A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For if a law had been given that could make you righteous, you would be made righteous by keeping it. But in fact no rule of human制定 can make a person righteous; by the law, the whole world is guilty. Now the free gift of God has come –Jesus Christ who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be done? Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

John 3.1–17
FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

Those who have died: Derek Robinson; Jack Gilson. Harry Watson and his family, as they hold his memorial service and bury his ashes today in Bermuda.

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:
Daphne Chinn (2013), Basil Whitworth (1981), Mona Simpson (1919)

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green—SEE IMPORTANT NOTICE OPPOSITE!

CORONAVIRUS: All those involved in serving Communion will take extra care over hygiene at this current time. There is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended. However, instinct (dipping your wafer into the wine) IS NOT ALLOWED as this represents an infection transmission route. If you prefer just to receive a wafer, simply return to your seat after you have received the bread. Please note that it is Anglican teaching that receiving just a Communion wafer or just the wine from the Cup is regarded as having received the sacrament in its entirety. If you prefer not to handshake during the Peace there are plenty of other ways—maybe a wave and a smile—to greet those around you!

ST. PATRICK’S DAY BARN DANCE – taking place from 6.30pm onwards in the Hall on SATURDAY 14 MARCH. £15 a ticket includes hot dogs with delicious sausages, dancing with a caller and the children go free. Please sign the list at the back of church - LAST CHANCE!

MARMALADE: Marion will be selling marmalade today—last chance! It will be sold for a donation of around £2.75 per jar or £1.30 for a small one. Please bring a bag if you plan to buy several jars!

LENT 2020 – Tuesday afternoons (2pm till 3.15pm) and on Tuesday evenings (8pm till 9.15pm). The dates are: March 10, 17, 24, 31. Each week both sessions will follow the same material—so you are welcome to come along to whichever time and day suits you best – i.e. no need to come twice! This year we will following a course linking in to the Church of England Lent Campaign for 2020—LIVE LENT: CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION. The course we will be following is part of the Sage Bible Studies Please sign your name at the back of church – and please bring a Bible with you!

LENTEN FAST FOR CREATION: It’s not too late to join the Christ Church 2020 Lenten Fast for Creation. Pick up a weekly plan leaflet at church and follow the actions each week to show you care for God’s world this Lent. The Church of England has a focus on the environment for Lent and there are free booklets with more ideas at the back of church.

GIVING ENVELOPES are available for users to collect them. If anyone else who regularly uses Gift Aid envelopes to put their collection money in would like a free set of numbered ones would they please Lynda Coleman.

EASTER LILIES If you would like to contribute towards the cost of Easter Lilies in Church, in memory of a loved one, there is a collection box and list at the back of church.

HALL CAR PARK: Parking for the 10am Sunday service in the Hall car park and beside the coned off area on Copse Hill are reserved for drivers and passengers who have limited mobility and need to be close to church. Please would other drivers park elsewhere.

BOOK CLUB will meet on the first Thursday of the month and, as an experimental venture, we agreed to meet from 4 to 6pm. The next meeting on Thursday 2 April when we will discuss Stanley and Elsie by Nicola Upson. Please note that new members are always welcome—do contact Lynda Coleman.

WILD FLOWER CARDS We have reprinted the lovely ‘Wild Flower’ cards that Louise Schenck painted last year. They are the perfect Easter Card featuring flowers from the old wild garden. If you want to buy one, they are for sale at the Traidcraft stall for £1 each. Proceeds going to Church funds.

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OUR ZIMBABWE LINK PARISH – the parish priest of St Francis Barham Green is visiting the Diocese, along with other colleagues, from March 23 for 2 weeks. Thank you to the 2 hosts who have offered accommodation for Fr Moffat and his wife. We would still welcome a few offers to have them for an evening meal during their stay so that they get to meet as many as possible. Their time with host parishes is pretty limited and so meals are going to be a good way of putting Moffat in touch with life at CCWW. There will also be the need for people to escort them to their meeting places in London and more locally during their stay, depending upon the planned programme. Can you offer to help? Please speak to Jenny Tomlinson or Michael today.

TUESDAY 10 MARCH
11am Morning Prayer
2pm + 8pm Lent Group (2) in the Truman Room

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH
9.30am Christ Church Toddler Group in the Hall

THURSDAY 12 MARCH
8pm Brass Group in Church

SATURDAY 14 MARCH
6.30pm Barn Dance in the Hall

NEXT SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2020
Third Sunday of Lent
8am BCP Holy Communion
8.45am Choir Practice
10am Parish Eucharist

Speaker: Michael Green from Church Mission Society
6.30pm BCP Evensong

TUESDAY 17 MARCH
11am Morning Prayer
2pm + 8pm Lent Group (3) in the Truman Room

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH
9.30am Christ Church Toddler Group in the Hall
2.30pm Memorial Service for Derek Robinson
8.00pm Eco Group Meeting in the Truman Room

THURSDAY 19 MARCH
8pm Brass Group in Church

FRIDAY 20 MARCH
7.30pm KFH go bowling