

Christ Church Information

A d v e n t 2 0 0 2

Revd Celia Thomson,
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Dear Friends,

I'm sure that most of you will know by now that I shall be moving from Christ Church in February. I have been with you for over seven years and it will be a great wrench for me to leave you all.

My new appointment is as Canon Pastor at Gloucester Cathedral. I shall be "in residence" at the Cathedral for four months of the year, responsible for the worship during these periods, and my other responsibilities will include the pastoral care of the Cathedral congregation and oversight of the various teams of volunteers operating within the Cathedral. I also have an educational brief which includes oversight of the Cathedral Educational Centre for children and developing Christian education within the congregation. I think there's enough to do there to keep me out of trouble!

My last Sunday here will be Sunday 16th February and I shall be installed at Gloucester during Evensong at 4 pm on Saturday 15th March. I do hope some of you might

be able to come to that. And I'm hoping that Gloucester is a place that people will want to visit, for instance on their way to Wales or Cornwall, so that I shall have news of you all in the future.

In the meantime, this Advent and Christmas will have a special poignancy for me as we prepare to celebrate together the coming of our Lord and the fulfilment of God's promise to us.

All best wishes

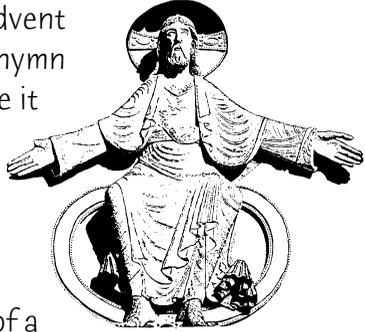
Celia Thomson

PEACE
TO
YOU.+

Thought for the Season

A d v e n t 2 0 0 2

I always like to start our service on Advent Sunday with Charles Wesley's great hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus, for to me it sums up the expectancy and solemnity of Advent. It is joyful time but also a sombre time.*



Just as in a normal household preparations are made for the birth of a child, so in the household of faith we need to prepare ourselves each year to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Advent Collect, which is used each day in the weeks of Advent, entreats God to give us grace "that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility".

In Advent we need to think about our response to the coming of Christ into our own particular world and what we must do accommodate him. Christ draws near to each one of us. "Who draws near to God," says St Paul, "is one with God." In Advent we personally draw near to a God who is no longer "up there" on a mountain-top, but an approachable being. And not only this, but in the form of the most approachable being that any of us will meet on this earth - a new born child. What a gift. What a mystery. We need to follow Mary's example and "ponder these things" in our hearts.

Celia Thomson



GARDENS

I wonder how many of us find a peace and tranquillity in both our own and other people's gardens, whether we are gardeners ourselves or not. Many feel closer to God in a garden, where a sense of life continuing, despite our personal troubles, a feeling of the strength and beauty of God's creation surrounding us.

I would like to invite you to come with me for a day of quiet and reflection at St Michael's Anglican Convent, Ham Common, where there is a lovely garden, plenty of parking, and a beautiful chapel. It will be a day of rest interspersed with readings and reflections about Gardens in the Bible and Gardens that we have experienced. This will be a Pre-Lent Quiet Day and will enable you to prepare yourselves for this wonderful season of reconciliation with Jesus Christ.

VENUE:

St Michael's Anglican Convent,
56 Ham Common, Richmond,
Surrey TW10 7JH

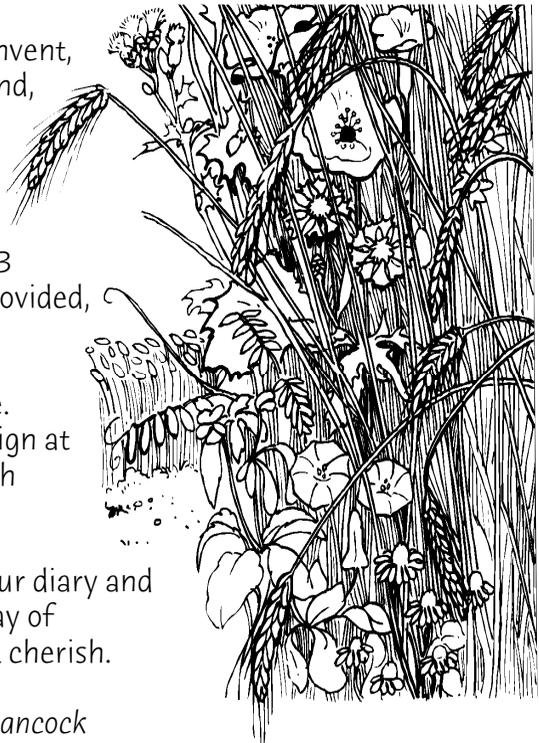
TIME:

10.30 am – 4.30 pm
Saturday 8th February 2003
Coffee, Tea and Biscuits provided,
bring a Packed Lunch

LIFTS will be available.
A list will be available to sign at
the back of the church
in the near future.

Please put the date in your diary and
come and make it a day of
fellowship that we will all cherish.

With love in Christ, Val. Hancock



HOST UK - ***a formula for*** ***happiness***



'This was one of my best weekends in Britain! I felt very comfortable in your home, and I won't forget the nice places I visited with you, the kind people you introduced to me, the talks we had together. I came back to the university much happier than I was, and that alone would be enough to make this HOST experience worthwhile.'

(a student of International Human Rights Law, from Brazil)

The HOST recipe for happiness is quite simple. Take one or two international students from a university or college in the UK. Offer them an invitation to stay for two days in the home of a friendly host family, couple or individual. Welcome them as valued guests, curious about the local customs and way of life, and eager to share their own culture with their hosts.

After mixing for a weekend, or at Christmas, hosts and guests should feel much happier! The guests will have relaxed, enjoying a welcome break from their intensive studies; and they will have learnt a lot that they could never find out on the campus. The hosts will have enjoyed the company of educated adults from other parts of the world; and will gain satisfaction from the giving of hospitality to people far from their own homes and families.

After their visits, guests say that their perception of this country has changed for the better. So the HOST experience makes a positive personal contribution to international relations, too. Most hosts, however tentatively they offer their first invitation, are eager to meet another student later on. Some maintain friendships with their guests long after they return home.

Thousands of students will be spending this academic year in Britain, from China, India and many other countries, and many would love to make friends with people in this region. More volunteer hosts are needed. If you think you might like to spread a little happiness in this way, please contact HOST as soon as possible.

Visit www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser, Liz Callingham, on 020 7439 4377. Thank you.

HOST is a well-established registered national charity, backed by the British Council.

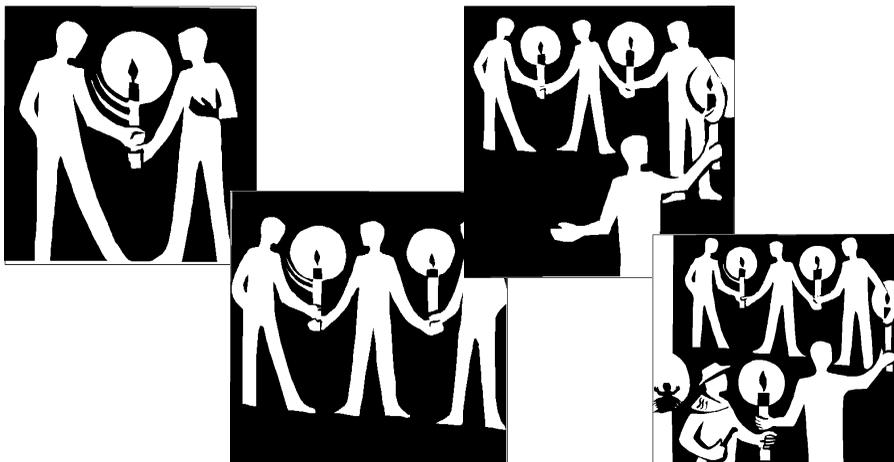
WELCOME TO OUR NEW ORGANIST RONALD CAYLESS

Ron is no stranger to Christ Church; indeed he has been a very good friend for the past two years and more. He has been playing for Evensong on the 4th Sunday of the month for the past two years, and has also helped out with funerals and weddings.

Ron has been involved in church music all his life. He sang in church choirs as a boy and has either sung or played the organ in church ever since. By profession he is a teacher and ended his long career as a Head Teacher, first of Holy Trinity CE Junior, Middle and Infants' School in Hampstead from 1974-1980, and then of St Peter's, Eaton Square from 1980-1992.

He has been Organist and Choir Master of Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, and of St Michael's, Chiswick. Whilst he was a Head Teacher Ron took a break from being an Organist and went back to singing in the Choir of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. After retirement he went back to the organ and became Organist of St Mark's, Whiteley Village which he will be leaving at Christmas after nearly 10 years.

Ron lives very locally and he will start as our Organist and Director of Music on 12 January 2003. In the meantime, he will be playing for our Carol Service on 22 December. We very much look forward to welcoming him to Christ Church.



From Johannesburg to West Wimbledon



In August the biggest ever international conference took place in Johannesburg - the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). This huge gathering of delegates from 190 countries was billed as a grand initiative to 'save the planet' and also condemned as a gigantic waste of time and money. What was it all about and what does it have to do with us at Christ Church?

WSSD took place ten years after the famous Rio 'Earth Summit', which drew up ambitious international agreements on the need for 'sustainable development'. This is the idea that we have to find ways to develop our economies - especially for the benefit of the poor in the 'Third World' countries - without continuing to inflict damage on the environment that cannot be sustained. In other words, how do we achieve better quality of life and living standards for all without using so much of the Earth's resources and causing so much pollution that future generations are bequeathed a damaged planet?

It's a monstrously tough question, and at the Rio Summit there were agreements covering some very complex issues. These included the loss of wildlife and habitats, the need to protect the world's forests, finance for environmental protection and poverty relief, and above all the need for measures to reduce 'greenhouse gas' emissions from our use of oil, gas and coal that are very probably warming the



atmosphere and could cause serious disruption of the climate for us and our descendants.

Some progress has been achieved over the past decade in dealing with all these problems. The Johannesburg Summit was intended to review what's been accomplished and provide fresh impetus for more initiatives to reconcile economic development with environmental stewardship. So what happened?

As far as many environmental and anti-poverty pressure groups were concerned, not much. But according to the UK Government, WSSD achieved a 'genuine, serious and substantial agreement'. The reality is somewhere in between. The main results were:

- Commitment to halving the number of people worldwide without basic sanitation to 1.2 billion by 2015 - but this is not legally binding;
- Agreement that the rapidly worsening crisis in global fish stocks should be tackled by 2015 - but the targets are distant and the commitment to action is vague;
- More countries said they would sign the Kyoto treaty to reduce carbon dioxide emissions implicated in the threat of climate disruption - but the main emitter, the USA, won't budge in its opposition to the agreement;
- Many voluntary deals were struck between business, public bodies and non-profit organizations to develop projects around the world;
- There were no firm agreements on action in many vital areas - promotion of renewable energy, reform of trade to assist poor countries and help the environment, protection of wildlife and habitats... So a lot of lip service was paid to the need for action, but not much commitment was forthcoming.



Well, at least the nations of the world are talking about these issues, and at least some action is promised... but it's very clear that we can't leave it to Governments to make all the running towards sustainable development! Although the issues might seem remote from us here at home, they do matter a great deal to us all - and even more so to our children and grandchildren. What can we do to push things forward in daily life?

Here are some ideas - and we'll be producing more materials on living in a sustainable way in the near future...

- Write to your MP and to Ministers to make your views known about issues covered at WSSD;
- At the supermarket, buy local organic food whenever possible - and if you're buying products from overseas, try to find goods that have been produced organically and bear the 'Fair Trade' label;
- Write to supermarket managers and demand more local produce, more organic produce, and more Fair Trade goods;
- Switch to using Green energy at home: turn off lights, don't leave appliances on stand-by, insulate your home well, and switch to a Green energy account - most of the suppliers offer them now, and they don't cost more... Some have been developed by electricity suppliers with charities - such as Juice (Greenpeace and npower) - and the RSPB has its own energy service now!;
- Cut down your car use wherever possible: walking and cycling are best, and using the bus and train comes next...;
- Support charities working for a better, more sustainable world;
- Support Church initiatives for sustainable development, with prayer and time and letters...

Ian Christie

re- **jesus.co.uk**

**Rejesus.co.uk is a
new website**

**The site offers a place
to explore the story of Jesus,
pray, discuss, be entertained
and discover how Jesus is
understood, followed,
interpreted
and worshipped.**

**Rejesus.co.uk encourages visitors to
take a fresh look at Jesus
and to make a step or two of faith.**

Rejesus.co.uk has been designed for people who are curious about Jesus or interested in exploring faith (but who are not keen to attend a church or a course). It is a resource for churches and Christians to use in their witness, contacts and publicity using the internet to connect people with issues of faith and spirituality.

Who is behind rejesus.co.uk? The site has been warmly commended by:

*The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
The Moderator of the Free Churches
The General Director of the Evangelical Alliance*

Rejesus.co.uk has five main sections, designed to offer a variety of ways of exploring Jesus and Christian faith and life:

**The Story Spirituality Community
Encounters Expressions**



Rejesus.co.uk has the active support of a wide range of mainstream UK denominations and agencies, including:

- Alliance of Asian Christians
- Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Bible Society
- Board of Mission, Archbishops' Council (CofE)
- Catholic Missionary Society (Agency for Evangelisation)
- Christian Enquiry Agency
- Churches Together in England
- Church Mission Society
- Church of Scotland
- Congregational Federation
- Deo Gloria Trust
- Group for Evangelisation (CTE)
- Methodist Church
- Moravian Church
- Salvation Army
- Springboard
- United Reformed Church
- Youth for Christ





ANNUAL PCC GIVING and CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS



At the PCC on 7th November we voted to give a total of £5000 to the following charities:

Home

Children's Trust, Tadworth : £1000
 MIND in Bracknell : £500
 Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind - Guardian Centre : £500
 Merton WELCARE : £500

Overseas

St John Eye Hospital, Jerusalem : £1000
 Church Mission Society —
 Iran : £500
 Pakistan :£500
 Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda : £500

We also voted for the Christmas collections to be sent as follows

Christingle Service : The Children's Society
 Carol Service : St Raphael's Hospice
 Crib Service : The NSPCC

Midnight Mass and 50% to The Spires Centre for the Homeless, Streatham
 Christmas Day 50% to The Lovemore Trust, Zimbabwe

CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR THE HOMELESS

The Spires Centre is an ecumenical project which serves the homeless and disadvantaged in Streatham. The Centre would greatly appreciate Christmas gifts for men, wrapped if possible. The following are particularly useful:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Socks</i> | <i>underpants</i> | <i>shower gel</i> | <i>combs</i> |
| <i>gloves</i> | <i>toothbrushes</i> | <i>shampoo</i> | <i>chocolate</i> |
| <i>scarve</i> | <i>toothpaste</i> | <i>soap</i> | <i>biscuits</i> |
| <i>woolly hats</i> | <i>deodorant</i> | <i>flannels</i> | <i>cake</i> |

Please bring these to church by Sunday 15 December —
 Thank you

Notice Board

6:30 pm Sunday 19 January

*Service for
Christian Unity*

**Raynes Park
Methodist Church**

Churches Together
in West Wimbledon

11 am Saturday 1st February

**WALK led by John
Barrett in London's
East End from
Whitechapel to
Mile End visiting
St Dunstan's Church,
Stepney, a Saxon
foundation**

Bruno Bear News

Clare Pickard
(020 8947 2196)

The Bruno Bear Club



**12th December:
Christmas Party**
**19th December:
End of Term**

Whee !!!

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y

Advent 2002 - The Sunday Before Lent 2003



- | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------|--|
| 1 Dec | <i>Advent Sunday</i> 3.30 pm <i>Christingle Service</i> - please bring toys to give away - followed by Refreshments | 5 Jan | EPIPHANY |
| 2 Dec | 8.00 pm Deanery Synod at Christ Church | 7 Jan | 11.00 am Holy Communion |
| 3 Dec | 11.00 am Holy Communion 8.00 pm Wimbledon Council for Christians and Jews "Women in the Synagogue and Church" Rabbi Sybil Sheridan and Revd Celia Thomson | 9 Jan | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| 5 Dec | 9.30 am Holy Communion | 12 Jan | <i>Epiphany 2</i> |
| 8 Dec | <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 10.00 am Junior Church Presentation | 16 Jan | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| 12 Dec | 9.30 am Holy Communion | 18-25 Jan | <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> |
| 15 Dec | <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 6.30 Evensong with Advent Reflection in Art and Music | 19 Jan | <i>Epiphany 3</i> 6.30 pm Churches Together Service for Christian Unity Raynes Park Methodist Church |
| 19 Dec | 9.30 am Holy Communion | 22 Jan | 8.00 pm PCC Meeting |
| 21 Dec | 9.00 am Decoration of the Church for Christmas | 23 Jan | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| 22 Dec | <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 6.30 pm Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies | 26 Jan | <i>Epiphany 4</i> |
| 24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass | 30 Jan | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| 25 Dec | CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Christmas Family Communion | 1 Feb | 11.00 am Parish Walk: Whitechapel to Mile End visiting St Dunstan's Stepney |
| 29 Dec | <i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i> | 2 Feb | THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST |
| 2 Jan | 2003 : 9.30 am Holy Communion | 4 Feb | 11.00 am Holy Communion |
| | | 6 Feb | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| | | 9 Feb | <i>The Fourth Sunday before Lent</i> |
| | | 13 Feb | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| | | 16 Feb | <i>The Third Sunday before Lent</i> |
| | | 20 Feb | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| | | 23 Feb | <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i> |
| | | 27 Feb | 9.30 am Holy Communion |
| | | 2 Mar | <i>The Sunday before Lent</i> |

BUT HALLOW THE
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts