



## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Feast of Christ the King**

Dear Friends, welcome to this week's Newsletter for all our friends and neighbours of Burchetts Green Parish.

The Christian Year which begins with Advent Sunday ends this weekend with the Feast of Christ the King. We conclude the Christian Year by celebrating all that Jesus has achieved through his incarnation, life, death and resurrection.

The world remains imperfect, and we as individuals remain imperfect – a 'work in progress'. But maybe we forget just how much Christian teaching and culture has given us - the strong desire for compassion and love in all that we do personally and as a community; caring for the weak, the poor and the vulnerable; the urge for justice in the structures of society and international relations; and sense of responsibility towards our neighbour whoever they may be and wherever they may live. These all come directly from the teaching of Christ.

Where do we see Christ's kingdom in all its fullness, if not yet in this world? There is a favourite reading of mine that I often use at funerals and burials of ashes which tells us of the glorious reign of God and Christ which is awaiting us after death. It goes like this:

"I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb....nothing unclean [sinful] will be found there and no falsehood....Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the city.....And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be there light." (Revelation 21:22 – 22:5)

Remember these words, be uplifted by them, print this out and put it by your bedside to read when difficult times come. Who would not enter this City of God, at Christ's invitation, at the close of our earthly pilgrimage?

It is not unusual for me to conduct a funeral or burial service, and shortly afterwards a baptism, as will happen this weekend. This conjunction in close proximity of life and death happens surprisingly frequently in the ministry of a Priest. There is no discontinuity between the two, no difficulty in holding funeral ministry and baptism ministry together – indeed they belong together. The promise of grace and new life that we call down upon the candidate at baptism, and which through God's grace we pray they will grow into as they journey through life – this new life finds its fulfilment in the perfect and glorious life of heaven. At a funeral there is sadness in parting, just as at a baptism there is joy in welcoming a new born baby. But the same powerful, transforming grace of God is at work in both, calling us onwards into new life, and ultimately to our place in heaven.

**That** is the victory that Christ has won for us, and that is what we celebrate on the Feast of Christ the King.

### **Services this Sunday, Feast of Christ the King**

9.15am	Littlewick Green	Family Eucharist
10.30am	Hurley	God in Quiet

11am

Stubbings

Holy Communion (BCP)

The **Covid Pandemic** has not gone away, but thankfully vaccination means this is much less likely to result in serious illness or fatality than when the pandemic first hit. We remain cautious and we ask that everyone who enters our church buildings, The Soltau Centre or the Priory Room please remembers to sanitise your hands on entering and exiting the building. If you come to a communion service you will be asked to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) when coming forward to receive communion.

**Iris Egginton.** I wonder if any of you remember Iris and Ken Egginton? Iris died recently aged 93, and this Friday I interred her ashes to lie alongside those of her husband Ken and Ken's first wife Jean (who died relatively young) in Stubbings Churchyard. The family told me that in previous years Ken and Iris were faithful Stubbings church people, even playing a part in the fundraising for The Soltau Centre. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Many thanks** to all those who supported Sandra's Traidcraft coffee mornings and purchased Traidcraft products. I'm told it was a great success.

**Christmas Events.** I know we haven't reached Advent yet, but I thought I would let you know that the Churchwardens and myself have been working hard planning a full programme of services and events for us to celebrate Christmas together in community – Traditional Carol Services, Christingle Services that our young families and others love so much, and outdoor carol singing. And a welcome return of Revd Tina's fantastic crib Services, an essential part of Christmas in Burchetts Green Parish! Full details will be issued shortly.

**Advance Notice – Parish Administrator post.** We will shortly be advertising for a permanent, part-time Parish Administrator to be based in The Soltau Centre, Stubbings, starting sometime in January. We anticipate 15-20 hours per week, preferably across 5 mornings but there is some flexibility for the right person. If you think you might be interested, do drop me an email [revjohnainslie@gmail.com](mailto:revjohnainslie@gmail.com) Our current administrator, Sue Wilkins, is unfortunately unable to continue longer term.

**Parish Office.** The Parish Office is open for visitors and phone calls three mornings a week – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 12 noon. On other days, emails will be attended to on a daily basis. I **can usually be contacted** on [revjohnainslie@gmail.com](mailto:revjohnainslie@gmail.com) and 01628 629827 (do leave a message on the confidential answering machine if I don't answer).

**Services next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November: ADVENT SUNDAY**

8am

Stubbings

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am

Hurley

Eucharist with hymns (CW)



**Our churches are open for private prayer this week:**

- St John's Littlewick Green – open every day 11am – 4pm  
St Mary the Virgin Hurley – open every day 8am – 5pm  
St James-the-Less Stubbings – open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 12 noon

**For our prayers:**

For Theodore David Harrington Hill to be baptised at St James-the-Less Stubbings on Saturday afternoon, and for George Robert Smith to be baptised at St John the Evangelist Littlewick Green on Sunday afternoon.

For our Parish Administrator Sue Wilkins and our Churchwardens at this busy time of year.

For those parts of world subject to violence and warfare, especially Sudan at this time. For all who suffer persecution. For Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai. For migrants caught up in the tension between Poland and Belarus, and for a peaceful resolution.

For all who are trying to cross dangerous waters to reach the UK as asylum seekers. For those who manage our asylum facilities and develop our asylum policies. For all charities who seek to help asylum seekers landing in the UK. For resolution to international traffic in migrants with care and compassion.

For those of our Parish in any kind of need, sickness, anxiety, fear or loneliness, and for those who help them. For the homeless and those on the margins of society, and those in financial hardship; for the work of Maidenhead Foodshare and those who are dependent upon it.

For the recently departed, including Iris Egginton, and for all who mourn the death of a loved one at this time.

Christ the King of Heaven

Bless us and all for whom we pray with your bountiful grace.

Give strength to those who are weary,

Hope to those in despair,

Comfort to those in pain,

Forgiveness to those who have sinned,

And a vision of your glory

that we may be guided and inspired

**Amen**



If you are unable to join us in Church for whatever reason, there are many livestream and recorded services available online. I continue to recommend the daily and Sunday services from Canterbury Cathedral at <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/online-worship/>

Keep safe, be gentle on yourself, and remember that with God by your side you need never be alone.

With love and prayers,

Fr John Ainslie