

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

*Acts 12. 1 – 11*

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

*Matthew 16. 13 - 19*



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 28 June 2020 THE FEAST OF ST PETER



#### Collect

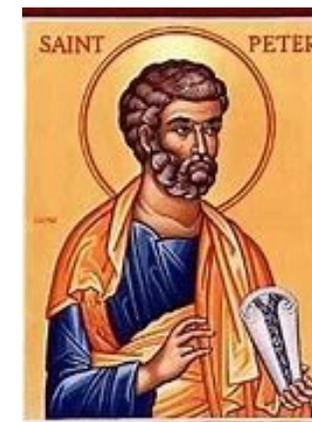
Almighty God,  
who inspired your apostle  
Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ  
and Son of the living God:  
build up your Church upon this rock,  
that in unity and peace it may proclaim  
one truth and follow one Lord,  
your Son our Saviour Christ, **Amen.**

#### Post Communion

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until  
we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

#### Green Prayer

Lord, we pray for the scientists  
engaged in research into ways of reducing  
our carbon footprint and for politicians  
who are responsible for converting  
their ideas into legislation.  
Grant them honesty, integrity and a deep perception  
of the long-term effects of their actions,  
so that short-term economics are not allowed  
to weigh their decisions when so much  
hangs on policies  
which will affect generations to come. **Amen.**



## 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.

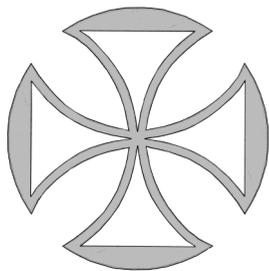
**Those who have died:** John Wilson;

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 5 JULY 2020**  
**4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**



Last Sunday we remembered St Alban – Britain's first saint – who, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, offered shelter to a Christian priest, called Amphibilus, who had run away in fear because he was being persecuted by the Roman authorities. Alban was so moved by his guest's piety and devotion to prayer that he became a Christian and was baptized. When the Roman authorities eventually tracked the runaway priest to Alban's home, Alban assisted the priest in his escape by switching clothes with him. Alban, refused to renounce his new found Christian faith with the famous words, "I am Alban and I worship the true and living God" and so was executed on a hill just outside the city, where the Cathedral and Abbey Church now stands.

This morning we remember another, very different, saint, St Peter. Peter was the first leader of the early Church, chosen by Jesus. Yet his track record was pretty dubious to say the least. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once but over and over again, saying one thing and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which he would build his Church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the Living God – just as Alban was to proclaim some two centuries later "I am Alban and I worship the true and living God." But then Peter does something seemingly catastrophic but at the same time something enormously human. When Jesus is arrested, the same Peter declares with an oath "I do not know the man". His denial is in all four Gospels. And yet God gives Peter the chance to start again. We think of the humanity of Peter, which at first brought him down, but also remember that he was encouraged to try again. So, the story of Peter gives us all hope for today. It gives us all hope because it proves that God can take us and use us despite our human weakness and frailty. The Church was founded by Peter – the most unlikely of men who might not have even, on paper, been shortlisted for interview by Jesus. Yet it was Peter who got the job. How so? Well, of course we don't know – we can only wonder. Was it because Jesus knew that Peter would have learnt a hard lesson which he would never forget?

Like the man who worked for a company and who pressed the wrong button which caused £50,000 worth of damage to the equipment. He immediately offered his resignation – only to be told by his boss "you're certainly not sacked; we've just spent £50,000 on your education".

Was Peter chosen because he would remember his weaknesses and that awareness would now be the firm foundation of his strength? Much later, it was St Paul who coined the well-known phrase "when I am weak, then am I strong" – and maybe Peter echoed something of those words. Above all, perhaps, Peter would know his need of God and that would be at the foundation of his work as he led the band of apostles and pushed and cajoled them into shape.

Today in the Church of England, Pentecost is when men and women have traditionally been ordained – on or near the feast day of the disciple who at first denied Jesus three times but who was then chosen to lead the new band of disciples, called for the first time Christians. Pope Francis, the 260<sup>th</sup> Pope in line from Peter, has defined a Christian as one who is "cheerful, easy, kind, gentle, courteous, candid, unassuming, has no pretence." I suspect that Peter would have adopted these kinds of characteristics into his personality – may we be encouraged to do the same.

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER EVERY TUESDAY** from 10am till 12 noon. Parking is available in the Hall car park. All welcome.

**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. In lieu of flowers, John Wilson's family are requesting donations to The Lily Foundation, the UK's leading mitochondrial disease charity. Their mission is to improve the lives of people affected by mitochondrial diseases. John's research during his PhD and much of his time as a paediatric neurologist, helped many children and families.

<https://www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk/liz@thelilyfoundation.org.uk>  
31 Warren Park, Warmingham, Surrey, CR6 9LD. Tel:0300 400 1234

**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. 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)