

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1-10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Matthew 11.2-11



Christ Church West Wimbledon

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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 15 December 2019 Third 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.

Green Prayer

Obedience .
There were safer places,
more comfortable places,
palaces and wealthy places.
Yet you chose a daughter of the soil
who would have otherwise
lived a good and honest life
grown and harvested crops
cooked and washed and cared for others
and been forgotten
to be your temporary home
to be exalted for all time.
Excerpt from [https://
www.faihandworship.com/Advent/
Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm](https://www.faihandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

Sunday 15 December 2019 Third Sunday of Advent

READINGS FOR THIS MORNING:

Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

8.45am Choir Practice in Hall

**10am Celebrate Together
with Junior Church
Nativity Play**

HYMNS: 612, 114, 436

6.30pm BCP Evensong

READINGS:

Isiah 5.8-end; Acts 13.13-41

HYMNS: 88, 125, 36

PSALM: 14



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: Mary Quilter (2015), Peter Fleming (2002), Olive Clarke (2004);

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

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

FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER

7pm—9pm Choir Practice in church

NEXT SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER: ADVENT 4

8am BCP Holy Communion

9am Choir Practice

10am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Carol Service

Tuesday 24 DECEMBER

11am *No Morning Prayer*

4.00pm Family Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 DECEMBER

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

(do bring a gift you've opened to show us)



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.

ADVENT FAIR was a great success. A big **THANK YOU** to Tish and to everyone on the Social Committee and many others who played a part and worked very hard. There are still items for sale today. Do browse and buy. To date we have raised over £1,000 for Hall refurbishment.

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!

THE FOODBANK aim to give out extra 'treat' parcels just before Christmas they would welcome the following to be brought to Church by **TODAY 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 collect other items and keep them at home, till January when you can bring them to church (the Foodbank closes at Christmas). Thank you.

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

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 9.30-11am 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.

HARRY WATSON: The funeral is on **WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2020 at 9.20am** at North East Surrey Crematorium,, Lower Morden Lane, Lower Morden Lane. Morden SM4 4NU. It will be followed by an informal gathering at Blue Diamond Garden Centre in Lower Morden where people can buy coffee and cakes. All will be warmly welcome to attend.

2020 CHURCH 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!!

LEAVES—just a few bags left to go to the refuse tip if you can help? Thank you.

THE CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS are in church in the cross aisle if you can take a bundle to deliver. Just a few more to go! Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE on Wednesday 1st January 7.30pm Service of Prayers for Peace at St. John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, SW20 9DB. All welcome.