



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
April 2020



Welcome to this first special coronavirus edition of our parish magazine! As usual it contains a mixture of articles sent in by members of the church community or acquired from other websites. Please enjoy!

The Rev writes...

Dear Friends,

Who would have thought only a few weeks ago that church buildings across the country would be closed? We live in interesting times. Not only churches of course but so much of ordinary life now seems to be in abeyance.

Sitting in my study I am conscious of the stillness all around me – until my husband starts up the lawnmower that is! My predictions for the immediate future are that we shall have clean, dusted and tidy houses with gardens getting an overhaul. Those who are key workers though will be experiencing greater stress and will see their time being gobbled up as they try to fit life around their work; hoping to stay healthy and fit.

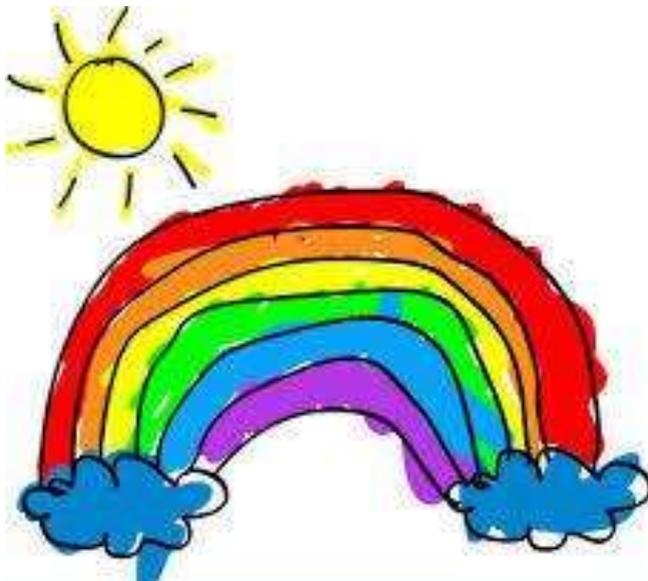
Many people are struggling to come to terms with the situation we are in as most of us question the new 'rules' and so on. Some act as if these rules apply to other people but not to them – there is that element that lurks within all of us of course; yet rather than rail against it why don't we look for the good that can come from it. For those who are confined to home, it's fine to watch the TV but maybe switch it off and read a book, get your Bible out and read a gospel.

Write a prayer, put your thoughts down on paper – it would be great to see some reflections to put into our magazine – Paul, our editor will be grateful.

Those with children at home will be trying to establish a sense of order and a timetable for learning, fun and just being together. Some will be alone, others will be with the family all together for quite a long time! That can be challenging but once people have settled into it there is the opportunity to grow closer to one another. There is also the opportunity to grow closer to God of course. Relationship with God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit is central to our faith; as we each adjust to the 'new normal' may we use all the resources that we have and those being offered by others too.

Helpful things

If you are technically minded then you are likely already surfing the internet and finding interesting articles, services and so on to aid your spiritual life. If not, the radio and television still have plenty to offer. Sunday services, thought for the day and so on can be really helpful at this time. Do check out our Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbirkenhead> – or our website for any details: www.christchurchbirkenhead.net.



From the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald!

Please email me on christchurch.gerri@gmail.com so that I can have your email and can let you know of any updates and news, if you would like that. It's important to keep in touch with one another at this time. Any emails will be sent out to 'undisclosed recipients' and in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found on our website.

Each day at 9.00am we pray Morning Prayer in our homes – if you would like to pray at the same time in your own home, please do and know that we are praying together for our parish, our people and our nation. You can pray the liturgy which can be found on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> or simply pray in whatever way is helpful for you.

Reality

I find that today the reality of what is happening is beginning to sink in – it's been a case of managing the rapid changes so far but now comes the dawning realisation that our churches are closed, we cannot pray in them at this time. With Easter round the corner it seems so extraordinary not to be planning the services and looking forward to the celebrations on Easter Day. We are to experience what we might call a Lent fast from meeting together for some time to come and that is appropriate in many ways, it's just going to be longer than we expected.

So may I encourage you to get on the phone to your friends, family and neighbours? If someone springs to mind, give them a ring or an email. A friendly voice is so important. Even get to grips with WhatsApp and such like to see and speak to your family too! Whatever helps you to feel connected will help others too. Above all keep safe and stay at home! There I've said it! May God bless you all with his love and grace; his mercy and his peace at this time. Amen.

With every blessing,

Rev Gerri Tetzlaff

A Favourite Recipe

And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward. (Matthew 10:42)

Take a cup of Kindness
mix it well with Love,
Add a lot of Patience
and Faith in God above,
Sprinkle very generously
with Joy and Thanks and Cheer--
And you'll have lots of "Angel Food"
to feast on all year.



Helen Steiner Rice (Thanks to MaryJo Blades)

Prayers of Hope



The website of **Churches Together in England** is encouraging everyone to come together and pray on Sunday evenings at 7pm. St Paul tells us to pray continually, but it does help to know that others are also praying at a specific time. We could do this as well as joining Gerri in daily morning prayer.

Before we put the clock forward it was hoped that candles would be lit for those outside to see in our windows. With the lighter evenings, Churches Together are now offering downloadable posters for us for our windows featuring a Candle of Hope. Further details and resources for prayer can be found at www.cte.org.uk.

Thanks to Rita O'Loughlin

Kathleen's Corner

I had just finished eating my last meal of the day around 5 pm. My dining table faces a tall floor to ceiling window looking out onto a large part of the grounds and there is a pretty rockery, a bird bath and a feeder for the birds. The feeder is kept topped up by one of the residents in this small block of flats.

A fine stone wall separates this block of flats from the grand house on the other side of the wall. I was told that it was built in the late 1800s. It is a tall house and looks down into the grounds here. A small window high up near the roof was perhaps the room where the little maids of those days slept at the end of their long working day' This house is well maintained and painted a brilliant white.

At this time of the year ,late March, following a wet and mild winter many shrubs are budding ,one especially reaching ever higher When in full bloom later it is a glorious sight It is named Italian Lakes It is called ceanothis but I do not think that is the correct spelling so forgive my ignorance. The strong rays of sunshine which had earlier slanted across the lawn had now faded leaving the lawn in a gentle ,soft light, easy on my eyes. There was a silence and a stillness in which I felt held enclosed in a moment of peace without he restless mind wandering we so often know.

Then the spell was broken and the washing up had to be done. The now strange emptiness of the streets and the closed doors of homes as families learn to live apart from each other during the crisis of the Virus sweeping across the world.

Today the man who collects and delivers my laundry appeared wearing a mask and gloves and keeping his distance, Later the cheery man who delivers my frozen ready meals (I am housebound more or less) also appeared much later than usual and instead of coming in with a friendly greeting to put the food on the kitchen counter top, stood instead masked and gloved at the door and put the bag inside.

My son who can bring me other things I need came and checked that I had all I needed for now. My dear hard working help is in isolation as is my hairdresser and of course the other residents except those who will go out for

their walk and they check on the ones who cant go out ready to bring anything they might need.

There will perhaps, as the weeks pass be many other times when we will all have more time to 'Be Still and know that I am God'.

Especially as a great howl of dismay has gone up, NETFLIX IS DOWN.

Kathleen Stansfield

A Reflection

When reflecting tonight, I read my daily devotions calendar and would like to share the thoughts for 24th March, I hope it brings comfort during these troubled times. It's from RBC Ministries:-

When He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. (John 10:4)

After a hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, many people inside the building were trapped by a thick, blinding smoke. Police officer Isaac Hoopi ran into the blackness, searching for survivors, and heard people calling for help. He began shouting back: "Head toward my voice!" Six people, who had lost all sense of direction in a smoke-filled hallway, heard his shouts and followed Hoopi's voice to safety.

"Head toward my voice!" That's also the invitation of Jesus to each of us when we are in danger or when we have lost our way. Whatever our need for guidance or protection, He calls us to heed His voice and follow Him. - DCM

You don't need to know where you are going if you are following the Shepherd.

Rita O'Loughlin

The Changing of the Seasons

Not so long ago, the seasons were pretty predictable. Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter – and we knew what kind of weather was expected. Today as a result of climate change, pollution and global warming are destroying our planet. Man has a lot to answer for!

We can now see the damage it can cause to humans, animals and sea life. Rivers overflowing causing floods with the heavy persistent rain. Storms occur frequently like 'Storm Dennis', 'Storm Ciara', and now the latest 'Storm Jorge'. Who can forget last winter when we had a bitterly cold spell 'The Beast from the East' and then we had the 'Hotties from Lanzarote' heatwave in April?

I believe that children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way to find a better chance of saving the environment for generations to come. That's all we can ever hope for!

Audrey Cunningham

I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. (Philippians 4:11)

Blessings come in many guises
That God along in love devises,
And sickness which we dread so much
Can bring a very healing touch,
For often on the wings of pain
The peace we sought before in vain
Will come to us with sweet surprise
For God is merciful and wise.
And through long hours of tribulation
God gives us time for meditation,
And no sickness can be counted loss
That teaches us to bear our cross.

Helen Steiner Rice (thanks to MaryJo Blades)

The Christ Carrier



St Christopher—from the Greek “Άγιος Χριστόφορος—meaning ‘Christ carrier’ was a martyr killed in the 3rd century. The legend tells how he carried a child unknown to him across a river before the child made himself known as Christ. He is therefore the patron saint of travellers.

This fine statue was made here in Birkenhead at the Della Robbia pottery works in Hamilton Square sometime between 1894 and 1906. It is on show in the Williamson Art Gallery.

Colour your photos

Now, while we are at home with some time to spend, here's something to play with if you have a computer and access to the internet.



Try colourising some of your old black and white family photos. You may have recently seen wartime film footage shown in full colour on TV: well the technology is here for us to try for ourselves.

The website I've been using is <https://demos.algorithmia.com/colorize-photos>.

American (judging by the spelling), but there are others. As two examples of what can be achieved, here's my grandfather's grandfather and me!

Send in some pictures of your family in glorious technicolour and I'll put them in the next edition. Anonymously if you wish!

Paul Rees



Making Tracks is heading to Chester Cathedral



LEGENDARY song producer Pete Waterman is set to install a 15 metre long model railway at Chester Cathedral. Locomotives will steam into city attraction this summer as part of a brand-new event for families and model-railway enthusiasts called ‘Making Tracks: Trains Through the Ages.’ The event is one of a series of special events taking place across 2020 to celebrate ‘Journeys’.

At the centre of the event will be the bespoke model railway which demonstrates the history of trains through the ages. The railway has been designed by enthusiast Pete Waterman OBE, who will also build the installation alongside the team who created the famous ‘Leamington Spa’ model.

He said: “I’ve been on a fantastic journey already with the cathedral and I’m really excited for what’s to come. Our creation will look fantastic in the setting of the cathedral’s South Transept, and I know young children, and the young-at-heart like me, will love it.”

Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, said: “As we celebrate our year of Journeys, and cathedrals nationally celebrate Year of Pilgrimage, Year of Cathedrals, I’m delighted to welcome an event that celebrates our engineering achievements – and in this respect, their creative endeavours too – into our cathedral.”

All aboard! Making Tracks: Trains Through the Ages opens on Saturday, July 18, until Saturday, August 29. The event is open Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm.

From the Chester Standard 11 March

A reflection about the Coronavirus pandemic found on Facebook

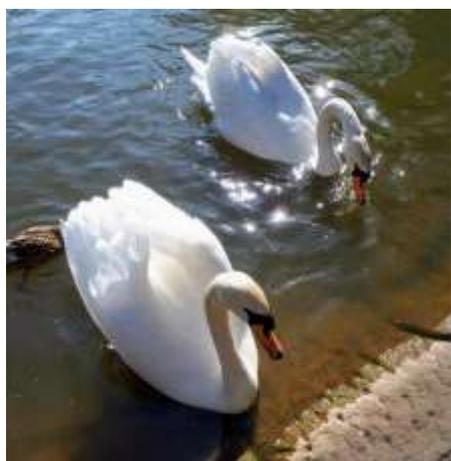
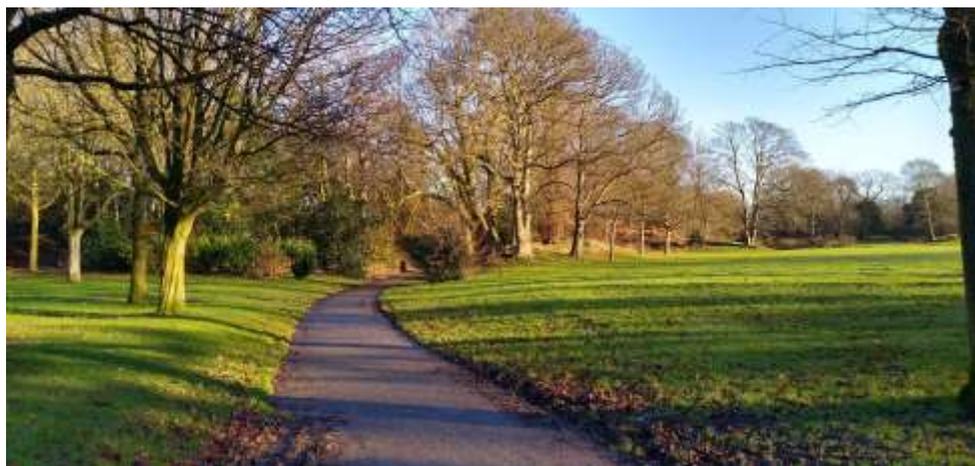
**Maybe Mother Nature Wants Her Earth Back
For just a little while
Maybe, she wants some time for the land to heal
For the people to heal
For the treadmill to stop
And let everything and everyone breathe**

**We have all been so worried about our beautiful planet
Searching for answers
Trying to play our part
Making small changes and hoping it was enough
It wasn't enough
So maybe Mother Nature has stepped in herself.**

**Stories are appearing all over the world
Of nature thriving
Skies clearing
Dolphins swimming in Venetian canals
Ducks in Roman fountains
Wild Boars with her babies in the streets of Italy.**

**Maybe, Mother Nature wants her earth back
For just a little while
And maybe, she is telling us to protect the weak whilst this
rebirth takes place.
So maybe, we should do what Mother Nature says
She's been waiting a long time for us to change
And we didn't.**

Donna Ashworth



Be nice to your Robot

“Let go you disgusting heap of rust,” said Alex trying to wrench her hand away. Adu held her tighter “Not recommended; speed exceeds sixty miles per hour.”

“I’m fine I know what I am doing.”

“Not recommended, speed exceeds sixty miles per hour and blood alcohol level too high”.

“I’ve only had one drink you tin pot heap of junk. Why did I ever agree to use a thing like you?”

“Mandated by court order,” said Adu.

Alex was silent.

Adu carried on “Mandated by court order; your reflexes are too slow due to excessive age, wearable robotics for assisted driving deemed mandatory”.

“Alright, alright I know and if you ever mention my age again I’ll stick a spanner somewhere,” said Alex.

The car accelerated to seventy five miles per hour.

“Where will you stick a spanner?” said Adu.

“It’s just an expression you ignorant metallic lump – I should have paid extra and got the writers AI module, at least I’d be able to have a conversation with you”.

The car accelerated to eighty five mile per hour.

“Writers module not compatible,” said Adu.

“Will you slow down and let me drive,” said Alex watching lights whizz past.

“No time, must adhere to schedule,” said Adu.

The car was doing ninety five.

Silence, except the thrum of tyres on tarmac and the occasional splat of an insect on the windscreen.

Splat, splat, splat.

“What the hell,” said Alex

The car reached ninety nine mph.

“I can’t see where I’m going, the windscreen is covered by insects,” said Alex.

“Adu knows where to go”.

“Where did your AI module come from Adu?”

“From internet; Adu have free code from internet.”

“So there could be any old rubbish coding in your AI,” said Alex.

The car accelerated to hundred and ten mph.

"It's a mandatory ban and a thousand pound fine above one hundred mph you mechanical idiot," shouted Alex. No sooner spoken than blue lights flickered behind them.

Adu pulled over and lowered the window.

"Who was driving, you or the robot?" asked the policeman.

"That idiot," said Alex pointing at Adu's control unit.

But when the police officer checked the robot's log file it told a different story.

Michael Tetzlaff

IRISH PHILOSOPHY

There are only two things to worry about
either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well,
then there is nothing to worry about.

If you are sick,
there are two things to worry about.
Either you will get well or you will die.

If you get well,
there is nothing to worry about.

If you die,
there are two things to worry about.
Either you will go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven,
there is nothing to worry about.

But if you go to hell,
you'll be so damn busy shaking hands
with your friends.

You wont have time to **WORRY!!**

Christ Church Birkenhead

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Christ Church Services and Community Activities

**Because of the Coronavirus we regret that
all services and community activities are suspended
until further notice.**

Updates will be provided on our Facebook page and website.

<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbirkenhead>

<http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>