



# Readings & Prayers Worplesdon Parish Christ the King

## **Requests for Prayer**

**The Church in the World:** The Anglican Church of South America.

**Our Parish:** The Charities we support as a church and as individuals.

*All who live in Streamside, Puand Hill & Pound Lane.*

## **Collect for Christ the King**

God the 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. Amen.

## **First Reading: Rev. 1. 4b-8**

## **The Gospel: John 18. 33-37**

## **Post Communion for Christ the King**

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. Amen.

## **Vacancy prayer:**

Lord, be with us and bless us as we pray throughout the vacancy.

By your Holy Spirit, guide those responsible for the parish so that they always may do your will for your glory and for the benefit of all.

Be with those who are to choose our next Rector so that they may know your will for the person you wish us to appoint. We pray that your Holy Spirit will work in the heart of the person that you wish us to appoint so they may know it is your will for them to come here.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## **Parish News**

**Plastic bottle tops (with the recycling symbol)** – Frances is collecting these for the Air Ambulance Service, please leave in the box at St Mary's. We are also continuing to collect used stamps for Cherry Trees.

**Parish Lunches/Village Lunches** – these happen on the third Tuesday of each month at St Alban's Hall at 12.30pm. Open to everyone and £5 per person. **Our Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and can be booked now!**

**Wood Street Youth Club** – next meet on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, £1 entry and so much to take part in!

**Monthly Coffee Morning** – we next meet on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at The Worplesdon Place at 10.30am – everyone welcome to come for a catch-up. Bring friends and neighbours, dogs welcome too.

**Worplesdon Young Musician 2025** – our competition for the 2025 Worplesdon Young Musician of the Year is now open. All details are on our website – if you know a musical young person please encourage them to enter. **Deadline for entries is 9<sup>th</sup> December**



**Dates for your diary:**

**Laudamus 'Carols and Bells' an evening of Christmas music with audience participation** this is being held at St Alban's on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm tickets are £15 under 16's free. Supporting the Double Flush project. Email [rhrbroughton@aol.com](mailto:rhrbroughton@aol.com) or G 233869 to book.

**Christmas Tree Workshop** at St Mary's Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am a chance for children to come and help decorate our church tree.

**Christingle** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am at St Alban's – come and make your own Christingle. It begins with an orange!

Please pick up a flyer from either church  
with dates and times of all our Christmas services,  
give them to friends and neighbours!

**Sermon for Christ the King**

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." John 18.36-37

Jesus was on trial before Pontius Pilate, the local representative of the Roman Emperor. Rome had been ruled by kings, and then for 500 years it was a Republic, designed to prevent any tyrant taking charge ever again. Following the assassination of Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar declared himself Emperor in 31BC. Pilate was afraid that the 'Christ' or 'Messiah', the 'anointed one', was claiming to be Caesar's rival. So he asked Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus wouldn't give a direct answer. It all depends, he said, what you mean by kingship. There have been many types of king, from absolute monarchs to those who saw their role as to serve the people and establish justice. Jesus wasn't a tyrant. But he was a king, if by that you mean the source of ultimate authority. He was King of kings and Lord of lords. But he couldn't tell Pilate that, because the Governor would have misunderstood him.

'To tell you the truth,' Jesus replied, I am a sort of king.' Or perhaps he put the sentence round the other way: was born a king to tell you the truth.' It wasn't just a word-game; he was arguing to save his own life. It certainly got Pilate confused, so that he went off on a tangent discussing the nature of truth, instead of examining the nature of kingship. Pilate forgot what question he'd just asked, but he had to admit that there was no case against Jesus and tried to acquit him of the charges. But the prosecution — the priests and Pharisees — warned Pilate that if he released Jesus he couldn't call himself 'Caesar's Friend'. Pilate said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' The priests answered, 'We have no king but Caesar,' persuading the crowd to demand capital punishment and we all know what happened next.

So what sort of king was Jesus? He actually told us himself: he's the sort of king who tells the truth. Always and in all circumstances. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Many people today would say that truth-telling would spell the end of any politician's career. So those in authority are 'economical with the truth', or express it in such a way that nobody will ask them to account for what they are doing with their authority. An absolute monarch can't tolerate too much truth. Neither can those who wish to cling to power despite all their mistakes. Jesus was the sort of ruler who justified his commands by drawing his subjects' attention to 'Inconvenient Truths'. Jesus doesn't just issue 'diktats'; he explains that if we go on behaving as we are, we shall bring disaster on our own heads. He warns us against sin, not to be difficult, but because he knows how much harm sin can do, to us sinners and to our neighbours.

In the so-called 'United Kingdom', it used to be called a constitutional monarchy. The monarch was supposed to defend the people's liberty, by preventing any section of the state from gaining power over another: the Lords and the Commons, the Cabinet and the ordinary MPs, the judges and the lawmakers, the Government and the Church. Now we've stripped the monarch of all power, in the interests of democratic rule — but I'm not sure that we have any more freedom. There are similar difficulties at every level of authority, for the EU from Brussels, for the USA from Washington down to the authority parents have over their children. Respect has to be earned; nobody's above the law, and all must be answerable to those under them for the way they use their power. Jesus was no tyrant; neither was he the puppet of those who appointed him. He was a king who told the truth, with no fear of the consequences. Whatever position of authority we are given in our lives, we too are responsible to God for the way you use or misuse our power.

If you think about it, if we assume that as our King, Jesus should rule our lives, then it is all quite simple. When asked, "What are the two greatest commandments?" Jesus replied, as we all know and can probably recite by heart: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength and your neighbour as yourself." If everyone on earth were to follow those commandments it would be like living in paradise. Since we know that is not the case, we can, through our faith in Jesus, only try to show his Kingship through our own lives by trying to be good examples of Christian discipleship. That, for me, is a good way to end the church's year before we enter the season of Advent next week and find ourselves caught up, inevitably, in the commercialism of Christmas. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to singing our last hymn this morning. You won't have looked it up yet, but it is 'Let all the world in every corner sing...' And in just two verses we sing four times, 'My God and King'. Sing it joyfully when it comes and remember to acknowledge him as such in your lives. Amen.

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