

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John 1.6–8, 19–28



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

Christ Church West Wimbledon

The Reverend Michael Burns – 020 8946 5954

Parish Office : Christ Church, 2 Cottenham Park Road,

West Wimbledon, SW20 0RZ. Tel: 07486 990 335

Tues + Thurs 9.30am-12 noon. Friday 9.00am-12 noon

Registered Charity Number: 1145463

Website: www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org

Vicar's email: ccww.vicar@gmail.com

Church email: ccparishoffice@yahoo.co.uk

Hall bookings: ccsw20hall@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Julie Grainger & Tish Mousell

Readers: Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks

Pastoral Visitor (SPA): Sarah Castle

Director of Music: Tom Theakston



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent



Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice, and to suffer
for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindly in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights
before his face;
who is alive and reigns
now and for ever. **Amen.**

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

8am Holy Communion (BCP) in church

10am Parish Eucharist in church

6.30pm Said Evening Prayer in church

READINGS: Isaiah 12; Luke 1. 57-66

PSALM: 50. 1-6

Green Prayer

Loving Father,
you sent your Son to be a light
to those who walk in darkness.
Enable us who have brought
your creation, the land, the water,
the creatures and our own selves
to the edge of darkness,
to see the new path
that we must now tread,
through the power of your Son,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING

10am-12 noon Church open for quiet
prayer - all welcome

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Joyce Smith; James Hannaford; Edith Bown; Sachin Shah;

Those who have died: Jeremy Metters

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green, Zimbabwe

THIS WEEK:

WEDNESDAY 16: Church open from 10am to 12 noon for quiet prayer

NEXT SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT

8am Holy Communion (BCP) in church

10am Parish Eucharist with Christingles in church

6pm Carol Service on Zoom

COVID 19 UPDATE: CHRIST CHURCH IS OPEN for our usual pattern of Sunday services. Note that we will also be 'zooming' our 10am service. All are welcome to church services, but please remember that face masks are mandatory and we are still not permitted to sing. **Obviously if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend church services.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICE BOOKING is open for all church members and members of the public. Full details are in the latest newsletter circulated recently and on the website. Please email Michael when your Christmas plans are arranged and you have decided which services you would like to attend and/or join online.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES BY ZOOM – please note that, apart from the 10am Sunday morning services which will use the same zoom link each week, every Christmas service will have an individual Zoom link. Therefore, please make sure you email Michael with your requests.

CAROL SERVICE VIA ZOOM – we are concerned that all viewers/listeners to the carol service get the best sound that is possible via zoom. One way is to use a decent pair of headphones instead of the computer speaker. The other is to plug the computer into a hifi system or play it through a television via an HDMI lead - in that way you can also view it on the TV screen as well as get a better sound than via a computer loudspeaker.

TRAIDCRAFT GOODS ARE ON SALE: Please feel free to browse and buy, being careful to wear face coverings and maintain a social distance! They will accept IOU's!

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD AT CHRIST CHURCH—An ECO IDEA. There is a giant card displayed 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. This is just one simple idea to be kind to the planet and still be friendly to your friends in the congregation! A big thank you to the Allen family for designing such a beautiful card for us all to sign.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS: We have been advised that, given the necessary precautions around COVID transmission, you should **not** leave Christmas cards in church for members of the congregation this year. Cards therefore shouldn't be left on surfaces for collection - sorry! However, please do take advantage of our Communal Christmas Card as above!

WIMBLEDON FOODBANK are in need of Ketchup, Deodorant, Shampoo, Sugar 500g, UHT milk. They are also accepting Christmas donations: Supermarket gift card - suggested amount of £10 or £20 for Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda. Special treats: Chocolate box/tin; Cheese Cracker selection; Biscuit tins; Kids selection boxes. **They can be brought to Church.** Financial donations would also be welcome <https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> Cheques payable to **Wimbledon Foodbank** can be sent to Elim Pentecostal Church, 76 Kingston Road, London SW19 1LA

TOYS AT CHRISTMAS: every year we normally hold a toy service, asking you to bring a new toy or game for a child. This year we are still asking you to do that if you are able (given the extreme difficulties of trying to shop at present!) They can be brought to church and left by the left hand side altar in the chapel anytime **TODAY** when they will then be passed on to the Women's Refuge. Please don't wrap the presents—but remember they do need to be new and ideally suitable for children up to the age of 11 years. Thank you.

CHRIST CHURCH BIRD BOXES Have you spotted our four new bird boxes? Many thanks to Bill Petch for making 3 of them and for fixing them to the trees. Thanks to Hazel Bate for donating the 4th box. We're caring for God's creation and this helps us work towards an Eco Church Award. Look out for bee hotels and bird feeders coming soon!

FINANCES AT CHRIST CHURCH – Thank you to those of you who contribute financially to the life of Christ Church. If you wish to contribute via your bank, the church bank details are: **PCC of Christ Church, West Wimbledon: CAF Bank.**

. Cheques can be made payable to **PCC of Christ Church West Wimbledon and sent to the Planned Giving Officer, Christ Church West Wimbledon, 2 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0RZ.** If you require any further help, please contact in confidence our Planned Giving Officer,

Thank you. John Davey (Hon Treasurer)

CHRISTMAS CHARITABLE GIVING: this year we are dividing the Christmas collections between the Church and Christian CARE. If you won't be physically in church this year, please consider making a special donation either via our online banking or by dropping a cheque into the church letter box. The full details are outlined above. **Christian CARE** is a local charity run entirely by volunteers that has been helping families in need in Merton for more than 50 years. With some modification it has managed to carry on during the pandemic and at present is regularly supporting 20 families. During December it is giving all these families a gift bag of special food treats and presents for the children and will be sending gift bags to a further 20 families as well. More information about its work on www.christiancaremerton.org.uk.

THANK YOU to Elaine Chester for creating 10 beautiful Christmas wreaths and to those who successfully bid for them! We'll let you know the amount raised soon.

CHURCH GROUNDS – a big thank you to those who worked hard last Saturday to tidy the grounds. Your work has made a big difference. Thank you.

