

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 21st November 2021 – Christ the King

Dear Friends,

We are minded of the sovereignty of Christ today – the week before we begin a new Church year with the season of Advent. Monarchy has a chequered history, and in many countries who still have a Monarch the role is more ceremonial than ‘hands on’ ruling.

So, is Christ a ceremonial monarch? Notionally in charge, but actually the world is run by humans with their shortcomings? If we take a ‘here and now’ look at the world that seems to be the case – climate crisis, poverty, inequality, war. But Christ is a cosmic monarch, across time and space, raising what was dead to life, redeeming what was fallen. We have a choice how we behave – Christianity believes our choice is to accept the cosmic ruler, and emulate His eternal mission here and now.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st November – Christ the King

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen’s – led by Andrew Haviland
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin’s, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Choral Evensong at St Martin’s – (in Church and live streamed) led by Graeme Lodge

Wednesday 24th November

- 10.00am – Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel– led by Sue Curtis

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 28th November – Advent Sunday

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen’s – led by Nick Parish
- 10.00am – Morning Praise at St Martin’s, in Church and live streamed – led by Graeme Lodge
- 6.30pm – Advent Carols at St Martin’s – (in Church and live streamed) led by Nick Parish

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Churches Together in Epsom Monthly prayer meetings:

Following a well-attended social gathering, 'in person' at the Old Moat Café, we decided to alternately locate the monthly prayer meetings to 'Zoom online' or 'in person'. We were able to pray at the end of our social gathering at the Old Moat Café and received a positive response. The Old Moat Café has a covered outdoor area which should prove a Covid-safe environment. The gatherings will start at 9.15 on zoom and at 10 am for the 'in person' meetings. Dates of our monthly prayer meetings for Autumn 2021 are:



- Friday December 10th: 10-11am at Old Moat Café

Old Moat Garden Centre Café is in Horton Lane, Epsom

[Find Us — The Old Moat Garden Centre & Cafe](#)

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit. To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below

There is also a "Donate" button on our website.



Cheques to St Martin's

If give a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can it payable to:
'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom'

Donation Station

If you wish to give via contactless payment, please us the donation station in Church. You can give a pre-set amount or choose one. You can also gift aid your donation.

OTHER NOTICES

Beacon Tea

The next Beacon Tea is on Sunday 12th December, 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. and is held in St Martin's Church. On this occasion we shall also be singing Christmas carols, so do come! All are welcome.

Beacon Lunch

A festive lunch will be held on Wednesday 29th December in Church House at 12.00pm for 12.30pm. All are welcome. If you think you are likely to join us it would be helpful if you would sign the list at the back of the Church before the 5th of December to help us to cater effectively.

Evening of Lights

You are invited to come to one of the Evening of Lights when St Martin's will be lit with candles and the Christmas tree lights. These evenings offer a quiet space for remembering people close to you, and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. We hope to be able to offer you a hot drink (tea, coffee or hot chocolate) before you leave. The dates are

- Monday 13 December 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 14 December 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

There will also be an Evening of Lights at St Stephen's, Langley Vale, on

- Wednesday 15 December 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook, Pastoral Team

Visit to Visible Skin Exhibition on Thursday 25 November

As part of our reflection on our contested heritage connected with slavery, Dr Alana Harris, member of our congregation, has kindly offered to guide anyone who is interested around the Visible Skin Exhibition currently being held at the Strand at King's College campus on Thursday 25 November. The images displayed in this exhibition were originally Renaissance artworks, painted in Europe between 1400 and 1700. They have been restaged and resituated by the artist and opera singer Peter Brathwaite. Peter is descended from Miles Brathwaite, a nephew of the John Brathwaite commemorated on our memorial. More details about the exhibition and its background can be found on the website: <https://renaissanceskin.ac.uk/visibleskin/>

Our plan is to catch the 10.19 train from Epsom to Waterloo, and then to walk over (or catch a bus over) Waterloo Bridge to meet Alana and then view the exhibition.

Please email the parish office at stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com if you would like to join us on this visit. The exhibition is open until 10 December so if you can't make Thursday, there is still time to view it.

Judith Mitchell

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME MISSION

Through the Roof

Through the Roof is a Christian disability charity that changes the life of disabled people around the world. Through the Roof wants to see everyone valued equally, fully belonging and able to contribute their gifts and skills. They accomplish this in 3 ways, Faith, Freedom and Friendship.

Meg Topley

ABROAD MISSION

Mercy Ships Charity thanks St Martins Church for their continuing support. The new hospital ship, Global Mercy, having had a free passage through the Suez Canal thanks to the Egyptian President, is now being further equipped and staffed in Antwerp, Belgium. It plans to sail to Senegal in the Spring of 2022 to continue dispensing medical treatment there.

A new church information pack, full of the latest information will be displayed in the back of St Martins Church soon. Do have a look at it.

Peter and Julia White

EVENTS AND MUSIC

St Martin's Music Recitals – Next one THIS SATURDAY 20th November

On Saturday 20th November at 4.30pm we present the dynamic Oxbridge Organ Duo in a thrilling programme designed to entertain all the family.

<http://www.oxbridgeorganduo.com/media.html>

Don't miss this opportunity to hear our recently refurbished Norman and Beard pipe organ played in tandem by Julian Collins and Benedict Lewis-Smith.

Programme:

Variations on Veni Creator Spiritus – David Briggs

Fancy – Thomas Tomkins

Duet – Samuel Wesley

Wave – Ad Wammes

Berceuse and Finale from Firebird – Stravinsky

Payment for the admission for attending a recital as part of Music @ St Martin's can be made by either :

1. Using the Donation Station in Church and select "Giving at a Recital at St Martin's"

2. Put the following link into your web browser:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14629>

OR

3. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code



IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE EVENTS TEAM

With the number of Covid cases and continuing precautions needed, we have to cancel the Christmas Fair, due to be held on Saturday 27th November, also the Epiphany party in the New Year for the same reasons. The Beetle Drive was great fun for those who took part but there were only 10 of us. We would like to get some idea of your feelings about events in the near future so please fill in the anonymous questionnaire attached to this newsletter or pick up and complete a paper one from the back of church. The paper forms can be put in the labelled box or you can email your answers to one of the Events Team. We have some ideas for 2022 but would much appreciate your views so we can plan accordingly. Many thanks! **Events Team** – **Alyson Aronson, Mary Holloway-Neville, Cathy Morris, Nancy Bluett**

CHRISTMAS CARDS – ON SALE NOW

Christmas is coming!! I have set up my display of Christmas cards, candles and Advent Calendars. Please buy now while I have good stocks. Once I have sold out of a particular design, I may not be able to get any more.

Everything will be on sale between now and Christmas.

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to "The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom" (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the "Cards" button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church.

Every packet sold helps the church. Thank you for your custom.



Mary Holloway-Neville

THE NATIVITY JOURNEY

A PLAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

15 - 20 DECEMBER 2021

BOOK
NOW!



Come and enjoy the real Christmas story at Wintershall

Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold.

The Wintershall Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family.

Performance Times:

Thursday 16th December	5pm
Saturday 18th December	2pm & 5pm
Sunday 19th December	2pm & 5pm
Monday 20th December	11am, 2pm & 5pm

Prices:

16th December	Adult £20, Child £10 and Family £55
18th, 19th, 20th December	Adult £25, Child £12 and Family £65

Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Please note that some scenes are performed outside and some inside Holly Barn theatre, your visit includes a 10 minute walk up a steep hill. Limited disabled parking is available for those who need it most next to Holly Barn Theatre but this must be pre-booked by emailing admin@wintershall.org.uk.

Holly Barn, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0LR.



Book tickets **now** on
our website:
www.wintershall.org.uk
or by calling
01483 892167



FESTIVE KNITTING APPEAL



After the success of our Easter Chick Knitting Appeal, Age Concern Epsom & Ewell are running a Festive Knitting Appeal for Christmas 2021.

Help Age Concern Epsom & Ewell to raise vital funds by dusting off those knitting needles and creating one or more of these amazing knitted Christmas Pudding chocolate orange covers.

Age Concern Epsom & Ewell will be selling these knitted creations to raise vital funds for our charity throughout December.

For more information about this appeal or to receive your FREE knitting pattern, please email charlotte.hornblow@ageconcernepsom.org.uk

Thank you for your support

All knitted creations should be sent to

Age Concern Epsom & Ewell,
The Old Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom,
Surrey, KT18 5AG



Latest message from Food Bank

We are collecting for our Christmas Appeal.

It's been a whirlwind of a year for us so far! We know December is a time when people who cannot afford food and basics need us more than ever. Last December we supported a whopping 1,570 people in need with food, essentials and seasonal support. So far in 2021 our numbers are not as high, but with the fuel price hikes and Universal Credit cuts the number of people needing us is rising again. We have helped more than 7,100 people so far this year with food, sundries and support.

Can you help us? We are fundraising for:

🎄 Christmas meat vouchers. Once again we are working with local butchers, we want to give our clients vouchers to enable them to choose their meat for Christmas.

🎄 Funds for seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to add to our Christmas meat voucher and goodie bags.

🎄 Energy top up funds for our clients' gas/electricity to cook their Christmas dinner.

🎁 Gift cards of £10 each for parents to choose a present for their children from Argos, Wilkos, Superdrug, Boots, or TK Maxx.

You can donate funds here via our website, make a small donation by text (details below), or contact us if you want to make a BACs transfer.

We are also collecting donations from this list for our Christmas goodie bags:

Christmas selection boxes

Christmas napkins, tablecloths, tea towels

Christmas puddings

Savoury snacks

Tinned ham

Christmas biscuits

Festive chocolate, sweets and treats

Mince pies

Packet stuffing

Packet trifle mix



Please make sure items do not contain alcohol as we are unable to give these out. Please donate by Friday 3rd December in time for us to pack the bags ready for our clients.

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Generation Resource Centre

Behind West Ewell Primary School)

Ruxley Lane, Ewell

KT19 0JG

Donation drop off times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm.

* Please make sure all donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol

*Donations can also be made if you prefer by texting any amount between £1 and £20 Christmas Gift followed by your chosen amount to 70450. If you wish to donate a larger amount please e-mail us.

Any questions? We are always happy to chat. Call us on 0208 786 8221 or email

foodbank@generation.org.uk

CONTACT US

Parish Office:

Church House, Church Street, Epsom,

KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

**Opening hours are Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays & Fridays
9.30am to 12.30pm**

The Revd Nick Parish – Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile - Priest in Retirement - 01372 723770

Email: esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

***(available for Contemplative Prayer, Counsel,
Spiritual Direction and the Healing Ministry)***

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
 whose Son Jesus Christ ascended
 to the throne of heaven that
 he might rule over all things
 as Lord and King:
 keep the Church in the unity of
 the Spirit
 and in the bond of peace,
 and bring the whole created
 order to worship at his feet;
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel.

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

PSALM Psalm 93

R *The Lord has girded himself with strength.*

The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;
 the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength. He has made the whole world so sure that it cannot be moved;
 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting. **R**

The waters have lifted up,
 O Lord,
 the waters have lifted up their voice;
 the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.
 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
 mightier than the breakers of the sea,
 mightier is the Lord who dwells on high. **R**

Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness adorns your house,
 O Lord,
 for ever and for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Grace to you and peace from God who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be

glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL John 18:33-37

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
 the wills of your faithful people;
 that they, plenteously bringing
 forth the fruit of good works,
 may by you be plenteously
 rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

CHRIST THE KING

21 NOVEMBER 2021

YEAR B

"You say that I am a king."

John 18:37

Illustration

The cathedral was busy when the fire alarm went off. The office staff were expecting an evacuation practice, but not till the following week. So they had not quite got around to reading their instructions. In the Chapter House, the Mothers' Union coffee morning was in full swing. Anxious heads poked out of doors into the corridor. Were the alarm bells being tested? Was it a drill? What were they to do?

Then the head verger appeared. "Evacuate the building," he announced very clearly and calmly. At once people grabbed their coats and headed outside. Someone was in charge, so it was all right. And pretty soon the DJ practising for a wedding reception later that day in the Cathedral Centre had been told to turn his smoke machine off, and life was back to normal.

Gospel Teaching

In the world, with all its alarms, who is in charge? Today the Church makes a bold assertion. Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Who is in charge of the world? Christ is, we proclaim.

When the Gospels discuss the kingship of Christ, they do it in a very particular context. The land where Jesus lived was occupied and ruled by the Romans. And the Romans had an emperor whose rule was absolute. Tiberius ruled by force and by fear. Under his rule, Roman citizens lived secure, knowing that no one would dare to attack them, so great would be the reprisals. But for subject peoples like the Jews things were very different. The emperor was their lord and master, and they had better keep quiet and obey him. For anyone else to claim authority was treason of the most dangerous kind, and would be punished immediately and severely.

This is what lies behind Jesus' conversation with Pilate, the Roman governor, running Judaea on behalf of Tiberius. If Jesus has indeed claimed to be a king, as Pilate has been told, he will immediately be executed. There is room for only one king in this empire, and the divine emperor already has that position. Pilate wants to find out whether Jesus is setting himself up over against the emperor, because, if he is, that makes his life easy. He can just sign the death warrant, get the Jewish leadership off his back, and get on with oppressing the people and

making money out of them. Jesus, however, does not want to talk about the kind of kingship Pilate is thinking of. He wants to talk about truth.

The account of this conversation is written long after the events it describes, after the resurrection. The author of the Fourth Gospel knows that Tiberius is dead but Jesus is alive. He knows that there is a power here which has much more claim to rule the world than does the Roman emperor. The emperor may have the power of life and death, but Jesus has power over death. "My kingdom is not from this world," Jesus says to Pilate. Jesus is the king of a very different kind of kingdom, ruled by peace not force, by love not fear. Soon this king will be fastened to an instrument of execution which will come to be recognised as his throne for ages to come.

Application

There is no emperor ruling our world. There are dictators still, but they are on a rather smaller scale. Our need is not for someone to offer an alternative to the rule of the empire. Our need is for someone to provide security in our chaos.

Is Christ the king? Look around you. Does it seem like it? The world appears to be in the grip of financial, political and natural forces completely beyond our control. Can the world survive? Will it be nuclear war that destroys us? Or global warming? Or the collapse of all our financial systems? Or a flu pandemic? It is difficult to find evidence that Christ really is king of the world.

And yet we say it. Whatever the evidence, whatever we feel, today we say that Christ is king. We assert the truth which is deeper than appearances. We reaffirm the truth that at the heart of the universe is a force for peace and justice and love which is stronger than all human forces, which has been from eternity and will be to the end of time.

It is part of human nature to search for meaning in the chaos of life, and to want there to be a structure and a purpose. We want to know that someone is in charge. Today we remind ourselves that someone is.

MONDAY

22 NOVEMBER

Daniel 1:1-6. 8-20

Canticle:

Bless the Lord

Luke 21:1-4

TUESDAY

23 NOVEMBER

Daniel 2:31-45

Canticle:

Benedicite 1-3

Luke 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY

24 NOVEMBER

Daniel 5:1-6. 13-14.

16-17. 23-28

Canticle:

Benedicite 4-5

Luke 21:12-19

THURSDAY

25 NOVEMBER

Daniel 6:12-end

Canticle:

Benedicite 6-8a

Luke 21:20-28

FRIDAY

26 NOVEMBER

Daniel 7:2-14

Canticle:

Benedicite 8b-10a

Luke 21:29-33

SATURDAY

27 NOVEMBER

Daniel 7:15-27

Canticle:

Benedicite 10b-end

Luke 21:34-36

REFLECTION

We begin this week by meeting the poor widow who puts just a couple of coins into the Temple treasury. Jesus notices her; he notices what she gives, her clothes, her face and her general demeanour. And he knows that she has given all that she can afford, possibly more. We sense that his compassionate heart goes out to her.

We perhaps need to hold on to that image of Jesus caring for each of us, knowing our individual needs and circumstances and honouring us when we give to God all that we can give of ourselves.

This is an image we might need when we face up to catastrophic events in our world: when we're frightened by what we see around us and when the future is horribly uncertain and threatening; when our faith is challenged and it feels like the earth is opening up underneath our feet.

In the midst of whatever noise and clamour is going on around us, let's listen to the still small voice of God within us saying, **"not a hair of your head will perish"**, and trust in the one who can save our souls.



Church of St Mary, New Trier, Minnesota.
Nancy Bauer / Shutterstock.com

PRAYER

God our Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

PART XXXIX – MALACHI – A REMINDER TO BE WHOLE-HEARTED IN FAITHFULNESS

Georgina Byrne concludes our book-by-book series about the *Old Testament*.

“For you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.” (Malachi 4:2)

What is the final message of the Old Testament? How does the last of the prophets prepare us for what is to come? Malachi reminds us of what we already knew: that the worship of God should be whole-hearted, not half-hearted.

“Malachi” is the name given to this book, but the name means **“my messenger”**, so this could be someone real or an **“everyprophet”**.

From the reference to a **“governor”** of Judah (1:8), the prophecy can be dated to the period after the exile, after the time of Haggai and Zechariah, when Judah was ruled by governors, not kings.

The books of Haggai and Zechariah presented an optimistic vision of the rebuilding of the Temple. Malachi reveals that religious observance has grown lax. Nothing is particularly bad – apart from hints of marital infidelity (2:3-16) and corruption – but the prophet is dismayed that religion has lost its spirit, its heart. The priests and the people have stopped caring about God and the covenant.

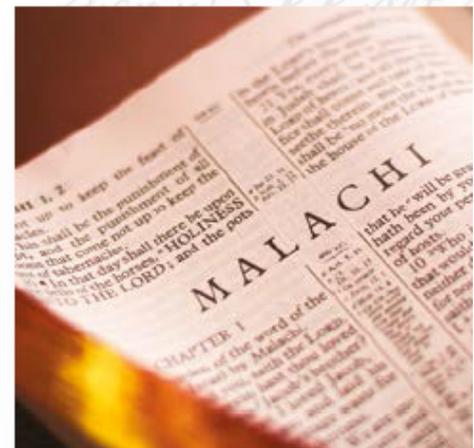
In response, Malachi challenges them to do better: to offer the best sacrifice to God, rather than what will suffice; to give the best tithe; to remember the teachings of Moses and to look for Elijah. Most importantly, Malachi returns to the covenant. **“I have loved you, says the Lord”** (1:2), **“Return to me, and I will return to you”** (3:7). God has been faithful and waits for the people’s faithful commitment.

Malachi’s prophecy takes us back to Moses and Elijah, but is also a vision for the future. A messenger is coming, says God, heralding the sudden arrival of the Lord in the Temple (3:1-4). Then the people will be refined like silver and the worship will be pleasing to God. Christians instinctively recognise Christ in the Temple with his parents (Luke 2:22-38), but Malachi’s message is timeless: our God is faithful, so give to God your whole heart and your best worship.

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



joshimerbin / Shutterstock.com

Week next before Advent
Christ the King

Monday 22 November to
Saturday 27 November
2021

WEEK



Jesus and Pontius Pilate, St Peter's Cathedral, Worms, Germany

A moment to decide

Katharine Smith *reflects on* John 18:33-37

Pilate, this is your moment. This is the moment that will define your life and give you a place in the minds of all who know the story of the man who stands before you. You could be the one who listens to his voice, who sees the truth of who he is and who stands firm in your refusal to allow innocence to be executed. You question him about his identity and where he comes from. As he talks about his kingdom do you not see the majesty and authority that radiate from him, even though he has already been humiliated and assaulted? You stand in judgement over a man of destiny from a world that is far removed from your world of power, oppression and cruelty. You could listen to his voice and know that you hear the truth. You could acknowledge his kingship and free him, a decision that would also free you in ways you cannot imagine.

Pilate, this is your moment, your decision. The tragedy is that we know the choice you are going to make.

We too have our moment. The moment when we stand before Christ the King and make a decision for ourselves about who he is to us. 🍷

Lord Jesus, Christ the King, all honour and glory belong to you. Help us to worship you as our Lord of majesty and truth. Hold us in the love and protection of your kingdom, where you live and reign in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Keeping Christ in Christmas Part 3 – Christmas pudding

by Heather Cooke

This final Sunday of the Church year, before it all begins again with Advent, now glories in the title of Christ the King. Traditionally, though, it was known as "Stir-up Sunday", from the opening words of the collect: "Stir up, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people..."

Today we may hear those words as the post-communion prayer. On this day, people made their

Christmas puddings, often a family occasion where all the children had a stir and made a wish.

As we stir our puds, or maybe pop them in our shopping trolleys, we can keep the Christ in Christmas by thanking God for our families and friends as well as our food.

As we move towards another Christmas, may our wills be stirred up to serve him, Christ the King, who served others.

"This is our God, the servant King, who calls us now to follow him." 🍷

Christ the King

by Julian Smith

The feast of Christ the King falls on the last Sunday of the Church's year. Luke's Gospel (23:33-43) tells of the death of Jesus, and offers us both warning and encouragement. "The child who has been born king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2) reveals his kingship in his death on the cross.

We are warned not to over-sentimentalise Christmas, for which we begin our preparations on Advent Sunday, because the child in the manger is also the man upon the cross. Strangely, this is encouraging, as it is evidence of God's topsy-turvy kingdom on earth. While the world strives for fame, success and wealth, God measures things differently – "Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first" (Matthew 19:30).

You cannot get more "last" than a crucified, rejected man, yet God raised him up and we celebrate him today as Christ the King – encouragement indeed. 🍷

“Alone with none but thee, my God, I journey on my way. What need I fear when thou art near, O king of night and day?”

Saint Columba (521-597 AD), Irish abbot and missionary evangelist to Scotland



Sunday 21 November 2021

John 18:33-37

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

JESUS IS MY KING



Join the dots

Pilate did not see Jesus in this way, because **Jesus is not a king like any other king.**

God's kingdom

In a kingdom, the people do what the king asks. God wants us to live in his kingdom. **Who is doing what God asks?**

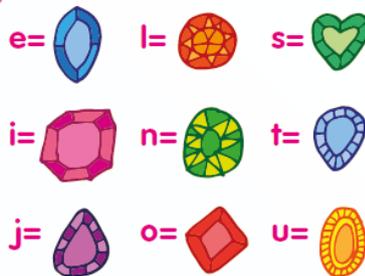


Draw a circle around the children who are living in God's kingdom.

Code

How can we find out how to live in God's kingdom?

Crack the code and write your answer in the speech bubble.



Jesus tells Pilate that he is a king like no other. Jesus is not interested in showing off power and strength like other kings. Jesus came to show us what God's kingdom of love is like.

Listening to God's truth

Jesus wants us to listen to him and be on the side of God's truth. Which of the children is listening to Jesus' voice?



Unjumble the lines to see who is on the side of truth.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting me to belong to your kingdom of love. Help me to always listen to your words of truth and to follow your rule. Amen.