

**The Parish of Christ Church, Waltham Cross**

**Sunday 21st February 2021**

**Lent I**

**9.15 am Parish Eucharist**

**7.30 pm Bible Study and Compline**

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

**Services will be livestreamed to our Facebook page: [christchurchlep](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchlep)**

### **Lent I**

*Lent is a snowfall in the soul. Just as snow makes us see our landscape in a different light, making us renavigate our environment and wonder at the sight of our own breath, so Lent invites us to distil, reimagine and remember the fragile miracle of our own self.*

*We are reminded that we brought nothing into the world and we take nothing out. As ash is placed on our heads, the cross is placed on the heads that house our brains, the centres of our will power and decision making. These are being called back to life, to a balanced sense and a proportionate understanding of ourselves.*

*Along with Timothy, we are encouraged to pursue love, gentleness and what is right. This letter, like Lent, asks us to stop being indifferent, cautious and compromised. It speaks of the 'life that really is life', the one that is activated and sustained by love of God and our neighbour.*

*Time presses upon us and tells us we're too busy to be reflective, but our souls know better. Souls die from lack of reflection. Unawareness, like money, is a root of all evil too. Responsibilities distract us and tell us we're too involved with the 'real' world to be concerned about the spiritual questions. But it is always spiritual questions that make the difference in the way we go about our public and day-to-day lives.*

*Mark Oakley 'reflections for Lent' reflecting on 1 Timothy 6.6-19*

**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 those who mourn them.***

## **This week at Christ Church**

*Today in the Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in Wales*

### **Monday 22nd February**

*We pray for the children and staff of St Mary's High School, and all those involved in education.*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Tuesday 23rd February**

*We pray for HAEBEA*

8.30 am Cheshunt Team Ministry Virtual Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Wednesday 24th February**

*We pray for all who live in Sandringham Way*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

10.15 am Eucharist (livestreamed on Facebook)

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

7.30 pm Cheshunt Team Lent Course (Zoom ID from the vicar 07545 462189)

### **Thursday 25th February**

*We pray for the community of Christ Church, and those who live and work in our parish*

8.30 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **Friday 26th February**

*We pray for those affected by the storm in Texas*

### **Saturday 27th February**

*We pray for St Albans Diocese*

### **Sunday 28th February – Lent II**

9.15 am Parish Eucharist (MU Corporate Communion)

7.30 pm Compline (Zoom ID from the vicar 07545 462189)

*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

• **HertsHelp** A network of community organisations which can give support, advice and information for anyone who needs it, whether it's practical, emotional or physical. [www.hertshelp.net/](http://www.hertshelp.net/) 0300 123 4044

• **And organised by Hertshelp – Doorstep deliveries** for the elderly, vulnerable or housebound which can be done over the phone. Phone your order in by 5pm and it will be delivered the next day. 0345 611 6111 (option 5)



**IF YOU DON'T NEED THESE SERVICES – PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION TO SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED**



• **Lent Course.** Cheshunt Team Lent course running on Wednesday evenings from the 24th February at 7.30 pm, on zoom. Zoom ID from the vicar.

• **Bible Study and Compline** Sunday evenings in Lent at 7.30pm. A short Bible study focusing on the book of James followed by compline. Zoom ID from the vicar.



• **February Lucky Draw:** Tickets (£1 each) are now available, the winner gets 50% of the pot. Congratulations to Shirley – last month's winner. You might be 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 **28th February**.

## FINANCE UPDATE

You may have noticed our parish share is slightly smaller this year; the Diocese have reduced all parish shares by 1.5%, as they know so many parishes are struggling financially. They have also frozen clergy stipends for 2021.

<b>Parish share paid so far (end January)</b>	<b>£ 3500</b>
<b>Amount of parish share now due at end of year</b>	<b>£37560</b>

**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, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### First Reading: Genesis 9.8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

### Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### Gospel Reading: Mark 1.9-15

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.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen