

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

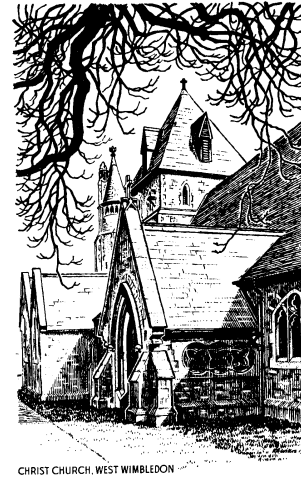
The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

Isaiah 7.10-16

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

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1.18-25



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

Christ Church West Wimbledon

The Reverend Michael Burns – 020 8946 5954

Parish Office : Christ Church, 2 Cottenham Park Road,
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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 18th DECEMBER 2022

ADVENT 4



Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs
of this present age to see, with her,
our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will and with her rejoice
in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

READINGS

Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-end
8am Said Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

HYMNS: 125, 244, 166, 436

Green / World Prayer

We pray for world leaders:
that God may grant them wisdom
to make just decisions which respect the
earth and all that lives in it,
especially those who are poorest
and most vulnerable.
Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community:
that through God's grace
we may be good neighbours to each other
and to the whole of creation,
restoring and caring
for all that God has made.
Lord, in your mercy...

Amen.



SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

3.30pm Carol Service Rehearsal

6.30pm CAROL SERVICE

Separate Service Sheet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Father David Pennells, Wendy Rafferty, George Greenshields, Jenny Baker, John Taylor.

Those who have died:

Those whose anniversary falls at this time: Olive Clarke (2004); John Barrett (2020); Dawn Stageman (2015); Richard Thurgood (2010)

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

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm CRIB SERVICE
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

8am HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
10am CHRISTMAS FAMILY COMMUNION
please do bring an opened present to show us!
6.30pm No Evensong tonight

FAREWELL TO MIKE—We are having a farewell party on **SATURDAY 7 JANUARY at 6.30pm** for our wonderful Vicar Mike Burns. **ALL** are welcome! There is a list of finger food needed. Please sign if you can help to provide and bring along with you.

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD

An ECO IDEA. Our giant card is now at the back of church. Thank you to Olivia for the brilliant design. 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!

LEGACIES are a very important source of income for any church. Please do read the two published leaflets which have been circulated and perhaps think about remembering the church in your will? Thank you.

CARBON OFFSET FOR CHRIST CHURCH

We have donated £264.76 to Climate Stewards to offset 13.24 tonnes of carbon created by the gas and electricity we used in the church & hall in 2021. Climate Stewards are a Christian offsetting charity who support community projects such as tree growing, fireless cookers in Uganda, smokeless stoves in Nepal and school environment clubs in Ghana. Our donation is used to support these projects that reduce carbon production equivalent to the amount of CO2 we produced.

THE QUIZ was a great success! Thank you very much to Tish and all the Social Committee who worked very hard to organise a wonderful evening—and particularly to Mark Adams, our inimitable Quiz Master. We made a profit of £1,166—to which can be added an anonymous donation of £500. The total of **£1,666** will go towards the urgent replacement of the Hall front flat roof.

THE ADVENT FAIR was also a great occasion! Thank you so much to Tish and the Social Committee and all those who helped and donated items to sell. The total profit was around **£1,070** which will go towards the urgent replacement of the Hall front flat roof. Thank you.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY for the Church has now been reviewed and updated. Please note that there will be a fire drill at some point in the future. When told to evacuate the church, you should exit via the nearest door and gather in the car park.

LAST SUNDAY'S NATIVITY PLAY was a **wonderful** re-telling of the Christmas story! All the children and young people acted it out so well and got across very effectively lots of the humour in the script, which was written by Alex Park with the help of Josie Allen. Huge thanks go to the parents and Junior Church leaders who helped make it all happen—and to the director, Ed Park for his unflagging enthusiasm and very effective direction. If you would like to read a copy of the script there are some on the table—it is well worth reading!

£192 was collected for the Children's Society from the recent Christingle Service.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME— We would like to thank those who have joined the **Parish Giving Scheme**. At the end of October nearly half the existing donors had changed to the scheme. We now need more people to change. We ask those who have not yet joined PGS to sign up, and we have prepared a reminder letter which is available in the cross-aisle. PGS very importantly helps our cash flow and reduces the work load on Lynda Coleman. Please be aware that within 10 working days of joining you will receive a letter confirming the date of your first gift. Please do not cancel any existing donations until your first payment has been collected. If you have any queries please speak to Lynda Coleman or Tish Mousell.

