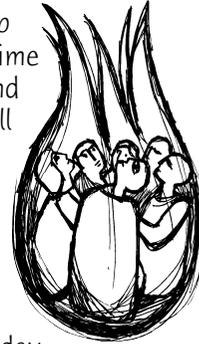
Mums' Bible Study Group

The Mums' Bible Study Group has been meeting for some time now. Members have come and gone - work, moving house all affect the lives of young mums. Currently we have five members (plus children). Two mums have new babies so we adapt the meetings accordingly. Sometimes we meet on weekday mornings; sometimes we meet in the evening. This is especially so in Advent as most of us have Christmas concerts and other commitments vying for our time. However, we do not want our Lord and our study time to be pushed out as we all find it very rewarding and valuable to meet and study God's word - hence some evening meetings.

Currently we are studying The Gospel According to John, using The People's Bible Commentary to assist; however, when we come to a word or concept that raises questions, we look at it in greater detail. Often an evening session will be devoted to a particular word or concept, for example, 'Grace', 'Atonement', 'Virginal Conception' and so forth. This key word analysis often leads to a lively debate and Paul Brazier (who has helped, on and off, with the group) produces amazing handouts to keep our thoughts grounded in scripture and Christian doctrine. Eighteen months ago Paul presented the 'Jesus' Parables' course to the group (the same course that he ran for the rest of the congregation in July 1999).

We are truly blessed in our fellowship and study - please feel you can join us!

LOUISE ROBERTS : 020 8879 0971



Week of Accompanied Prayer

On behalf of those who attended the week of accompanied prayer I would like to thank our Vicar, Celia Thomson, Val Hancock and all the prayer companions who made the event possible.

The week commenced with an evening service on Sunday 15 October. After an opening prayer we sang a favourite hymn of mine 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.' Those lovely words were to set the scene for each of us, every day in the special week, to set time aside for a period of reading, reflection and contemplation, before meeting with our prayer companion for a daily quiet time of discussion.

As the week commenced many of us soon discovered the difficulty of finding time to 'be still and contemplative' in our busy daily lives and the discipline needed to meet with our prayer companion each day!



However, having made the time, I know that many of us were amazed at the change in ourselves after just half an hour of relaxed

discussion in a quiet corner of the Church with our prayer companion. We learnt that we could come to God just as we were.

The week ended with a wonderful service of thanksgiving for the week of prayer and for our continuing journey with the Holy Spirit to God.

After the service we all thoroughly enjoyed sharing food and fellowship and acknowledged that we can pray to God however and wherever we are, knowing that he is always there to listen to us.

I started off this piece by mentioning the hymn that we sang at the opening service. I would like to end by leaving with you the words of the last verse of that hymn - which seem to me to reflect the peacefulness in the Church that week as we met our prayer companions each day during *Christ Church's Week of Accompanied Prayer*.

'Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place, He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace. No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him; Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.'

BRENDA THURGOOD

Bruno Bear News

If you are under 5 and would like to have fun on Thursday mornings come along and join us between 9:30 and 11:30 am - bring your parent or carer and give them a chance for a coffee and a chat whilst you play. For more details parents/carers can phone

Bruno and his Friends & Relations wish you a Happy Christmas!

Christmas is Coming!

- ★ Christingle Service - Sunday 3 December, 3:30pm
- ★ Bruno's Christmas Party - Thursday 7 December (entry by ticket only)
- ★ Christmas Story on Thursday 14 December
- ★ Last Session this term, Thursday 14 December



A Big Thank You To All Who Helped With The Grand Bruno Bear Christmas Fair!

**For More Details Phone:
Louise Roberts (020 8879 0971) or Clare Pickard (020 8947 2196)**

MAKING THE EUCHARIST WORK

Raynes Park Methodist Church

**A Study day organised by the
Churches Together in West Wimbledon**

Saturday 20th January 2001

9.30 am - 4.15pm

Speakers :

Rev David Chapman

Methodist
member of
The British
Methodist Roman
Catholic Committee

**Gerard W
Hughes SJ**

Roman Catholic
author
of
The God of Surprises

**Professor
Timothy Gorrige**

Anglican
author
of
The Signs of Love

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Sunday 4th February
2001

after the 10 am service.

- § Babysitting
- § Cooking all or one course of a special meal
- § Making marmalade or jam
- § Driving people to and from the airport
- § Driving someone out for the day
- § Playing 'Happy Birthday' to people
- § Lending a second home
- § Tennis coaching
- § Gardening

ANY OTHER IDEAS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y
December 2000 to February 2001



3 Dec	<i>ADVENT SUNDAY</i> Introduction of COMMON WORSHIP in the Church of England Coffee and Sherry at the Vicarage after the 10:00am service 3:30pm CHRISTINGLE service, followed by tea	11 Jan	9:30am Holy Communion
5 Dec	11:00am Holy Communion	14 Jan	<i>Epiphany 2</i>
7 Dec	9:30am Holy Communion	18 Jan	9:30 Holy Communion
9 Dec	2:00pm Wedding of Ingrid Page and Ian Buckley	20 Jan	Churches Together in West Wimbledon Conference on THE EUCHARIST at Raynes Park Methodist Church 9:30am - 4:15pm
10 Dec	<i>Advent 2</i>	21 Jan	<i>Epiphany 3</i>
14 Dec	9:30am Holy Communion	25 Jan	9:30am Holy Communion
17 Dec	<i>Advent 3</i> 10:00am Junior Church Presentation 6:30pm CAROL SERVICE, followed by mulled wine and mince pies	28 Jan	<i>Epiphany 4</i>
21 Dec	9:30am Holy Communion	1 Feb	9:30am Holy Communion
24 Dec	<i>Advent 4 / CHRISTMAS EVE</i> 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Parish Eucharist 4:00pm CRIB SERVICE 11:30pm MIDNIGHT MASS	4 Feb	<i>THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST</i> Auction of Promises after the 10:00am service Parish Lunch
25 Dec	<i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i> 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00 am CHRISTMAS FAMILY COMMUNION	6 Feb	11:00am Holy Communion
31 Dec	<i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i> No Evensong	8 Feb	9:30am Holy Communion
2 Jan	11:00am Holy Communion	11 Feb	<i>The Third Sunday before Lent</i>
4 Jan	9:30am Holy Communion	15 Feb	9:30am Holy Communion
7 Jan	<i>EPIPHANY</i>	18 Feb	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>
		25 Feb	<i>The Sunday before Lent</i>
		28 Feb	<i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>

