A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Acts 10.34-43

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Matthew 3.13-end
FOR OUR PRAYERS
Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Hilary Brazier; Carol Green; Pam Mortley;
Those who have died:
Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:
Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP: We open on Wednesday 15 January 2020 9.30-11.15am for pre school children and their parents/carers in term time. In preparation for this: we will welcome help in putting out the equipment on an occasional or regular basis. Please contact Mair Rabagliati.

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2020 at Christ Church on Sunday 26 January 11.30 – 12.30 in the Parish Office. As part of our Eco Church commitment we will be taking part in this national survey of garden birds. We hope our garden will be even more bird-friendly by next year so this will act as a baseline. Could you join the small group who will look out for, identify and count birds – no expertise needed. Alternatively, sign up to bird watch in your own garden. [https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/) It would be helpful if you could let Lucy Christie know if you’ll be joining the group or doing your own survey at home but please feel free to drop in on the day:020 8540 9862 lerhaynes@doctors.net.uk

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY—CANDLEMAS is our Patronal festival when we give especial thanks for our Church. After the 10am service, MARK ADAMS will be giving a talk about ‘MY HIMALAYAN ADVENTURES’. No charge but donations both at our 10am service and after the talk will be for the Mondon Foundation Kalimpong, the charity Mark represented in India and for which he is a trustee. See the yellow leaflets for details.

MISSING—a purple stole (scarf) which Michael wears on a Sunday morning. He put it down somewhere in church after the morning service on December 22 and cannot now find it. A chocolate reward for the finder!

CHURCH COLLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS raised £2657.98 + £474.63 Gift Aid recoverable = £3132.61. Half of the total is for the Church and the other half is to be divided between Faith in Action and Christian Care Merton. Thank you to everyone who donated.

THE ADVENT FAIR raised £1175.95 (£967 in 2018). This is a truly magnificent amount and a record. Thank you to Tish and all who worked so hard. The money raised will go towards the Hall refurbishment project. Thank you.

WIMBLEDON FOODBANK Thank you to everyone who responded to the Reverse Advent Calendar appeal with such generosity. Three large collections have been taken to the Food Bank, including a lot of chocolate, and they are extremely grateful for your help in adding festive treats to the regular food parcels. Normal collections will start again in the new year The Food Bank website lists their most urgent needs.

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH BY DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD: We now have a card reader and if anyone wishes to donate to the Church by card then please see the Churchwarden, David Simpson, after the service. We would also be delighted if you wish to set up a monthly direct debit payment to the Church as this remains the best way to support Christ Church on a regular basis - David can help with this too.