

**The Parish of Christ Church, Waltham Cross  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
The Baptism of Christ**

# **Christ Church is closed for public services owing to lockdown**

**Eucharists this Sunday (9.15) and Wednesday (10.15) will be livestreamed to our Facebook page**

## **The Baptism of Christ – a reflection**

Since most of us were baptized as infants, we do not remember the event. Yet, no matter what age you were baptized, it still has the same effects: cleansing of sin, imparting of grace, giving of the Holy Spirit, adoption as a child of God, and incorporation into the Church.

*Take time to thank God for the gift of baptism and reflect on the importance of your baptism.*

Baptism begins our covenant relationship with God. Like all covenantal relationships (e.g. marriage), this relationship takes work.

*Make an extra effort this week to invest time and energy into your relationship with God and ask for His grace to help you grow closer to Him.*

**Please keep in your prayers this week:**

***Those who are sick***

***Those working in the NHS and those responsible for the roll out of the vaccines***

***The recently departed and all who mourn***

## **This week at Christ Church**

*Today in the Anglican Communion we pray for the Anglican Church of South America*

### **Monday 11th January**

*We pray for the children and staff of Holy Trinity School, and all those involved in education at this time*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Tuesday 12th January**

*We pray for our PCC and Churchwardens*

8.30 am Cheshunt Team Ministry Virtual Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Wednesday 13th January**

*We pray for all who live in Park Lane and Swans Road*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

10.15 am Eucharist (*livestreamed to our Facebook page*)

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 14th January**

*We pray for the community of Christ Church*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Friday 15th January**

*We pray for the United States; for a peaceful transition of power*

### **Saturday 16th January**

*We pray for clergy and lay ministers within Cheshunt Team Ministry*

*Our vision is to be a church that is welcoming, inclusive and vibrant and which celebrates its diversity; a church which is growing in faith and fellowship, committed to sharing the Gospel with the community we serve*

## Diary dates and notices

- As you will have heard, **Reverend Teresa tested positive for covid-19** last week. Luckily, she had not been in contact with anyone from church, as it was at the end of a week's leave. She will be out of isolation on the 13<sup>th</sup> January and expects to be back to work then. (Revd Debbie will be taking the services on 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, but that has been planned for several weeks)
- Owing to the high infection rate in the area the Standing Committee have decided to **suspend public worship** at Christ Church at the present time. We will be reviewing this regularly and will resume as soon as we feel it is safe to do so. Please do keep in touch with those who are not online in any way and please let Reverend Teresa know of anyone who needs support. If you want to join the WX News WhatsApp group, or have your notices emailed to you, please let Revd Teresa know.
- **January Lucky Draw:** Tickets (£1 each) are now available, the winner gets 50% of the pot. You are unable to buy from Shirley in person but you can pay online or get the money to us somehow (drop it at the Vicarage). Once you have done this let her know and she will put tickets aside for you. The next draw will be on **31 January**



## FINANCE UPDATE



**We have paid our parish share in full.** Thank you for your support and generosity. We are one of the very few parishes who have managed to do that this year. It feels like a minor miracle!

**Our parish share for 2021 is £41061 which works out at £789 per week (this is in addition to usual running costs)**

**You can pay for events, raffles and tickets *online, by text or by card reader, or direct to our bank account.*** Just let us know what it's for!

**If you Gift Aid to Christ Church normally, please tell Jill so she can claim it back**

Pay by text: 2020CHURCH5 to **70085**

(to donate eg £5),

Bank transfer: 404521 00445282

Or by QR code →



## **COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

### **First Reading Genesis 1.1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **Second Reading Acts 19.1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 1.4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen