

# St Christopher's Church Thornhill

**The Vicarage: (023) 8178 7435**

duncan@stchristophers-thornhill.org.uk

*Dear Friends,*



**1<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

*(Pastoral letter no.29)*

We are now coming towards the last couple of weeks of the Easter season, before we celebrate Christ's Ascension back to his Father in heaven. Last Sunday and this Sunday the gospel readings are from St John's account and feature some of the 'I am' passages, where Jesus explains who he is and what he means to us. 'I am the good shepherd' John 10:11 and 'I am the true vine' John 15:1. Jesus, as *the good shepherd*, will always be there for us whatever the difficulties of life. Jesus, *the true vine*, is the way to experience the eternal love of God in our lives, and how we can be truly fruitful disciples in continuing to share and spread that love in the world in which we find ourselves. These words of Jesus offer us much comfort and much challenge. And as Christ's Church in Thornhill we can be confident that, despite the continuing difficulties the global pandemic brings upon us, we can be sure of God's love in Jesus in our midst and also continue the task of sharing God's love in all that we are and all that we do (or plan to do) in the service of the wider Parish community.

In the *PCC Review of 2020* in the APCM Pack you have received, we can still see just how important both these understandings of who and what Jesus is for us in the life and witness of St Christopher's. And following the election of a new PCC and Churchwardens at those meetings on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am, we will be even better equipped to take what this means for us and put it into practice over the next year – whatever the future holds and whatever changes we may as a Church face. This is an exciting prospect and one that I know we are more than up to. So thanks go to the current PCC, Churchwardens, PCC officers and Ministry Team who have worked so hard in the few months since our last APCM, under what have certainly been challenging circumstances. I hope as many as possible will be able to attend the meetings on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11.30.

We are intending to offer preparation for *Confirmation* later this summer. So if anyone is interested in being Confirmed this year or would like to hear more about it, please have an informal chat with Matthew, Jane, Chris or me. The same goes for *Baptism*. If you haven't yet been baptised and would like consider this, again please have a word with any of us. We'll be pleased to speak about these significant steps of faith in the life of all Christians.

As mentioned in my last Pastoral Letter, we are delighted that the Wild Flower area of the Church Lawns is really taking shape, thanks to the efforts of Susan Howe, Pat Smith and several other willing helpers last weekend. We look forward to watching its development over the next few months – and see the wildlife haven come to life and burst into colour.

The funeral of the late Dot Ellis will be at St Christopher's on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Of course, due to current Covid restrictions attendance will be by family invitation only. However, we will be arranging a *Service of Thanksgiving* as soon as possible for Dot and others of the Church family who have sadly passed away during the pandemic. As with attendance at all our worship at the moment, I thank you all for respecting these necessary restrictions, which we hope and pray will help to bring the current level of infection under control as soon as possible.

Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> is *Ascension Day*, when there will be a short service of Holy Communion in church at 10.30am – the usual Covid restrictions will still apply of course, but all are welcome!

***So, for now, please continue to stay safe, help others to stay safe and keep in touch***

*Yours in Christ,  
Duncan.*

**A Letter Quiz overleaf →**

## **Letter Quiz**

- 1 Which letter is most used in English?
- 2 How many letters are there in the English alphabet?
- 3 What is the 7<sup>th</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet?
- 4 How many letters are there in the *Countdown* conundrum?
- 5 What 2 letter word beginning with Z is acceptable in Scrabble?
- 6 Which letter is the Codename for the Head of MI6?
- 7 In Morse Code which letter is one dash?
- 8 Which word containing 4 Zs means vitality or glamour?
- 9 Which word beginning with B has 4 double letters in a row?
- 10 How many letters are there in the Greek alphabet?
- 11 What is the last letter in the Greek alphabet?
- 12 What is the maximum number of letters when naming a horse?

***Many thanks to Trixie for compiling this Quiz  
which we hope gives your minds a good 'workout'!***

*Just for fun – no prizes*

*Answers in the next Pastoral Letter*