

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11.1–10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Matthew 3. 1-12



Christ Church West Wimbledon

The Reverend Michael Burns – 020 8946 5954

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

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Churchwardens: David Simpson & a Vacancy

Readers: Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks

Pastoral Visitor (SPA): Sarah Castle

Director of Music: Tom Theakston



Sunday 8 December 2019
Second Sunday of Advent



Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge: give
us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love
and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Green Prayer

In the beginning, Lord I was alone
but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid.
You held out your hand and though I had a choice
I had no choice because to refuse
was to embrace again the darkness.
In the beginning, Lord I was alone
now I am again a part of your creation
loved, wanted, needed, family.
In the light of your presence
I hold out my heart that others
might glimpse through it your reflection
and be drawn from the darkness
that I once embraced
into the light of your sunrise
the brightness of your face.

Excerpt from https://www.faihandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm

Sunday 8 December 2019
Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS FOR THIS MORNING:

Isaiah 11. 1-10; Matthew 3.1-12

8am

Holy Communion (BCP)

8.45am

Choir Practice

10am

Parish Eucharist

HYMNS:

513, 400, 244, 247

4.00pm

Christingle Service

6.30pm

Evening Prayer

READINGS:

1 Kings 18. 17-39; John 1. 19-28

HYMNS: 138, 244, 205 (omit v 2 & 4)

PSALM: 11



FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Hilary Brazier;

Those who have died: Harry Watson;

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

Monday 9 DECEMBER

2pm-3pm Advent Course on Acts (2)

or **8pm-9pm** Truman Room

Tuesday 10 DECEMBER

11am Morning Prayer

8pm Election Hustings at Holy Trinity, The Broadway, Wimbledon—all welcome

Thursday 12 DECEMBER –ELECTION DAY

8pm Brass Group

Friday 13 DECEMBER

7.30pm KFH Party

NEXT SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER: ADVENT 3

8am BCP Holy Communion

8.45am Choir Practice

10am Celebrate Together with Nativity Play

6.30pm BCP Evensong

Monday 16 DECEMBER

Morning: Hollymount School rehearsal

2pm-3pm Advent Course on Acts (3)

or **8pm-9pm** Truman Room

Tuesday 17 DECEMBER

11am Morning Prayer

2.00pm Hollymount School Service

Wednesday 18 DECEMBER

1-5pm Organ Tuning

Thursday 19 DECEMBER

12 noon Together on Thursday,
Christmas Lunch in the
Hall—all welcome

8pm Brass Group



ADVENT FAIR last Sunday was a great success. A big **THANK YOU** to Tish and to everyone who played a part and worked very hard. There are still items for sale today. Do browse and buy. To date we have raised £957 for Hall refurbishment. Can we reach £1,000?!

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL TOYS AND GAMES you brought on Toy Sunday—these have been delivered to the Women's Refuge and Christian CARE.

CHRIST CARD COMPETITION: Congratulations to the winning entrants: Christ Church in the Snow by Liz Errington: Wreath of Joy by Olivia Naylor. Upcycled Tree by Julie Ashbee. O Christmas Tree by Caroline Errington. Their cards are on sale NOW!

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD: An ECO IDEA. A giant card is on display 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. Obviously you can still decide to send individual cards if you wish but this is just one simple idea to be kind to the planet and still be friendly to your friends in the congregation!

ELECTION DAY—the Hall is a Polling Station. Therefore we plan to open the Church from 9am till 6pm or thereabouts for people to use for quiet and prayer before they vote. It is not a social occasion—just to let people have some space and quiet. If you can drop in during the day and keep an eye that would be good. If you can commit to being in church for a specific time, please sign the list on the table.

THE FOODBANK aim to give out extra 'treat' parcels just before Christmas they would welcome the following to be brought to Church by next Sunday, **15 December:** chocolates, selection boxes of biscuits, boxes of crackers/cheesy crackers (edible ones!) and children's packs of five chocolates in a box. The weekly website request is currently for jam and juice, both of which could also be appropriate for Christmas. You might also consider using the Traidcraft stall when buying Food Bank treats. After 15 December you can keep collecting other items which can then be brought to Church in January (the Foodbank closes at Christmas). Thank you.

THE CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS are in church in the cross aisle if you can take a bundle to deliver. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS HELP—Pat Spencer would welcome a few more volunteers to steward at some of the special Christmas services, particularly at Midnight Mass.

MINCE PIES will be welcome for 'after service refreshments' at the Carol Service on 22 December at 6.30pm.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH IS ON THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER: The Together on Thursdays team will be holding a Parish Christmas lunch in the hall, at 12 noon for 12.30pm with carols after lunch. **Everyone is welcome.** We need to know accurate numbers for catering, so if you would like to come, please sign your name on the list at the back of church and indicate if you will need a lift.

CHARITIES supported by our Christmas Service Collections: Merton Faith in Action and Christian CARE Association will receive 50% of our Christmas collections this year. **Merton Faith in Action** runs a Homeless Drop In Centre every Wednesday and Friday providing meals, shower & laundry facilities, clothing & food parcels, internet access and support with applications for jobs, housing & benefits and help with accessing other local services. **Christian CARE Association** offers help to people in Merton with befrienders who can listen & support at times of crisis; they provide food and household essentials, baby essentials, children's clothes, including some school uniform and second hand furniture for families in need. They also organise an annual party and summer outing and arrange for some children to attend summer camps.

BRUNO BEAR TODDLER GROUP: We are planning to reopen on Wednesday 15 January 2020 9.30-11.15 for pre school children and their parents/carers in term time. In preparation for this:

1. Unwanted toys books dolls trikes etc in good condition would be much appreciated to supplement what we have already
2. We continue to look for adults of whatever age to help with running it on a occasional or regular basis for welcoming as well as putting equipment out and away or serving refreshments etc Please contact Mair Rabagliati for more info

WARM CONGRATULATIONS to Fred and Alice Campbell-Hollis on the arrival of Billy on November 24!

OUR GOOD FRIEND HARRY WATSON died peacefully recently. Thank you to Hazel Bate and all his Christ Church friends who have visited and cared for Harry over the years and particularly in these past months. Funeral arrangements will be announced when they are known.

2020 CHURCH DIARIES—PARISH DIARIES have now arrived and are available for you to take. No charge.

CHURCH LIGHTS—please—if you switch **on** please also switch **off** when you leave the church!!