

## A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

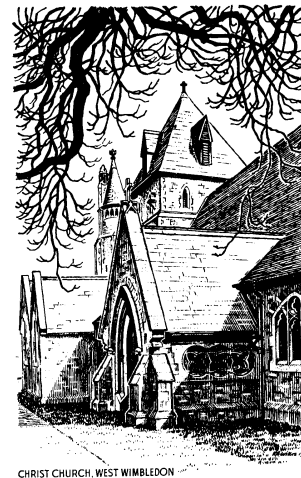
I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive 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 Judaea; 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

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

Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks  
Director of Music: Tom Theakston



**SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023—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 8th JANUARY 2023

#### READINGS

Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12  
**8am Said Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10am Parish Eucharist**

**HYMNS:** 537(rpt 1st v), 524, 364, 510

### Green / World Prayer

We thank you, dear Father,  
for the men and women  
who have given their lives  
to the protection of your beautiful  
world.

We pray that their labours  
and sacrifices may not be in vain,  
but that the torch they lit  
may be carried by the rest of us  
as long as it takes to free your world  
from pollution, degradation  
and the bitter harvest of human greed.  
**Amen.**

### SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023

**6.30pm BCP Sung Evensong**

#### READINGS

Isaiah 60.1-9; John 2.1-11

#### HYMNS:

612, 412, 129 and Psalm 100

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Those who are ill or in need:** Father David Pennells, Wendy Rafferty, Marion Thomas, Yvonne Bentley, John Taylor, George Greenshields,

**Those who have died:** Eric Illingworth, Jenny Baker

**Those whose anniversary falls at this time:** Boshra Hedayati (2001)

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

### THIS WEEK

#### SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023 THE EPIPHANY

8am **HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)**  
10am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

**STAR** *Twinkle, twinkle*

**WISE MEN** *Ding*

**HEROD** *Boo*

**CAMELS** *Brr, brr*

**STABLE** *Moo and Baa*

**JOURNEY** *Clip, clop*



6.30pm **SUNG EVENSONG (BCP)**

### **WEDNESDAY 11th**

9.15am Toddler Group returns to the hall

### SUNDAY 15th JANUARY EPIPHANY 2

No 8am Service today

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
*led by the Revd Bruce Rickards*  
6.30pm **SUNG EVENSONG (BCP)**

**THE CHURCHWARDENS WRITE:** This week, we are very sad to say goodbye to Michael Burns - our wonderful Vicar who is retiring. We are planning a special send-off on **Saturday 7th January** in the hall from **6.30pm onwards** - all are welcome. Mike's final Christ Church services are on **Sunday 8th**. It is our last chance to say thank him for all he has achieved here over the last five and a half years, and to wish him a warm goodbye for a very happy and well earned retirement.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS** were divided between Christ Church and two local charities—Faith in Action and Christian Care. **£192** was collected for the Children's Society from the Christingle Service.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make this a very memorable and special Christmas. Our regular members and visitors were all delighted to be able to join together in worship this Christmas.

**JENNY BAKER**—her funeral is for family only but a memorial service will be held at Christ Church in the spring on a date to be arranged.

**NEW LINK WITH THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY** will be with Lea and Petra Williams who live and work in Brno, Czech Republic. Two newsletters from them is on the notice board.

**RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at Christ Church:** Friday 27th to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Could you spend an hour counting birds in the gardens at Christ Church for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this year? If you can, it would be helpful if you let Lucy Christie know via the Parish Office. You can sign up and submit your results on the RSPB website or email your results to Lucy who will submit them for you. It would be great to be able to compare to our results last year. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

**ASH WEDNESDAY** falls on February 22. There will **not** be a service at Christ Church so we encourage you to worship at a church near you.

**A PRAYER FOR THE NEW BISHOP OF KINGSTON, to be consecrated on 2 February:** Heavenly Father, our Shepherd and Guide, we thank you for the appointment of your servant, Martin Gainsborough, as bishop designate of Kingston. May your Holy Spirit give him your gifts of wisdom and strength, gentleness and compassion, as he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher. May he be a shepherd after your own heart, who will love you, walk with Jesus and be filled with the Spirit. May he be a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth, Christ centred and outward focussed. As Bishop designate Martin gets ready to make his home among us, may we welcome him joyfully into our Diocesan community, and together bear witness to Christ and the building up of your kingdom. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, Amen

