

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3.1–12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2.1–12



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 3 JANUARY 2021

The Epiphany



Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Post Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour
whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

(Collect above and Readings overleaf)

6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Psalm 132;

Jeremiah 31. 7-14; John 1. 29-34

Green Prayer

With every power for good
to stay and guide me,
Comforted and inspired
beyond all fear,
I'll live these days with you
in thought beside me,
And pass, with you,
into the coming year.

Amen.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
from prison 1945.*



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; Brian Rocksborough Smith;

Those who have died: John Barrett; Catherine Ennis; Sarah Parr

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Basil Crutchfield (2004)

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

THIS WEEK:

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY:

Church open from 10am to 12 noon for quiet prayer

THURSDAY 7 JANUARY: 7.30pm 'Soulscape'
at St Matthew's Church, Durham Road

NEXT SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021: Baptism of Christ

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

COVID 19 UPDATE: Note that we will be 'zooming' our 10am Sunday services. All are still 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.** Please note that there is no compulsion for you to attend in person at this time when we are in Tier 4 lockdown. If you do come to church, please keep a good distance from others. At the end of the service, smile and wave to others as you leave. Michael will be outside in the garden if you want to say goodbye to him!



THANK YOU to all those who helped at church this Christmas—Tom and our choir and musicians (even though the Carol Service had to be cancelled at the last minute, they had rehearsed hard); to Elaine, Karen, Rosey. Marion and Wendy for the floral decorations; to Bill, Chris and Clare for the Christmas tree; to Pat and those who acted as stewards/welcomers—not forgetting our efficient band of cleaners. A big thank you to Tish and Lyons and many others—not least our wonderful children and their families—for putting together this year's online Nativity Play. They revealed gifts and talents which they did not know they possessed!! Thank you also to Sara who looks after much of our administration. Finally a big thank you to Tish and Julie our Wardens.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who are organising the broadcasting of our services via Zoom including Hazel Bate, Stefan Bown, Tim Dabbs and Tish Mousell.

MICHAEL sends his thanks and warm wishes to everyone at Christ Church for a Holy and Happier 2021.

TOYS AT CHRISTMAS: thank you to everyone who generously donated items for children this year. A good car load was delivered to the Women's Aid Refuge.

BELATED THANKS to the Coulber family—Dunstan, Eleanor, Austin, Robin and Iris—for recording part of a prayer put together by Churches Together in West Wimbledon and broadcast on Christmas Day.

JOHN BARRETT, a long time member of the Church died peacefully in hospital after a short illness. We pray for his family and give thanks for his life and his faithfulness. The funeral is private but a memorial service will be planned.

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS to the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani who has been appointed the next Bishop of Chelmsford. A number of you know her and will be remembering her and her family in your prayers. Chelmsford is a huge Diocese and she will need our prayers!

WIMBLEDON FOODBANK—thank you to everyone who so generously and imaginatively have supported the foodbank this year. Financial donations are always welcome <https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> Cheques payable to **Wimbledon Foodbank** to Elim Pentecostal Church, 76 Kingston Road, London SW19 1LA

'WILL WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO WORSHIP IN CHURCH?' is a question I am being asked at the moment, as London continues to see rates of infections soar. Your safety is of vital importance and I would have no hesitation in reverting to online services if advised.

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, please email the parish office for the bank details. Cheques can be made payable to **PCC of Christ Church West Wimbledon and sent to 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, Lynda Coleman

JOHN DAVEY, OUR TREASURER WRITES: On Saturday 20 December it was decided to cancel the Christ Church service of lessons and carols because of the announcement of Tier 4 restrictions. This service had been arranged with outside musical support at a cost. It is also an event which is usually well attended and raises funds. The parish has therefore incurred a significant loss because of the cancellation. The festival of carols is widely popular in Christ Church and around the country. A festival of nine lessons and carols was planned by the Dean of Kings College Cambridge Eric Milner-White and first held in 1919. Milner White returned from the First World War in which he had been a military chaplain. The service was partly in memory of those who died. It chronicles through the list of lessons from the Bible both New and Old Testament, the story of Jesus. The first radio broadcast was in 1926 and the first television recording in 1954. The service is normally broadcast live on Christmas Eve at 3 pm and there is a television recording (which are slightly different) on Christmas Eve in the evening. If you wish to catch up with these this year this year do try to attend online. In order to cover the loss to the Parish, we are asking you to help by us by contributing **£20** or such amount as you feel is appropriate. This can be done either online or in church. We can accept contactless donations in Church.

YOU CAN SOON MAKE CARD PAYMENTS TO CHURCH FUNDS! The device will be in the cross aisle. You select the amount you wish to donate (£5, £10 or £20)—or you can choose your own figure—and then either tap the white device below the screen for contactless payments up to £45 or insert your card and put in your PIN. **HOWEVER—we do need 2/3 people who might 'look after it' each Sunday on a rota. Could you help? Please speak to John Davey or one of the Wardens if you would be willing to assist.**

2021 CHURCH DIARIES HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE IN CHURCH – Free of charge!