

Christ Church Information

A d v e n t 2 0 0 1

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Dear Friends,

The Christian New Year begins on Advent Sunday as we begin to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas - so a very Happy New Year to you all!

As usual, we have a busy festive season rushing towards us but I do urge you to make time and space to reflect on what it is we are celebrating at Christmas. Val Hancock will be leading an Advent Reflection on Wednesday 12th December at 8 pm in the Truman Room.

Many of you will already have met Juliet Donnelly who is training for the priesthood at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Juliet will be with us on Sunday mornings until the summer, and will sometimes be bringing her two daughters, Iona and Sophia. Her husband, Trevor, is Vicar of Hinchley Wood.

Thinking ahead, beyond the excitement of Christmas, we have various things planned for the New Year, including a service

on Friday 25th January to wind up the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is organised by the Churches Together in West Wimbledon and will be at St. Matthew's. There is also a celebration of our Patronal Festival with an All Age Communion and Parish Lunch, and the Parish Weekend in March.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas wherever you celebrate it.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

**PEACE
TO
YOU.**

Thought for the Season Advent 2001



"God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." Colossians 1:13-15

The promise, foretold in the prophets and realised in the coming of Jesus, is of a kingdom where God will be known and our delight will be in the knowledge and love of God. This is what the incarnation, God coming into the world to share in human life, is about.

The fullness of God is pleased to dwell in Jesus Christ. God desires to be our fullness too. Through prayer we must learn to speak to God about our own desire for redemption, our longing to be revealed as children of light, our yearning to claim our inheritance as God's children. The expectancy of Advent and the joy of the birth of Christ give us all hope.

The coming Messiah offers us true freedom and light through the simplicity of his birth and the glory of his resurrection, for *"through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, by making peace through the blood of his Cross."* Colossians 1:20

May the joy and peace of Christ be yours this
Christmastide.

Celia Thomson.

THE ROMEWALK PROJECT

JULY 13 TO OCTOBER 12 2001

Peter Clifton recently retired and satisfied a lifelong ambition by walking 1068 miles from London to Rome, to raise money for homeless people and awareness of their plight. He was accompanied by friends and family on 30 of the 92 days.

It was a zigzag route, starting across Kent, Belgium, and the northern France battlefields. It included cycling across Burgundy, and took in the GR5 footpath that runs across the Alps. It was often lonely, and my biggest anxiety - quite rightly - was where I would sleep each night.

I stayed in cheap hotels, hostels and refuges. Friends put me up too. The mountain refuges offered wonderful international company, but their bunk-beds, sometimes sleeping 24 people, challenged sleep with snoring. The Alps were the tops in every sense, and the snow-covered Col de Chavière, at 2,796 metres, was the high point of adventure.

The diary of the walk, with accounts of people I met, some fun, and information about the problems of the homeless and refugees, is already published at www.romewalk.org. I took a letter to the Pope, too, on behalf of the Churches Together in West Wimbledon - it's all there on the Web.

Sponsorship has raised over £22,000 so far - if you should decide to give to CHAS, Unleash, Shelter or another charity, please mention "Romewalk".

ALL - AGE WORSHIP



We all have firm opinions about the form of the church services we attend, those we like and those which match our beliefs and needs. Naturally different patterns of worship appeal to us at different ages. The sparky activities and songs of Junior Church are usually set alongside the more traditional hymns and a thought - provoking sermon for their parents.

Yet there are times for a family to be together, to do things side by side, if they are to grow and stay together as a family. This is equally true for all ages of Christians at Christ Church. If we are to grow, as God intends, we need to have times when we all come together, especially to worship as His family.

One of the most positive and widely held proposals that emerged from our "Think Time" discussions earlier in the year was the need to identify opportunities to include children and young people more effectively in the life of Christ Church. Responding to this, the PCC set up the 'Outreach Working Party' with that as one of its chief tasks.

It was asked to plan a programme which used certain festivals and other occasions in the Church Year that could be developed as times for special services for "All-Age Worship". Some of these will be family services, others will have a particular focus appealing to all ages. Those held at 10.00 am on Sunday mornings will be combined with a shortened form of the Communion Service so that we can all gather together around the Lord's table at the Holy Eucharist.

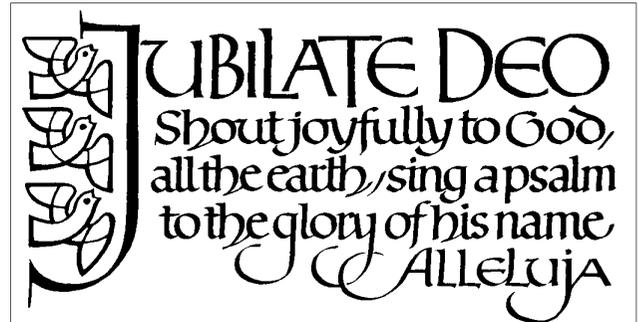
The Harvest Service was the first of these and vividly demonstrated a clear message that we need to value and share all God's gifts. None of us will forget our piece of cake prepared and baked from ingredients brought to the altar amid our hymns and prayers. Further services are planned for the Christ Church Patronal Festival at Candlemas, for Mothering Sunday, Pentecost and a Summer Celebration around the Feast Day of SS Peter and Paul. There will be other events which will be supplementary and complementary to the existing pattern of services - and related social festivities too, of course. No, the well-loved liturgy of worship at Christ Church will not be in any way diminished. It will, we trust, be enriched by a variety of special services which should appeal

to all of us and our families in different ways, as we seek to encourage one another in our Christian faith.



Those who have worshipped at Christ Church for many years will recognise elements of all-age worship from past experience. What is new is that we shall try to plan the year's calendar well ahead with appropriate invitations to those services which aim to involve all ages. The support of everyone is essential if we are to extend a proper welcome to families entering more fully into the life of Christ Church. We hope that all of us will find renewed fellowship and common links in our worship together and a stronger and deeper faith as a result.

Colin Holloway



FABRIC FUND

As you will see from the Christmas letter to go round the parish, we are planning to set up a Fabric Fund for the long-term care of the church building. This was discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting and approved by the Standing Committee. In recent months we have had three generous donations for the fabric which have started off the fund.

It is hoped that people in the area who appreciate the building and

the church garden will contribute, so please do encourage your friends and neighbours! In this way we hope that some of the major repairs we may face in the future will not be such a burden on members of the congregation. If you are able to make a contribution please don't forget that if you are a tax payer and sign a Gift Aid form the church receives 28% more at no extra cost to yourself.

Celia Thomson

Parish Weekend **8 - 10 March 2002**

led by Revd Garry Bennett
at St Columba's Woking.

Theme: Journeying

Cost: £95:76

An opportunity to explore,
reflect and enjoy.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity **18-25 January 2002**

Churches Together in West Wimbledon
will hold a service for unity on
Friday 25 January at 8 pm at
St Matthew's, Durham Road

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.

Bruno Rules

Christmas Break

We will be closed from 13 December until 17 January - our small group of volunteers who run the club will be having a well deserved rest. Thank you to all who have helped us in 2001. If more people offer to help in 2002 we will be able to open on more Thursdays.

December Dates:

2 Dec: Christingle Service

6 Dec: Bruno Bear Party (ticket only)

13 Dec: Christmas Story & Crib Activity - All Welcome

24 Dec: Crib Service

January Dates

We will reopen on 17 January at 9:30 am with the usual activities - play dough, books, climbing frame, ride on toys, baby corner, home corner, and weekly craft activity.

Our timetable is:

9:30-10:00 am Toys & Games

10:00-11:00 am Craft Activity

11:00-11:05 am Tidy Up

11:05-11:20 am Group Sing Song

11:20-11:30 Tidy Up & Pack Away



For More Details Phone:

Louise Roberts (020 8879 0971) or Clare Pickard (020 8947 2196)

Christ Church 'Information'

CHURCH DIARY

Advent 2001 to Ash Wednesday 2002



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| 2 Dec <i>ADVENT SUNDAY</i>
Open House at the Vicarage after
10:00 am service
3:30 pm <i>CHRISTINGLE</i> service,
followed by tea | 3 Jan 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 3 Dec 8:00 pm Deanery Synod, St
Matthews | 6 Jan <i>EPIPHANY</i>
6:30 pm Festal Evensong |
| 4 Dec 11:00 am Holy Communion | 10 Jan 9:30 am Holy Communion
8:00 pm Outreach Working Party |
| 6 Dec 9:30 am Holy Communion | 13 Jan <i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> |
| 7 Dec 6:30 pm Guides and Brownies Carol
Service | 17 Jan 9:30 am Holy Communion
8:00 pm PCC Meeting |
| 9 Dec <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> | 18-25
Jan <i>Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity</i> |
| 12 Dec 8:00 pm Advent Reflection | 20 Jan <i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> |
| 13 Dec 9:30 am Holy Communion | 24 Jan 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 14 Dec 6:00 pm Wimbledon Junior Wives
Carol Service | 25 Jan <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>
8:00 pm "Churches Together in West
Wimbledon" United Service, St
Matthew's |
| 16 Dec <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>
10:00 am Junior Church Nativity
Presentation | 27 Jan <i>The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</i> |
| 20 Dec 9:30 am Holy Communion
8:00 pm Post-Confirmation Group | 31 Jan 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 23 Dec <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
6:30 pm <i>CAROL SERVICE</i>
followed by mulled wine and mince
pies | 3 Feb <i>The Presentation of Christ -
Patronal Festival</i>
10:00 am All Age Communion
followed by "Party Pieces" and Parish
Lunch |
| 24 Dec 4:00 pm <i>CRIB SERVICE</i>
11:30 pm <i>MIDNIGHT MASS</i> | 5 Feb 11:00 am Holy Communion |
| 25 Dec 8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Christmas Family
Communion | 6 Feb 8:00 pm Finance Committee |
| 27 Dec 9:30 am Holy Communion, <i>St John
the Evangelist</i> | 7 Feb 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 30 Dec <i>The Sunday after Christmas</i> | 10 Feb <i>The Sunday before
Lent</i>
4:00 pm
Thanksgiving for
Marriage Service |
| 1 Jan 11:00 am Holy Communion | 13 Feb <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>
8 pm Sung
Eucharist |

BUT hallow the
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts