A reading from the second letter of Peter

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1.16-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

Matthew 17.1-9

Sunday 23 February 2020
Sunday next before Lent

READINGS FOR THIS MORNING:
2 Petr 1.16-end; Matthew 17.1-9
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Eucharist

HYMNS: 743, 412, 48, 92

6.30pm BCP Evensong

READEINGS:
Ecclus 48.1-10; Matthew 17.9-23

HYMNS: 19, 410, 2
PSALM: 84

Green Prayer
Spirit of God, set at rest the crowded, hurrying thoughts within our minds and hearts. Let the peace and quiet of your presence take hold of us. Help us to relax, to rest, to become open and receptive to you. You know our inmost thoughts, the hidden unconscious life within us, the forgotten memories of hurts and fears, the frustrated desires, the unresolved tensions and dilemmas. Cleanse and sweeten the springs of our being, that freedom, life and love may flow into both our conscious and our hidden life. Lord, we lie open before you, waiting for your healing, your peace and your word. Amen. (George Appleton)
FOR OUR PRAYERS
Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Hilary Brazier; Judith Sanson; Joyce Smith.
Those who have died: Ursula Aldis.
Those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Mark Hollis (2019); Howard Roberts (2001).

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

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY
8pm PCC Meeting in the Truman Room

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY
11am Morning Prayer
WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY — Ash Wednesday
9.30am Christ Church Toddler Group in the Hall
8pm Ash Wednesday Parish Eucharist with ashen ash for those who wish to receive it.

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY
3pm Together on Thursday Tea in the Hall
8pm Brass Group in Church

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY
7.15pm–9pm KFH in the Truman Room

NEXT SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2020
First Sunday of Lent
8am BCP Holy Communion
8.45am Choir Practice
10am Celebrate Together with Baptism of Anderson Aylen
6.30pm BCP Evensong

TUESDAY 3 MARCH
10.15am Finance Committee at 26 Spencer Hill
11am Morning Prayer
2pm + 8pm Lent Group (1) in the Truman Room

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH
9.30am Christ Church Toddler Group in the Hall

THURSDAY 5 MARCH
8pm Brass Group in Church

FRIDAY 6 MARCH
8pm World Day of Prayer Service at Christ Church — all welcome

LENT 2020 – once again there will be a Lent Course in Church. There will be two sessions each week for 5 weeks – on Tuesday afternoons (2pm till 3.15pm) and on Tuesday evenings (8pm till 9.15pm). The dates are: March 3, 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 be 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 and the topics to be covered are: CREATION, STewardship, FALL AND REDEMPTION, MONEY AND LIFESTYLE. Each week we will be studying and discussing Bible passages, and relating these to our care of God’s world. Please sign up at the back of the Church — and please bring a Bible with you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER — FRIDAY 6 MARCH — Praying for Zimbabwe. A service for everyone. “Rise! Take your mat and walk” 10.30am Service at St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane SW20 9DB; 8.00pm Service at Christ Church. Refreshments are served after each service. ALL are welcome!

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 if you are coming.

CHURCH GARDEN — A group of us are meeting in the near future to discuss ongoing plans for the new garden. We would love ideas at this time about what we could include in our scheme, concentrating on plants and small trees at this initial stage. If you have ideas especially if they grow well in your garden please send them to Karen (inc photos if you have them) to thechinn@btinternet.com or pass them on to Hazel, Pat, Elaine, Rosie, Marion C. or Karen in church.

BACK GARDEN — please keep off the whole area while the turf beds down properly. Many thanks to those who are keeping the area watered.

BOOK CLUB will meet on the first Thursday of the month and, as an experiment, we agreed to meet from 4 to 6pm. The next meeting on Thursday March 5 will be at 3 Elm Walk when we will discuss on Beauty by Zadie Smith. The subscription for Bible Reading Fellowship notes is due for renewal. If any current subscribers want to change their order or if anyone else would like to subscribe, please speak to Jenny Tomlinson.

MARMALADE Marion will be selling marmalade from this Sunday, February 23rd and for the following 2 weeks. 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!

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. Christ Church has been asked to provide accommodation for Fr Moffat and his wife. Would you like to offer to help? It would be good to have 2/3 hosts who could provide bed and breakfast to cover the 14 days they will be with us. We would be willing to cover your costs if necessary. Also it would be good if there were a few offers to have them for an evening or Sunday lunchtime 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.

WE NEED at least 2 new volunteers to help with cleaning the Church to join one of our teams once a month. Can you spare an hour or so once a month? Please speak to Michael if you can help.

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.

TOILET TWINNING IN CHRIST CHURCH HALL. The toilets in the hall have all been twinned with toilets in poor communities overseas through the Toilet Twinning scheme of the charity Tearfund. This was funded by a donation. Have a look at the certificates in the hall toilets to see where our twinned toilets are being built. There are leaflets at the back of church with more information on the scheme.

NIGHT SHELTER: Our local Salvation Army congregation are using their HQ in Kingston Road, Raynes Park as a venue for the Night Shelter in Merton. This will be on 7 consecutive Mondays, beginning on 9th March and concluding on 20th April. They write: "We have already had some commitments to volunteer, but would welcome more from our Churches Together Group. Looking particularly weak are the overnight slots and the Tuesday am breakfast slots. The timings are as follows: Monday evening slot: 6.30pm - 11pm (or part of this time) Overnight slot: 11pm - 7am. Tuesday breakfast slot: 7am - 9am. If you join us as a volunteer, then you will need to attend a short training session run by the Night Shelter. You do not need to sign up to every week of the 7, but you are welcome to do so. Please respond to jill.grinsted@salvationarmy.org.uk.

CORONAVIRUS: Simply as a precaution, all those involved in serving Communion will take extra care over hygiene at this current time when there is understandable concern about Coronavirus. There is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended. As is always the case, any parishioners with coughs and sneezes should refrain from handshaking during the Peace. Intinction (dipping your wafer into the wine) is not recommended as this represents an infection transmission route. Please note that it is the 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.