

Christ Church Birkenhead

Bessborough Road, Birkenhead, CH43 5RW

Priest in charge: Rev Gerri Tetzlaff

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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/>



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine

July 2020

Welcome to the July edition of our online parish magazine!
As usual it contains a mixture of articles sent in by members
of the church community or acquired from other sources.
Please enjoy!



The Rev writes ...

Another month has whizzed by and honestly it's getting harder to remember what I've done, and which month we are in with little to mark the time. However, life goes on and we are emerging even more from lockdown. The government has allowed churches to open for private prayer and now just this week allowed them to open for worship services too from 4th July. However, we have many vulnerable church members and a fair number who are shielding so caution is necessary and sensible.

Christ Church at this point remains closed to both at this time. I am endeavouring to get all necessary things in place to be able to re-open and am still waiting on delivery of some items, etc. Also there is a considerable time lag between things being leaked to the press, announced by the Government, guidance being issued by the Government and then by the Church of England – I expect you get the drift... It is just a little frustrating and I feel that I am constantly playing catch-up – then it changes again! Patience is a virtue apparently and I guess we are all being tested on this at the moment. I would prefer to see how the relaxation of the lockdown rules goes first as we really do not want a spike in cases.

It's important to keep a sense of perspective and humour in all of this and to be kind to one another. I will hope to let you know more definite information in the days ahead.

So how do we spend our extra £2000?

The letter which Gerri received from George Colville—which you can read via the website link opposite—suggests a number of ways we might spend the money but clearly indicates that its up to us. We might consider, he suggests:

- Purchasing new IT equipment and resources;
- Paying for additional communications to the parish;
- Holding a suitable event to mark the full re-opening of a church building;
- Bringing back people currently furloughed;
- Extra cleaning of the church building, signs, etc.
- Helping a neighbouring parish, church or your community struggling as a result of the crisis.

What do you think? Answers, not necessarily on a postcard, to Gerri please.



For the three cats, many thanks to Marie Mairs

Parishes gifted £2,000 boost

All parishes in the Diocese of Chester are to receive a grant of £2,000, made possible thanks to a World War 2 investment fund.

The announcement was made in a letter from the Diocesan Secretary to parishes on Monday 15 June. Parishes have been told that they are free to spend the money as they wish but are encouraged to use it prayerfully to further local missional opportunities.

Diocesan Secretary, George Colville, says: "The generosity of past generations has made this gift a reality today. So, as we give thanks for the old, and prepare and look forward to a new chapter in the history of our diocese, it is my prayer that these acts of generosity in the past can advance our collective mission to those in our care today.

"From today, we will begin transferring money to every parish. It will be paid without any other considerations and without the need to complete an application process. Parishes are free to do with the money what they wish, but it is the strong expectation of Chester Diocesan Board of Finance that parishes will use it prayerfully in helping with some of the new challenges we face in proclaiming and advancing the Gospel of Christ now and over the coming months.

"As we begin a new chapter in the mission of our diocese, the current crisis is not over and some parishes will have continuing financial problems for a while, but this point in time provides a unique opportunity as we open our church buildings once more for individual prayer and small funerals, and look forward to a return to gathered public worship."

The grants have been made possible by a historic investment fund. Raised in thanksgiving following World War 2, the fund was established to help parishes meet the challenges of paying stipends at that time. The CDBF received permission from the Charity Commission to use the capital of this fund, as well as the income, to support stipends, which in turn, has meant other unrestricted funds can be used for the purposes of a grant to parishes.

Chester Diocesan News

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/parishes-gifted-2000-boost.php>

My heart goes out to shops and businesses of various kinds that are doing their very best to make everything safe, as well as trying to make a living – not least our schools and places where we can have fun too. It is not easy and there is a big responsibility that many people are carrying at this time.

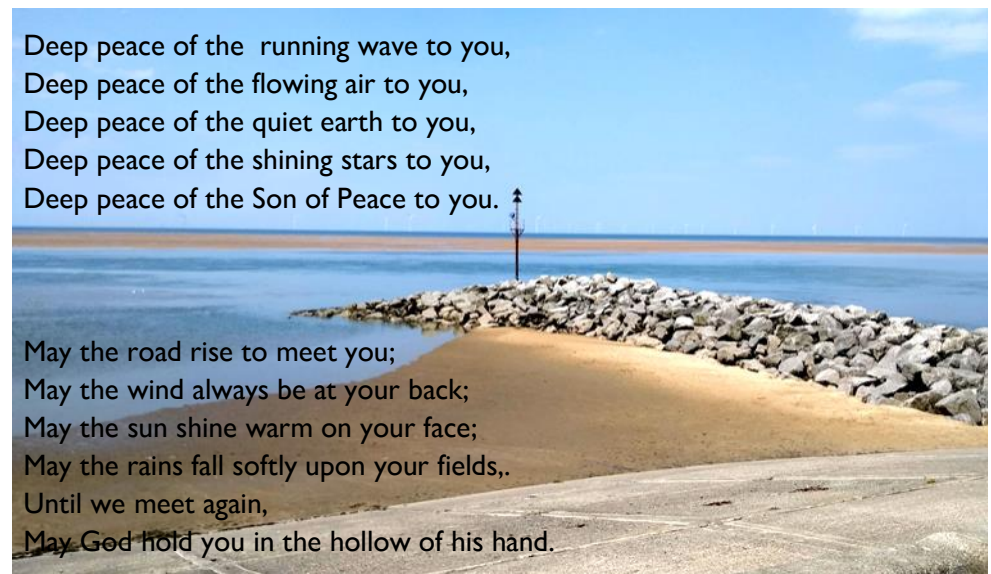
Galatians 5.22-24

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

With kind regards and God's blessing on you all.

Gerri

A Celtic Blessing



Blessing via MaryJo Blades

Photo of Mockbeggar Wharf by the editor

Kathleen's Corner

I read once that the five great traumas of life were Birth, Death, Marriage, Moving to a new house and Speaking in public.

Once, during my working life I taught Confidence in Speaking. My qualifications for this were, in part, my membership for many years of an organisation known as Toastmistress. There was also a Toastmaster's Association founded, I believe, in the USA. And partly being one of a large family and more than able to make my voice heard above the others.

These classes were run by the WEA (Workers Education Association) in the evenings and were usually held in schools. They were in addition to my daytime job.

The groups were always well attended by both men and women of all ages. As the lessons progressed and I gradually gained the confidence of the very nervous 'pupils', I found so much hidden trauma in these people. Many would tell, with gentle coaching, of a childhood incident where they had been humiliated in public in some way. Perhaps they had been corrected on a point of grammar, or fact, in front of others. Or, an older or younger sibling was made much of because of his or her cleverness or ability in always getting good marks at school, while they lagged behind and so felt inferior.

In adult life they might have endured an overbearing boss and been bullied in front of staff. In married life their partner might have mocked them in company or spoken to them in a disparaging way. Again and again. examples would be given as gradually the members of the class learned to reveal those hidden and buried instances when the natural outgoing nature of childhood and youth was crushed by one means or another.

These courses would be for ten weeks and were often followed up by another course of six weeks. Many of those attending had a special need or had to be able to give a talk of some kind, maybe a vote of thanks.

One such was a nurse who was to give a presentation at work which could lead to promotion and had admitted she was terrified. She confessed that she was intimidated by one of the panel assessing her. During the course she had

To members of Junior Church

Hi All,

We do miss our junior church! This a photo of the group sharing a bible story and asking questions as we begin a session just before lockdown. I have delivered lots of resources to the children over the past months which I hope they have enjoyed. I'm intending to deliver the last pack during July. This will be at the end of term, and hopefully we will back again as soon as possible in September. The pack will contain activities covering the holidays.

God bless you all,

Mary

Children & Families Worker



Christ Church Worldwide

So, there I was, with the last page to fill. Staring at the computer screen, I had a flash of inspiration. Google 'Christ Church' and see what happens. You are offered Christ Church, Birkenhead and Christ Church Oxford University. Mmm... So I tried Christchurch which seems to be somewhere in New Zealand. Mmm... I then thought I'd try the online encyclopaedia *Wikipedia*. I typed in Christ Church and... there's a long, long list of Christ Churches throughout the world. Clicking the links I found websites, parish details, photographs, online services and, yes, parish magazines! Enough to fill those last pages for years!

So, here is **Christ Church Bangkok** a parish of the Anglican Church in Thailand within the Diocese of Singapore. It has both English and Thai language congregations. There are about 400 church members, representing many different nationalities and denominational backgrounds. The liturgy is Anglican-Episcopal in its form, and the Gothic Revival style building can seat 450 persons. Christianity was brought to Siam, now Thailand, as early as the 16th century. The Protestant faith came with British traders and American missionaries who reached Bangkok in the early 19th century, but made little progress until the country opened to the West in the reign of King Mongkut Rama IV (1851-68).



At first, Bangkok's Protestants met for worship in each other's homes, but as numbers increased they felt the need for a church. The King granted land by the river to the 'community of foreigners who are of Protestant Christian faith', and the church opened for worship on 1 May, 1864. Officially named the Protestant Union Chapel, it was commonly known as 'the English Church'. By the end of the century the congregation had grown, and access by land had become difficult, so it became necessary to build a larger church in a more central location. On 7 April 1904, His Majesty King Chulalongkorn Rama V graciously granted a larger plot of land at the junction of Convent and Sathorn Roads, and permitted the sale of the land on which the first church stood.

A building was erected on the new site and was given the name 'Christ Church'. It opened for divine service on 30 April 1905.

Paul Rees

revealed that although a bright enough pupil she had been treated to regular sarcasm by a particular teacher. Although she overcame this in time, it lay deep and arose again as her presentation drew near. She was able to see that the member of the panel of whom she was afraid was, in fact, that teacher of so many years ago who was the real cause of her anxiety and the person she felt intimidated by was simply someone doing her job. When asked why she felt as she did the nurse had to admit she had actually no real cause to feel intimidated at all.

Later I received a very rewarding letter of thanks from this nurse thanking me for what I had done for her, (although of course in the end she had done it herself) saying that she had passed with flying colours.

Our subconscious is a strange and deep world where shadows hide as Carl Jung has written in his many books. Sometimes we just have to face them.

Kathleen Stansfield



The organ of St John's Church in Stranraer during lockdown.
Thanks to Peter & Jean Martin

Canon Bowers' Annual Cycling Pilgrimage

By the time you read this, Canon Bowers will hopefully have completed his annual pilgrimage in support of the Barnabas Fund! Here is his letter telling us about it which sadly missed the last edition. That should not stop us making contributions – see details below.

To the members of Christ Church,

I hope you have kept well and safe over the past heartbreaking months. It is a real pleasure to repeat my sincere thanks for your support of our girls in Kenya and for other folk in great need through our CYCLING PILGRIMAGES over the years. Thank you for the generous encouragement you have given me, my daughter Ruth and son Chris, as they make sure my bike keeps rolling. I had thought of delaying this year's effort — having in mind the real suffering of many in our country. Then I realised the plight of our friends in Kenya: 'It's no good closing the gate when the horse has left.' So, our family team will set off for a very special Pilgrimage on Saturday 27th June. We plan to use the cycle paths for most of the ride from West Kirby to Chester. The sooner our donations get to those in need, the better.

The location for our Pilgrimage is Chester's famous magnificent ancient Norman Church of St John's, a Royal Foundation in 689 A.D. and raised from Minster to the status of Cathedral in 1075. At the Reformation, it became the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, a truly magnificent Norman church partly integrated with sections of the old cathedral. It was a very holy place over the centuries for countless pilgrims, especially as it claimed to hold a piece of the True Cross of Christ. People from all over the world visit Chester and its Cathedral but miss the original Cathedral outside of the City Walls, located in Vicars Lane, Chester, CH1 1SN by the park overlooking the River Dee. We would not miss this sacred place as we stand and pray where millions have prayed to the Glory of our Lord Jesus. We shall take seriously the wonderful work of the Barnabas Fund in reaching out to some of the world's neediest people. Our efforts this year will continue to support girls and young ladies in Kenya rescued from F.G.M and forced marriages. Additionally, we plan to help assist those who have lost their crops and food supplies to the recent huge locust swarms in East Africa.

I thank you most gratefully for such prayer and help as you can offer.
Sincere Blessings,
JOHN BOWERS

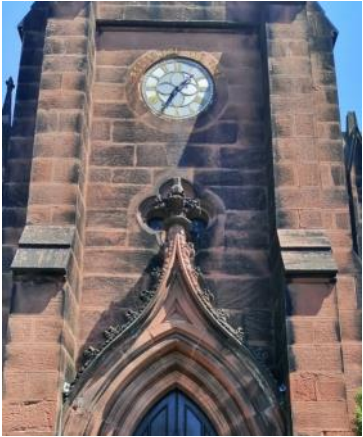


Be Glad

Be glad that you've had such a full, happy life,
Be glad for your joy as well as your strife,
Be glad that you've tasted the bitter and sweet,
Be glad that your life has been full and complete,
Be glad that you've walked with courage each day,
Be glad you've had strength for each step of the way,
Be glad for the comfort you've found in prayer,
But be gladdest of all for God's tender care.

*Helen Steiner Rice
Thanks to MaryJo Blades*

Redeeming the Time



Redeeming the time – that phrase in gold lettering around the edge of Christ Church’s spire clock - has often intrigued me. Bemused me. What does it mean? During lockdown I have read a book (*Becoming Friends of Time* by John Swinton) that seeks to transform our understanding of time. Quoting another author (Scott Bader-Saye) he stresses why this matters: ‘The ways we experience, name and interpret time contribute to the kinds of communities we imagine and inhabit.’

Swinton outlines a theology of time. Before creation there was no time. Eternity is God’s dimension. Time and the world were created simultaneously, ‘in the beginning’. He quotes Augustine whereby God created the world not *in time* but *with time*. Time is an aspect of creation. Time is a *creature* – or created thing. As an aspect of God’s relationship with the world, a gift from a loving Father, to be conceived as an aspect of God’s love for the world, intended as an arena for the revelation of that love. ‘As an aspect of God’s love, *the purpose of time is to facilitate and sustain love.*’ He encourages us to slow time down; enjoy the Sabbath, find sabbath moments at other times, learn to be gentle, patient and persevering.

Time at Creation, like all creation, was seen as ‘good’, indeed ‘very good’. But time like all of Creation at the fall tarnished its goodness. We live in fallen time. This he describes – do you recognise this description of time – as commodified, harsh, linear, grasping and fast. ‘Time is money’, as the popular phrase would have us believe. ‘Don’t be wasting your time.’ ‘Normal’ time is lived as ‘grasping, utilitarian, instrumental, focussed, selfish and ultimately idolatrous.’ The Bader-Saye quote reminds us why this matters. Living in God’s time—time spent facilitating and sustaining love—would transform our minds, our communities and the world.

So the question I ask myself is: ‘Who’s time do I want to live in?’

Allan Goode

If you would like to contribute to this year’s pilgrimage fund, please send a cheque with your name, address, and the name of the church it is from. If you can gift-aid your donation, please mention that. John will write to you to acknowledge your gift.

Write to:

Canon John Bowers
2, Shalford Grove, West Kirby,
Wirral, CH48 9XY



Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.

Victor Hugo, 1802-85, French writer.
from the magazine of St James with Emmanuel, New Brighton.

More from Wales



There are a number of little villages in the area where I grew up, one of them, called Rhosymedre. The photo above is of the church in Rhosymedre. It is an Anglican Church called St John's which was consecrated in 1837, and dedicated to St John the Evangelist and is part of the Diocese of St Asaph. It was built on the land donated by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn of Wynstay, Ruabon. The architect was Edward Welch who generally worked in partnership with Hansom (of Hansom Cabs).

Former vicars of this church include the Reverend John David Edwards, [Big John Jesus, to the locals] pictured here sporting a handsome beard, with members of school staff and his hand resting on the shoulder of the headmaster of Rhosymedre National School.



The name Rhosymedre might 'strike a chord' with some of you as it is also the name of a hymn tune written by this 19th-century Welsh Anglican priest John David Edwards. He was known as the 'Singing Vicar' as he was a well-known musician with a deep bass voice and he composed the hymn, which was first printed with the title *Lovely*, and then the hymn tune was re-named after the village of Rhosymedre where he was the vicar from 1843 until his death in 1885. There is a tale that says that the Rev. Edwards discarded the rough copy of this tune but it was rescued by a watchful friend who later played it back to him. During a visit to Wales, the German composer Felix Mendelssohn, called on Big John Jesus, whether it was a good visit remains to be seen, as Mendelssohn was not taken to Welsh national music, which he described as "having given me toothache!"

The tune was later transcribed by Ralph Vaughan Williams as the basis of the second movement of his organ composition *Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes*. Although best known in this original version for solo organ, it is also well known as an orchestral arrangement by Arnold Foster published in 1938.

The "Prelude on the hymn tune 'Rhosymedre'" by Ralph Vaughan Williams was played at the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales by the request of Lady Sarah McCorquodale. It was also played at the weddings of her two sons: Prince William (in April 2011) and Prince Harry (in May 2018) and also at the funeral of former prime minister Baroness Thatcher in 2013.

In 2008, to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Vaughan Williams, Richard Morrison (chief music critic of *The Times*) arranged the piece for string quartet and solo tenor. The first performance took place in May 2008, with James Gilchrist singing the words of the hymn.

Our own organist Paul Broadhurst has played this piece beautifully on our 'Father Willis' organ and I am sure if you ask him nicely he would certainly oblige and play it for you again!

Jackie Harnes

Until you can entice Paul to play *Rhosymedre* listen to it on Youtube.

Plenty of version to try, organ or orchestral. Try

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lowWFgTCm2M>