

### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 6. 1-11*

### Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus said: 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye" while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite: first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.

*Matthew 7. 1-5*



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

## 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 21 June 2020**

**THE FEAST OF ST ALBAN, MARTYR**



#### Collect

Eternal Father, when the gospel of Christ first came to our land you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban by making him the first to win a martyr's crown: grant that, following his example, in the fellowship of the saints we may worship you, the living God, and give true witness to Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

#### Post Communion

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Green Prayer

Loving God,  
open our hearts  
that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.  
Unclench our hands  
that we may reach out to one another  
and touch and be healed.  
Open our lips,  
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.  
Unclog our ears,  
to hear your agony in our inhumanity.  
Open our eyes,  
that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.  
Breathe your Spirit into us  
and touch our lives with the life of Christ.  
**Amen.**  
*(A prayer from New Zealand)*



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Those who are ill or in need:** Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Joyce Smith; Ian Rossouw; Sachin Shah.

**Pray also** for those who have the COVID-19 virus and those who are working to treat them, particularly those members of Christ Church who work for the NHS.

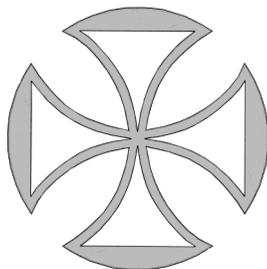
**Those who have died:** John Wilson; Linda Skjodstrup.

We also pray for those known and unknown who have died from the COVID-19 virus

**Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:**

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

### NEXT SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020 THE FEAST OF ST PETER



A true story. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, there was a man called Alban was a pagan, a Roman soldier, living in a place called Verulamium, known today as St Albans. One day Albans offered shelter to a Christian priest, called Amphibilus, who being persecuted by the Roman authorities and had run away in fear of his life. Alban became very moved by his guest's piety and devotion to prayer – so much so that he began to follow the priest's example. After a while, he asked to receive instruction in the Christian faith and was baptized. When the Roman authorities eventually tracked the priest to Alban's home, Alban assisted the priest in his escape by switching clothes with him. When the soldiers arrived at Alban's home, they found him dressed in the priest's cloak, and believing him to be the priest, arrested him and took him to the authorities. His identity as an imposter was quickly discovered, but he was nonetheless tried for aiding the escape of the priest, as well as for abandoning the Roman religion in favour of Christianity.

The historian Bede goes on to write that "500 years later, when the peace of Christian time was restored, a beautiful church worthy of his martyrdom was built, where sick folk are healed and frequent miracles take place to this day". In later years the church also contained the shrine of Amphibilus, the priest whose life Alban had saved. In the early middle ages, pilgrims came in such numbers that St Albans became the premier Abbey in all England and ever since those early times, people have continued to journey to St Albans Abbey to remember Alban and all he stands for and they come to pray for peace and healing and to seek God – something which still happens today.

The lives of the saints, the lives of the martyrs, are an example for us, the Christians of today, of what it means to be so devoted to Christ that they would be willing to give anything, to pay any price, for their faith. Particularly in the case of the martyrs, they paid the ultimate price – the loss of their lives, for the sake of Christ, for the sake of new and eternal life.

Unlike Alban, who was martyred for the choices he made, we of course are not in danger of being martyred for the tough day-to-day choices we may make as we try to live the law of Christ, though in some parts of our world death for faith is not unknown. Unlike Alban, we have a community of fellow Christians with whom we can share in the struggle of what it means to live the gospel. We have the Church family in which we can openly explore and discuss and argue and pray about what it means to live the gospel, about how many do have to face tough questions as they try to live their lives as faithful Christians. But take heart and remember - it is because of the strength of this community of faith that when we are challenged, we are boldly able to say, along with Alban "I worship and adore the living and true God, who created all things." And for that courage of faith, thanks be to God. Amen.

**DR JOHN WILSON**, long-time member of Christ Church, died peacefully on Tuesday 9 June in St George's Hospital. We give great thanks to God for his distinguished working life and his involvement at Christ Church and pray for Mildred and the family. His private family funeral will take place on June 30 and it is anticipated there will be a memorial service held at a future date.

**MyRaynesPark Festival: Thursday 25th June at 8pm** is part of a nationwide virtual session for Refugee Week called *Refugee Voices*. The event is an open conversation with a refugee who will share their personal story, the context that forced them to leave and the challenges of rebuilding a life. Our conversation partner is Sayed Adiban who is in his thirties and originally from Afghanistan. At nine years old, Sayed fled his country for the first time to Iran when the Taliban came to Afghanistan. To find out more about information about the event please do visit the eventbrite page [-https://www.eventbrite.com/e/refugee-voices-tickets-108562447202](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/refugee-voices-tickets-108562447202).

**FINANCES AT CHRIST CHURCH – an update from our Treasurer on 12 June.** With lockdown starting in early March and the church building and hall being closed following Michael's letter of the 18th of March we have been striving to adapt. The adverse financial effects are the loss of hall income (around £2,000 per month) and lack of collections from church services including weddings and funerals. We have encouraged people to give directly rather than through the plate and we are grateful for your responses. Our original projection was that we could have a net loss of £20,000 compared to our budget, assuming an opening up around September. With ongoing lockdown this could be worse. We are continuing to fulfil our payments including the commitment to the diocese (£7,000 per month). Our other expenses are mostly ongoing including salaries, insurance and utilities. We are aware that individuals, charities and businesses are being affected. However, if you are able to make additional contributions to help in these circumstances, we would be grateful. The church bank details are: **The PCC of Christ Church, West Wimbledon: CAF Bank. Sort code: 40-52-40. Account number: 00029176.** 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 do feel free to contact in confidence our Planned Giving Officer, Lynda Coleman at [lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com](mailto:lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com)

We will keep you updated as the position changes. Thank you very much. John Davey (Hon Treasurer)

**WIMBLEDON FOODBANK** is very busy and need these items: toilet rolls, cereal bars, chocolate bar snacks, crisps, squash/juice, pasta sauce, curry sauce, shampoo, baked beans, tinned hoops, tinned meat (curries, meatballs or pies), tinned vegetables (eg peas or carrots), breakfast cereal, ketchup and small packs of rice. Items can be left on the doorstep of Liz Errington's house at **31 Somerset Avenue on WEDNESDAYS** or in the box in the porch of **46 Pepys Road at any time.** For those unable to drop off donations, you can fill in this form for doorstep collection at this link - [bit.ly/wimfood](https://bit.ly/wimfood)