

Romans 8. 1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'



Christ Church West Wimbledon

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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 12 JULY 2020
5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Collect

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUNDAY 12th JULY

10am Morning Service (on Zoom)

READINGS:

Romans 8. 1-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

HYMNS

537, 102, 240

EVERY TUESDAY IN JULY

10am-12 noon Church open for quiet prayer - all welcome

Green Prayer

Heavenly Father, we face hard choices as we confront the realities of climate change and the depletion of natural resources. Help us to understand the opportunities offered by a return to a simpler lifestyle. Help us to fulfil our responsibilities to those suffering from our careless use of natural resources, and give us the resilience to adapt to a lifestyle that is fairer to others and gentler on your world.

Amen.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Joyce Smith; Sachin Shah.

Pray for John and Helen Bayliss, now living in Bedfordshire, who were married 40 years ago today at Christ Church.

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.

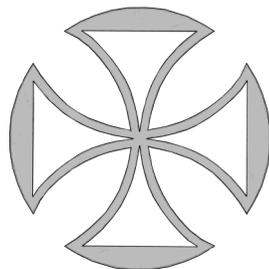
Those who have died:

We also pray for those known and unknown who have died from the COVID-19 virus

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Edward James Robertson (1996); Alfred Edward Mills (1993); Fred Stageman (1981); Brian Harris (2013); John Hamilton (2019)

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

NEXT SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020
6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



In our Gospel reading this morning, Jesus gathers the crowds around him and tells them a parable that invited them to think about the impact his words and example might have on their lives. He calls his hearers to be 'good soil', listening well and seeking to respond with their whole being. Much of what the church today is called to do is to help people grow in their faith – as we work at 'being' Church: not just 'doing' Church but 'being' Church. Of course, long gone are the days when it was simply the Vicar who did all of this work and the lay people happily left them to it. Now we are all part of being and doing Church, whether dog-collared or not. The same is true in many other areas of our life. Parents are expected to be actively involved in the education of their children and not just to leave it up to the school – how very true that has been in these months of home schooling! All of us are expected to be actively involved in keeping any eye on our local community and its safety and not just to leave it up to the authorities – again maybe we have recently become better at looking out for our neighbours? So, I repeat – all of us have to be involved in being and doing Church. In terms of today's parable, we are all called to sow the seeds of faith in others – while of course recognising that some seed will be eaten by the birds, some seed will fall on rocky ground, some will fall among the thorn bushes....but also that other seeds will fall on good soil, will take root and will in time bring about a rich harvest.

One of the agonised debates swirling around recently has been whether it was the right decision to close all church buildings because of Covid-19 – the first time this has happened for 1200 years, I think. Of course, church has managed to continue in new and different ways – but for many it hasn't been the same. But whatever the rights and wrongs of the argument, we are very happy that, here at Christ Church, our building will open again for worship on Sunday 2 August. We know some won't feel able to join us at the moment – but we hope many will. For it is worshipping altogether that we can really feel that we are the Body of Christ, all of us baptised in the one Spirit.

Speaking personally, I love conducting baptisms. Everyone is proud of the new child and wanting to offer him or her to God – though not knowing how they will turn out or what they will become – but being together at the start of their journey of faith, encouraged by parents and godparents and the wider family – but also encouraged, nurtured by us, the Body of Christ of the church. It's real seed sowing stuff! For together the people of God, the Church, are a bunch of people, often sinful, who know their need of God. At baptism, our sins are washed away and we become, in Christ, a new creation.

The author Susan Howatch has written this: "There were two aspects to Christ's Ministry: the prophetic and the pastoral. He spoke out against sin but at the same time he behaved with compassion towards sinners. And he held those two aspects of his ministry in perfect balance". The church of today also needs to keep that balance so that, as people are nurtured in the faith, the Church may grow afresh in every new generation.

One final thought: I have long taken encouragement from a phrase which I once heard in a talk about evangelism: "Be present in the community, keep the Church open and be welcoming. The rest is up to God". For me, as with many, it has been painful that the church building has not been open for so long – but wonderful that in many new and different ways the people of God have been open and active and continuing their work and ministry as faithful disciples. Long may that continue in whatever lies ahead. And so we pray, in the words of today's collect, that God may send down upon his Church the riches of his Spirit to kindle in all who minister the gospel – that's you and that's me – the countless gifts of his grace. Amen.

CHURCH WILL RE-OPEN ON 2 AUGUST with our 8am and 10am Services. Please see the full details on the website!

CHURCH QUIZ ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY AT 8PM: We are very excited to be running a quiz night for Christ Church people Mark Adams quizmeister is compering the night. It will run at 8pm and finish at 9pm. If you are a family unit you can enter as one team. If you are living with another adult, again you can enter as one team. You can also enter on your own, or if you want to, you can pair up with someone else. If you do this, you need to either be able to 'chat' on zoom to each other or be able to 'text' each other to discuss answers. All you need are pens and paper. Everyone is welcome! Please try and be punctual and join the room at 7.55pm so that we can start on time. No need to book in, just turn up. We'll send a link to Zoom on Monday and also a reminder on the day. Hopefully we'll see lots of you then!

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. 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

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: noodles/pot noodles, sugar 500g bags, tinned soup, biscuits, small washing powder packs. 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