

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

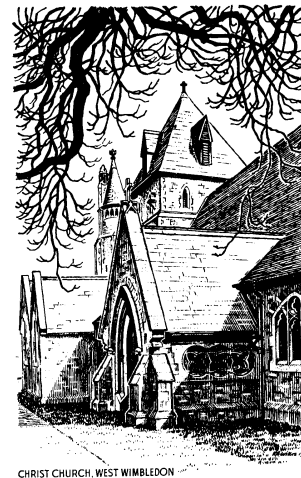
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1-10

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Matthew 11.2-11



Christ Church West Wimbledon

The Reverend Michael Burns – 020 8946 5954

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Readers:

Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks
Director of Music: Tom Theakston



SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 2022

ADVENT 3



Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindly in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
Amen.

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

READINGS

Isaiah 35. 1-10; Matthew 11.2-11

8am Said Holy Communion (BCP)

**10am Parish Eucharist
with the Nativity Play**

HYMNS: 565, 205, 612

11am Decoration of the Christmas Tree

Green / World Prayer

We pray for our parish
and our local community:
that through the grace of God
we may hear the urgent cry of the earth
and of the poor and be inspired
to respond at this crucial time.
Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in:
that God may open our eyes
to recognise the goodness of all creation
and help us to do what we can
to restore and care for the wonderful gift
that we have been given.
Lord, in your mercy...

Amen.

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

6.30pm BCP Evensong

READINGS

Isaiah 5. 8-end; Acts 13.13-41

HYMNS: 249, 138, 244

Psalm 12

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: Charles Morrison, Canon Stephen Purvis

Those whose anniversary falls at this time: Mary Quilter (2015); Peter Fleming (2002).

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

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY 13th December

1.30pm Hollymount School Carol Concert

WEDNESDAY 14th December

All day—Organ Tuning in church

THURSDAY 15th December

All day—Organ Tuning in church

2.30pm Together on Thursday

Christmas Celebration tea in hall

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER — ADVENT 4

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

3pm Carol Service Rehearsal

6.30pm Carol Service with refreshments

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.

MINCE PIES will be welcome for the 'after the service refreshments' at the **Carol Service on SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER at 6.30pm.**

THE ADVENT FAIR was 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.

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.

FAREWELL TO MIKE—We are having a farewell party on **SATURDAY 7 JANUARY** for our wonderful Vicar Mike Burns. It will start at 6.30pm and ALL are welcome! More details to come. From the Churchwardens.

SUNDAY EVENING STEWARDS: From January, we would like to ensure that there is always one steward on duty during the 6.30pm Evening Services to greet people and to assist the worship leader in locking up at the end of the service. If you could help please let Michael know. **If we had one more name offered then it would be a monthly duty.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICE LEAFLETS covering all local churches are available for you to take. There is not going to be a door-to-door delivery this year.

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!

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.

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.

