

Christ Church Birkenhead

Bessborough Road, Birkenhead, CH43 5RW

Priest in charge: Rev Gerri Tetzlaff

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Christ Church Services and Community Activities

**Our Sunday services continue this month.
Some community activities have recommenced,
please contact the organisers.**

Updates will be provided on our Facebook page and website.

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

<http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine

September 2020

Welcome to the September 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!



Services during September

6th September

13th September

20th September

27th September

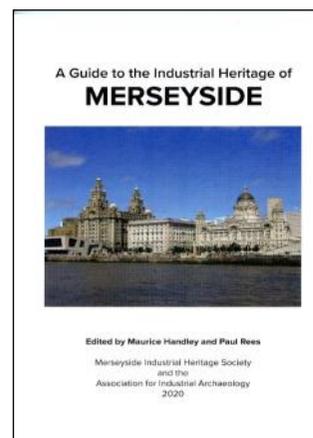
At 10.30am

A short service of Holy Communion will be held on each of these Sundays.

Everyone is welcome
Full social distancing will be observed.

A new Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Merseyside

I was involved in writing the first guide to the industrial heritage of Merseyside back in 1974. Since then it has been updated and republished four times!



Maurice Handley and I have spent much of our lockdown time working on this latest version. It contains 132 pages and details more than 330 sites across the boroughs of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral, each with map references and listing status. There are over 140 illustrations, mostly new colour photographs. The guide is much more than a list of locations. It also describes the industrial development of both Wirral and the other boroughs.

Copies are available to church members at a special discounted price of £7.

Paul Rees.

Just 4 laughs

**Free washer and dryer.
Must pick up.**



Thanks to Peter Martin
for this one

The Men's Corner

Gentlemen, here's a question for you. What is the connection between a honey bee and a gents urinal? Among other places, there are bees on the urinals at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, Changi airport in Singapore and JFK airport in New York.



According to behavioural psychologists who have investigated this matter, a bee marked on urinals give you something to aim at. A good aim avoids splashing and makes life easier for the cleaner.

According to historians many Victorian urinals were also marked with bees. The fine 'Grade One Listed' ones at the Philharmonic Dining Rooms in Liverpool are late Victorian, and may have bees. I need to go and check them out.

But why bees? As all educated Victorian gentlemen knew, the Latin word for a bee is *apis*.

Home not Hope!

In my piece in the last edition describing what I could see from my window, I incorrectly described the Shrine Church of Ss Peter & Paul and St Philomena in New Brighton as being the Dome of Hope. Of course, I should have said the Dome of Home. While Hope might well be a description acceptable to those who see it from inland, a Dome of Home is much more pertinent to sailors returning to port, not least during the Second World War. From merchant seamen bringing supplies from the United States across the Atlantic, to members of the Royal Navy returning from duties on the Arctic Convoys, the Dome must have offered pure relief to those returning home.



Thanks to Peter Martin for pointing out my my mistake.

The Rev writes

Way back last year I chose the following verse for Christ Church as a focus for us in 2020. It is from Philippians 4.6: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

There is a certain simplicity about this verse that we might think is quite naive given the kind of year we have had so far. I would suggest that this very simplicity helps us to find our anchor, our safe place, our security. The world is complicated enough, life with Covid-19 throws us into confusion and we have feelings that seem out of proportion to our usual lives and emotions.

We feel angry, frustrated and sad; yet we find ourselves maybe feeling fortunate too and delighting in just seeing a friend or family member. All that we have known seems to be up in the air one moment and back in its place the next. Everyone has an opinion on, well, everything. There is fake news, truth (according to whom?) and new rules and guidance to live by that seems to change way to frequently.

We have all heard so much and personally I've read far too much that coming to a simple Bible verse for reflection is actually rather therapeutic. I find this verse to be a call to continue prayerfully in my usual practice – prayer, supplication and thankfulness to God. A call to persevere in prayer and action as much as we can in the circumstances so that our lives find that steady anchor that we all look for when times are difficult especially. It's then that we receive the peace of God which truly does pass our understanding. We might feel in the middle of a crisis but the peace of God can overwhelm us and bless us sometimes when we are least expecting it.

So, spend a little while with that verse and keep practicing what it says to your heart. We have a great God who longs for us to experience his peace and blessings as we fall on his mercy and love with all of our being – ranting and raving are acceptable to God, our heartfelt cries and pleas and our prayers of rejoicing and thanksgiving too. Getting through difficult times such as we experience right now isn't rocket science (although that could help!) it is about continuing in our usual patterns of prayer and looking to the Lord for help and expecting him to deliver just what we need.

Our services continue at 10.30am on Sundays through September when we will celebrate Holy Communion. There will also be a short service of Morning Prayer each week accessed on our Facebook page or from the church website – also at 10.30am.

Stay safe and stay healthy – looking forward to seeing you.

Kind regards
Gerri

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Christ Church will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 7pm in the church building. Please use Christchurch Road entrance. If you are attending please wear a face covering and observe social distancing. We will need to ask you for contact details (name and phone number for each household) for NHS test and trace purposes. The forms will be shredded after 21 days.

The Annual Report will be available at the church service on Sunday 20th September 2020 which is at 10.30am. If you are unable to attend church a PDF of the document can be obtained by emailing Gerri at: christchurchgerri@gmail.com

Did you know?

In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have ‘the rule of thumb’.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled ‘Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden... Thus the word GOLF entered the English language.

Each king in a deck of cards represents a great king from history: Spades – King David, Hearts – Charlemagne, Clubs – Alexander the Great, Diamonds – Julius Caesar.

In Shakespeare’s time mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase ... ‘Goodnight, sleep tight.’

It was the accepted practise in Babylon 4000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride’s father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, all is ordered by pints and quarts. So on old England, when a customer got unruly the bartender would yell at them, ‘Mind your pints and quarts and settle down.’ It’s where we get the phrase mind your P’s and Q’s.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. ‘Wet your whistle’ is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Thanks to Mary Kirby for finding these interesting facts

Two Ladybirds by Marie Mairs



Kathleen's Corner—The Queen's Canopy

This is a quite marvellous concept set in place by our beloved Queen Elizabeth. She had a vision of a vast canopy of trees and wild places spanning the Commonwealth. Member states were asked to join and contribute in some way to this. The response was immediate and soon. All member states, far and wide, great and small, signed up to provide something to bring this dream to reality.

There was a delightful programme I watched last week when the Queen and Richard Attenborough were filmed walking in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. As they walked slowly, let us remember both were past their 90th birthday; they chatted away, relaxed and eager to discuss the many great and magnificent trees around them.

Her Majesty commented that one tree, a giant indeed, had been planted by a great grandparent or maybe a great, great, grandparent. She pointed out various trees, remarking that some had been planted on the birth of one of her sons and daughter Anne. She said she could not be sure which.

And there and then Richard Attenborough managed to ease himself down to examine the plaque at the foot of the tree and called out, "It is Edward." Heedless of dignity he scrambled to his feet (with some difficulty) proceeding again to get down to the base of each tree to name the other three. Her Majesty looked on and made comments about her memories of each event.

In between scenes of the two strollers we were shown some of the vast areas of rainforests, forests, sections of land given over to the project and scenes of large tree planting schemes. People from the various areas spoke of their pleasure in being part of such a beautiful idea.

How wonderful I thought that in their advanced age these two people have the well-being of our Planet so much at heart. This is a growing movement and we must surely welcome it as we try to undo some of the hurt caused to our little planet.

Kathleen Stansfield

The August edition of the CDN is now available

The August edition of the Chester Diocesan News is now available online as a PDF. This edition includes Bishop Mark's confirmation, a reflection from the Archdeacon of Chester, Mike Gilbertson, and a list of online events.

[Download the CDN for August 2020](#)



More from 'Home'

Last month I wrote about Telford's Aqueduct in Trevor, near Llangollen, and my home turf. Well, there were a lot more interesting places nearby where my inquisitive mind [and body] ventured in my youth. On leaving the estate where I was brought up, we turned right down the road over the stone canal bridge and continued down the hill, without stopping at the aqueduct, and would come to another stone bridge which crosses the river Dee. To the centre of the photo below, just before the railing, is a large oak tree, with a calm pool beneath.



In 1913 a staunch Baptist Minister named Rev. Evan Kenffig Jones, was installed as the minister of the Baptist Tabernacle in Cefn Mawr, until he retired in 1934. All his Baptisms were carried out in that pool throughout his ministry. We as kids used that pool for paddling or swimming later in the 1950s/60s and we would tell everyone we had been baptised again, and again, and again until

everyone was fed up of hearing us and our repeated 'blatherings' wore thin!

The photo shows the Rev Jones, in centre, wearing a wonderful 'boater' hat, seen here with David Lloyd George when he visited Cefn Mawr. David Lloyd George was one of the great reforming British chancellors of the 20th century and prime minister from 1916 to 1922. He became a lifelong Welsh nationalist and is the only Prime Minister to have spoken Welsh as his first language.



Archbishops

When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, the Archbishop should be referred to as "the Most Reverend". Letters should start "Dear Archbishop". In conversation, "Archbishop" is often used, though in more formal situations "Your Grace" is also used. If being referred to in the third person, "the Archbishop of Wales" might be used for the first reference, and "the Archbishop" for subsequent mentions.

Archdeacons

When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, an Archdeacon is referred to as "the Venerable". A letter should start "Dear Archdeacon". In conversation, an Archdeacon is usually referred to as "Archdeacon", with a more formal alternative of "Mr Archdeacon". In the third person, an Archdeacon may be referred to as "the Archdeacon of X" the first time, and "the Archdeacon" thereafter.

Cathedral Deans

When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, a Cathedral Dean is referred to as "the Very Reverend". A letter should start "Dear Dean". In conversation, a Cathedral Dean is usually referred to as "Dean", with a more formal alternative of "Mr Dean". In the third person, an Archdeacon may be referred to as "the Dean of X" the first time, and "the Dean" thereafter.

Canons

When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, a Canon is referred to as "the Reverend Canon AB Smith". A letter should start "Dear Canon..." In conversation, a Canon is usually referred to as "Canon".

Further exceptions

Titled clerics

If a cleric holds a title, the title is usually placed after their religious title, e.g. the Reverend Sir Alan Smith Bt, Check Crockfords Clerical Directory.

Clerics who are also members of Religious Orders

When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, clerics who are members of religious orders may be addressed as "the Reverend AB Smith XYZ", or possibly "the Reverend Brother Alan/Sister Alice XYZ". In conversation, they may be addressed as "Brother Alan" or "Sister Alice" or "Father", "Father Alan", or "Father Smith".

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

How to address a cleric

Many people get confused with how they are supposed to refer to a cleric, and this guide aims to help. It should be noted, however, that a great deal depends on the circumstance or setting, and on the personal preference of the cleric concerned. If in doubt, it is best to ask the cleric concerned.

In conversation

Whilst the standard title for a cleric is “the Reverend”, it is not normal to refer to them like this in conversation. Some people will refer to “Vicar” or “Rector”, but usually only when the person they are referring to really is the vicar or rector of the parish where they live. Otherwise, Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Smith is used. When referring to a cleric in the third person (as in “x was saying to me the other day”), then “the Reverend AB Smith” might be used in a formal context – but only for the first reference to that person, after which Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Smith is used.

Writing a letter

If writing a letter to a cleric, it should be addressed to “the Reverend AB Smith”, but should start “Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Smith”. “The Reverend AB Smith” is sometimes shortened to “the Rev’d AB Smith”.

Academic titles

If a cleric also holds a doctorate, then in addition to being referred to as “Dr AB Smith” rather than Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms AB Smith, a letter should be addressed to the “Reverend Dr AB Smith”.

Exceptions

The exceptions to these rules come when a cleric holds a further post.

Bishops

This is possibly the most well-known exception. When addressing a letter or creating a formal listing, Bishops should be referred to as “the Right Reverend”. Letters should start “Dear Bishop”. In conversation, Bishops are usually referred to as “Bishop”, though in formal situations “My Lord” is sometimes used. When referred to in the third person, then “the Bishop of X” may be used for the first reference and “the Bishop” from then on. If the Bishop in question is retired or is an Assistant Bishop, “My Lord” is not used, and they are referred to as “the Bishop” in the third person.

Without crossing the bridge and continuing on down a quiet county lane we would arrive at the old Trevor corn mill pictured right. This is a mid C19 water-powered mill built in 1848, and now a private house. It’s where we used to go to pick primroses for our mothers, especially for Mother’s Day. The river had silted up over the years and changed its course leaving behind a lovely grassy bank where primroses, bluebells, cowslips and other wild flowers grew. I have to confess we were chased away on a regular basis: well, we weren’t to know that it was ‘private property’ - there were no signs!



Opposite the corn mill is a wonderful half-timbered house which we knew as the Vicarage. The house is called Plas yn Pentre and is an early C17 timber-frame farmhouse which we as kids were told was haunted by monks. This was one place we never ventured anywhere near – not that we were afraid of ghosts mind you!

Plas yn Pentre was a Grange belonging to Valle Crucis Abbey near Llangollen. In a survey of 1291 it is described as ‘The Grange near the monastery, three ploughlands, mills and other conveniences’. On the dissolution of Valle Crucis Abbey in 1536, Plas yn Pentre came into the possession of the High Sheriff of Denbighshire, Ieuan Edwards. His grandson partially re-built the house in 1634 carving his initials and the date into the exterior of the west gable.

In 1834 the house was bought by the Rev T Whitwell Rogers and it was during his ownership that some loose boards in the floor disclosed three pieces of sculptured alabaster, two of which fitted together. These two pieces show a scene of the crucifixion and the other ‘a scene in the life of St Arthmael, a south Wales saint’. It is thought that the alabaster scenes were taken by the first Ieuan Edwards from the abbey after the dissolution. There are a couple of Priests or Monks hideholes in the building, which has now been fully restored and is a private home.



Jackie Harness

River View

Old villas on the esplanade smile
as the flow drags daily past their sentience;

and the tide comes, the tide goes;

a lawn is cut; a willow swells,
an arching back leans into sun and air

as crystalline stalactites form
between wood and masonry;

and the tide comes, the tide goes;

the salt seals all entrances;
a cosseted child stares through silvery binoculars

to the green wood, gleaming chimneys,
sunlight ignites a lifebuoy on a wave;

and the tide comes, the tide goes;

two lost boys on the stones
carry driftwood and a scrappy football

while the river on its journey west,
advances now in steady steps,

and the tide comes, the tide goes;
timely is the force that paws this shore.

Eleanor Rees

My Resting Place...

*Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee,
because he trusts in Thee. Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord God
is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:3*

God, please be my resting place and my protection
In hours of trouble, defeat, and dejection...
May, please, I never give way to self-pity and sorrow,
Please may I always be sure of a better tomorrow,
Please may I stand undaunted come what may
Secure in the knowledge I have only to pray
And ask my Creator and Father above
To keep me serene in his grace and love.

I want to trust you completely, Lord,
but how easily I weaken.
Please give me strength.
Please let me know that with You at my side,
I can face today and all the tomorrows.

From *Daily Reflections* by Helen Steiner Rice
Offered by MaryJo Blades

The sun sets over the River Dee

