A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hebrews 2. 10-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Matthew 2.13-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: Harry Watson;
Those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Siân Edmunds (2009); Phyllis Barrett (2016)
Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green

THANK YOU to everyone who worked very hard over the Christmas period. There are too many of you to name - but special thanks go to Karen Chinn, Rosie Hickson and Marion Thomas for the wonderfully imaginative display of greenery and poinsettias and to Bill Petch and others for the tree; to Pat Spencer and all the stewards/welcomers who worked so willingly; to the servers and communion assistants; to those who served refreshments, especially after the Carol Service; to the Thursday team for an enjoyable Christmas lunch; to Tom Theakston and all the musicians for a magnificent Carol Service; to our depuising organists for their work; to the church cleaning teams who kept everything neat and tidy; to those who delivered the Christmas leaflets; to David for all his extra work in making sure everything ran so smoothly - and to everyone else who played any part in what was a busy time of celebration this year. Thank you.

MICHAEL sends his thanks and warm wishes to everyone at Christ Church for a Holy and Happy 2020.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

WE WELCOME the Reverend Yunghee Koh, Curate in the Wimbledon Team, who is leading our morning services today.

TODAY—Activities for Children: There are paper puzzles and craft activities for children in the Truman Room. Please help yourself at any time during the service.

PEACE SERVICE Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group invite you to the Peace Service on Wednesday 1 January, 7.30pm, at St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane SW20 9DB. All welcome!

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS—please take any addressed to you.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: The Christingle service raised £241.70 for the Children’s Society (£175 in 2018). The Hollymount School service collection totalled £414 (£270 in 2018). 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.

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.

BRUNO BEAR TODDLER GROUP: We are planning to reopen on Wednesday 15 January 2020 9.30-11.15am for pre school children and their parents/carers in term time. In preparation for this:
1. Unwanted toys books dolls trikes etc in good condition would be much appreciated to supplement what we have already
2. 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 Mair Rabagliati.

HARRY WATSON: The funeral is on WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2020 at 9.20am at North East Surrey Crematorium, Lower Morden Lane, Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4NU. Donations are for the amenity fund of the Carter House residents. The funeral will be followed by an informal gathering at Lower Morden Garden Centre in Lower Morden where people can buy coffee and cakes. All will be warmly welcome to attend.

2020 CHURCH DIARIES are available for you to take. No charge.