A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1.11–20

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Jesus replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

Luke 23.33–43

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. Amen.

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Green Prayer

Lord God, strengthen our weak wills and our feeble frames so that we may work tirelessly for the fulfilment of your promise for the redemption of all creation from the bondage of corruption.
This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.
FOR OUR PRAYERS
Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Judy Luddington;
Those who have died: Harry Watson; Jennifer Holman; Josephine Bone; Margaret Tatham; Maire Mayhew; Margaret Charett; Peter Abbot.

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

Tuesday 26 NOVEMBER
11am Morning Prayer
3pm Together on Thursday
8pm Brass Group

Friday 29 NOVEMBER
7.30pm KFH, Hall

NEXT SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER
ADVENT SUNDAY—TOY SUNDAY
8am BCP Holy Communion
8.45am Choir Practice
10am Celebrate Together
Followed by our Advent Fair
6.30pm BCP Evensong

Monday 2 DECEMBER
2pm-3pm Advent Course on Acts (1),
or 8pm-9pm Truman Room

Tuesday 3 DECEMBER
11am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 4 DECEMBER
8pm Refugee Planning Group at Vicarage

Thursday 5 DECEMBER
8pm Brass Group

Friday 6 DECEMBER
3.30pm on MyRaynesPark
Christmas Festival

Saturday 7 DECEMBER
Hollymount School Christmas Fair

NEXT SUNDAY - ADVENT SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER: 10am
Toy Sunday—please bring new toys and games for those who otherwise would receive nothing at Christmas followed by THE ADVENT FAIR at 11am: We would be grateful for contributions to the Home Produce stall, Raffle prizes, and anything ‘brand new’ for the ‘regal’ stall. There will also be a plant stall, the children’s corner, Traidcraft of course, and the wonderful KFH stall selling goodies. Mulled wine and snacks will also be available! All are welcome so do invite your friends. We will particularly welcome the donation of good raffle prizes.

CREATION TIDE DISPLAY Thank you very much to everyone who contributed. Remaining items for collection are on top of the Traidcraft cupboards. Please collect your items now.

A STUDY COURSE ON ACTS takes place on the first 3 Mondays of Advent starting on December 2 and then on the first 3 Tuesdays of February starting on February 4. Intrigued? Then please collect a leaflet from the table at the back of the church and sign the list if you plan to attend.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOR THE FOODBANK: This is a new idea which Julie Ashbee has discovered and has suggested that we might adopt during Advent (which begins on 1st December). Instead of opening a box every day and taking something out of an Advent calendar, you put items that you think the Wimbledon Foodbank needs into a bag. Because the Foodbank aim to give out extra ‘treat’ parcels just before Christmas they would welcome the following to be brought to Church by 15 December: chocolates, selection boxes of biscuits, boxes of crackers/cheesy crackers (edible ones!), and children’s packs of five chocolates in a box. Some are a bit expensive for donating on a daily Advent calendar basis, but if people did gifts just once or twice a week that would mount up well. The weekly website request is currently for jam and juice, both of which could also be appropriate for Christmas. You might also consider using the Traidcraft stall when buying Food Bank treats. After 15 December you can keep collecting other items which can then be brought to Church in January (the Foodbank closes at Christmas). Thank you.

THE NEXT THURSDAY TOGETHER EVENT will be on Thursday 28 November when we will be going to the Squires Garden Centre in Thames Ditton for tea and some Christmas shopping. Do sign the list if you plan to come along so that we can organise lifts.

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER LEAFLET DELIVERIES: We need a few new volunteers to deliver leaflets in some of the roads in the parish. We try to deliver a leaflet to every house advertising our Christmas and Easter Services. Lucy Christie has a list of those roads which need deliverers. Could you help? Please don’t be afraid to approach Lucy to offer your help. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS HELP—please sign the lists in the cross aisle if you would like to read, lead prayers or serve at Christmas. First come, first served!

OUR GOOD FRIEND HARRY WATSON died peacefully on Monday. Thank you to Hazel Bate and all his Christ Church friends who have visited and cared for Harry over the years and particularly in these past months. Funeral arrangements will be announced when they are known.

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD: An ECO IDEA. There’ll be a giant card displayed at the back of church from 1st December. 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!

TRAIDCRAFT STALL is now fully stocked for a Fair Trade Christmas. We have Advent calendars and candles as well as Christmas cards and wrapping paper; Christmas chocolates, decorations and gifts alongside our usual teas, coffees & groceries. We’re happy to take orders for Christmas cards and other items in the catalogue.

CHARITIES supported by our Christmas Service Collections Meron Faith in Action and Christian CARE Association will receive 50% of our Christmas collections this year. Meron Faith in Action runs a Homeless Drop In Centre every Wednesday and Friday providing meals, shower & laundry facilities, clothing & food parcels, internet access and support with applications for jobs, housing & benefits and help with accessing other local services. Christian CARE Association offers help to people in Merton with befrienders who can listen & support at times of crisis; they provide food and household essentials, baby essentials, children’s clothes, including some school uniform and second hand furniture for families in need. They also organise an annual party and summer outing and arrange for some children to attend summer camps.

BRUNO BEAR TODDLER GROUP: We are planning to reopen on Wednesday 15 January 2020 9.30-11.15 for pre school children in term time. In preparation for this:

1. At some point we will be cleaning and checking toys under the stage in the Hall. Volunteers to help clean would be very welcome.
2. Unwanted toys books dolls trikes etc in good condition would be much appreciated to supplement what we have already
3. We continue to look for adults of whatever age to help with running it on a occasional or regular basis for welcoming as well as putting equipment out and away or serving refreshments etc Please contact Mike or Mair for more info

2020 CHURCH DIARIES—we are hopeful that these will arrive soon. The company that supplied the diary last year has gone into liquidation and the new company are in the process of securing advertising to cover the cost. Watch this space!

KCS GARDENING TEAM - The KCS gardening team have been busy. If anyone is going to the tip over the next week, would you please be able to take a couple of bags of leaves with you from the side of the church hall. Thanks so much.