

## Christ Church Birkenhead

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**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

October 2020

Welcome to the October 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 October

4th October: Harvest Service

11th October: Holy Communion

18th October: Morning Prayer

25th October: Bible Sunday, Holy Communion

All at 10.30am

Everyone is welcome  
Full social distancing will be observed.



### A lion and a crozier

On the lock of a gate in Birkenhead Park (1847)

### A lion and a crozier and much more

On the wall of the Birkenhead Corporation Depot (1904)



The arms of Birkenhead were officially granted on August 28, 1878. The borough was founded in 1877 after the merger of Birkenhead, Claughton-cum-Grange, Oxtan and Tranmere. The symbols in the new arms were taken from the seals of the former towns.



The crozier and the lion were taken from the old Birkenhead seal and represent the Benedictine priory in Birkenhead founded by Hamon de Massey in 1150; the lion is taken from the arms of the Massey family. The oak is taken from Tranmere. The two lions are taken from Oxtan.

The meaning of the crescents is not known. At the top of the crest is the lion and crozier again, with the lion holding an anchor symbolising that Birkenhead depends on sailing and shipping.

## Nothing intellectual today ...

... Just a few light hearted resolutions for coming out of lockdown and another birthday looming!!!

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I took my doctor's advice to join a fitness class and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors- I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over!

I'm trying swing dancing. Not on purpose, some parts of my body are just prone to swinging.

I know How I can prevent my skin from sagging- I just eat until the wrinkles fill out.

I don't let ageing get me down, it's too hard to get back up.

My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

I don't think of it as me getting hot flushes, it's my inner child playing with matches.

The nicest thing about getting older is I can hide my own Easter eggs.

And remember: you don't stop laughing because you grow old... You grow old because you stop laughing!

Something only clever people can do.....

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy. It denos't mtater in waht oredr the ltetres in a wrod are, the olny iprnoatmt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

*Rita O'Loughlin*

## The Rev writes ....

Dear Friends,

This morning Mike and I received a letter from our grandson Charlie. It said: 'To Papa and Adabee, (that's what he calls us) can I have a sleepover at Christmas. from Charlie'.

It was the first letter we have received from him and we opened it carefully – we could tell he had written it as the writing on the envelope had a wobbly quality to it. It was a precious moment to be honest and we were both rather lifted from receiving it. The question he asked tugged at the heart-strings too! Short and sweet it was.

It won't be easy to give him an answer – something like, 'We would love to have you to sleepover at Christmas but we will have to wait and see. Let's hope that we can.'

Everything this year has been different pretty much and I expect Christmas will be too as will our other special services and the way that we celebrate events.

This year harvest is happening this Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> October) and we have to ask for canned and packaged food only and won't be having the church decorated either in the usual way. Everything might seem to be stripped back and a bit bare, although if we look outside into our gardens and parks we can experience that autumnal nip in the air and the trees and shrubs that are showing the changing colours of the season, there is a richness in each of the seasons. In the vicarage the harvest of cooking apples has been rather splendid – so much so that plenty have been shared with folk at Christ Church on a Sunday morning and we still have loads! So, if you could manage half a dozen, let me know – happy to deliver! (really).

As we deal with on-going uncertainty over the autumn and winter months let us uphold one another in prayer and if it feels right to you, just drop a line to someone you may not have seen for a while, or give them a call or an email – I know getting that letter from Charlie cheered up myself and Mike. Little things can mean a lot, especially in these difficult times.

I close with our Bible verse for this year: 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.* It is still so relevant to our current times. Take care everyone and keep well and safe.

God bless you,  
Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

We affirm weekly as we recite the creed our membership of the Holy Catholic - as in universal - Church. While Christ Church Birkenhead is my point of entry to that Holy Catholic Church, it's good to visit other churches to remind ourselves of that wider vision, to be welcomed and stimulated by fresh liturgy, preaching and conversation. This has been my experience in Jerusalem - and many other churches.

Allan Goode

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## Remembering Harvest 2015



The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Revd Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as *We Plough the Fields and Scatter, Come ye Thankful People Come* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful* helped popularise his idea of a harvest festival and spread the custom of decorating churches with produce for the Festival Service.

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## APCM, Wednesday evening, September 23rd

There was a feeling of déjà vu in church at the Annual Parish Church Meeting! Follow social distancing rules, wear masks and drink no refreshments. Indeed the shortest APCM I've ever attended thanks to some excellent chairing by Gerri, our priest in charge!

In the role of PCC we accepted last year's accounts. As APCM members we accepted the minutes of the last meeting held in April 2019, re-elected Rita O'Loughlin and John Barrett as churchwardens, confirmed John as our rep on the Deanery Synod (two place remaining unfilled), failed to elect anyone else to the PCC, and thanked Colin Dooley for his offer to examine our future accounts. We confirmed the receipt of written reports about the electoral roll, PCC proceedings, Finance, Fabric, Deanery Synod, Children & Families, and Planned Giving.

Gerri then said a few words, offering our corporate thanks to John who was retiring as treasurer, confirming that she now felt settled in amongst us and knew who did what (!) while making reference to Hebrews 1:1-2.

After our closing prayers, we became the PCC again and appointed Jackie Harness as secretary, Mike Tetzlaff as treasurer, and Andrea Hendrick as Electoral Role officer. The existing sides-people were re-elected and the Revd. Allan Goode, having served his official term as 'curate', was re-licenced to us as 'Associate Minister'.

And with that, we all went home!

Paul Rees

## Christ Church Old Jerusalem 1849



Over the past couple of issues there has been some researching of 'other' Christ Churches. It prompted me to remember a Christ Church in Old Jerusalem. I recall walking in May last year from the Jaffa Gate 200 yards or so and stopping before a stone embedded in the wall that commemorated the completion of its building in 1849.

You can imagine the pleasant shock of that timely coincidence. 1849, the date when our own Christ Church building was completed, though not consecrated until 1854. It was the first protestant church in the Middle East. And from the start committed to locating the Christian heritage in its Jewish roots. This continues to this day as Jewish resonances are found in its stained glass windows, its communion table and its liturgy. Its congregation comprises Jews and Arabs.



## Kathleen's Corner

"I seem to have lost track of the days."

This is something one hears so often these strange times in which we all find ourselves. We also seem to have lost the great and small landmarks of our nation. Those rituals which hold us together.

It goes without saying that the sporting events where we gathered to cheer and despair as our team played to the crowds waving their club scarves, the Boat Race, the local and often weird events, the bike rides to raise funds for good causes, the cricket matches and on and on.

Perhaps the saddest national Event for me was the Last Night of The Proms – that glorious expression of public love of music and country and exuberant joy. A superb job, mind you, and I could almost believe I was there but ... it was simply not the same.

Will Guy Fawkes Night be celebrated under cover of darkness with six, or it is eight, or is it no people lighting the pyre and setting off fireworks? Will Trick or Treat shadowy shapes flit around in the gloom?

It is the loss of these dates in the nation's year that are our guides and certainties in our personal diaries. There is much consolation and a steady sense of continuity in the regular progression of the natural world.

This has brought many of us to improve our gardens, to increase our walking. That has to be good. It has also made me at least deeply appreciative of such gems that TV still manages to produce: 'All Creatures Great & Small', 'Unlocking the treasures of The National Trust', 'Walking the Roman Roads' and 'Countryfile'. All these things help us to hold on to our sense of identity, of belonging.

They help us anticipate the defeat of this Covid challenge ... which will surely come.

*Kathleen Stansfield*

## More from Home - Trevor Church



The main road from Wrexham to Llangollen runs along the top of the estate where I lived as a child. (And where I hitched many a lift to both destinations.) About half a mile along the road from the estate, we come to a road which is known as 'Bryn Oerog' which means 'Cool Hill' (never knew why). A large house can be seen to the left, nestling in a wooded area, this is Trevor Hall, which I will write about next month. The track leading to the hall used to be just a dirt track but is now well improved, and nestling in those woods is Trevor Church.

The present building dates back to 1717, or earlier, but the history of the church or chapel at Trevor goes back many centuries - back to the time when the Monastery of Valle Crucis dominated the district. An early chapel at Trevor was attended by a visiting monk and he had a cell where stands the ruin of an old building known as 'Kin Y Plas'. Outside high on the south wall is carved the face of a man symbolising that whilst the church is ever to hold its prime duty of worshipping God, it must at the same time be outward looking to the world and the service of mankind. The entrance Porch was added in 2000. It was built by local craftsmen, stonemason Geraint Roberts and joiner Phillip Jones of Cefn Mawr, and was dedicated on 17th July 2000.

In the 15th Century Bishop John Trevor II resided at Trevor Hall with his brother and used the chapel at Trevor as his private chapel. In consequence Trevor Church was known at one time as 'The Episcopal Chapel of Bishop Trevor'. Since then there has been always a very close connection between Trevor Hall and the Church. In 1717 during the reign of George I, the present building was erected at the expense of Elizabeth Lloyd of Trevor Hall, widow of Robert Lloyd of Llanhafon, Montgomeryshire. She endowed it with £10 per annum, besides giving 40 shillings (£2) per annum for the teaching of poor children of Trevor.

## Happiness and Contentment

"Most of the men sang or whistled as they dug or hoed. There was a good deal of outdoor singing in those days. Workmen sang at their jobs; men with horses and carts sang on the road; the baker, the miller's man and the fish-hawker sang as they went from door to door; even the doctor and the parson on their rounds hummed a tune between their teeth. People were poorer and had not the comforts, amusements or knowledge we have today; but they were happier."

*An extract from 'Lark Rise to Candleford' (1945) by Flora Thompson describing life in an 1880s English village.*

A family friend of ours, a widower, lived in Oxtun during his retirement. He was born in Devon and raised in a Dr Barnardo's orphanage. He became a farmer and during WW2 was in a 'reserved occupation'. Although not a regular churchgoer, he gave thanks daily for his blessings. My most appreciated of his many wise sayings: - "Some people like to complain and say that their life could be better; but it could also be worse! I say be content."

*A personal memory.*

*Both items submitted by Tony K. Blades*

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## David Charters— 'the Bard of Birkenhead'

Much loved David died at his home on 14th September aged 72. He enjoyed a celebrated career as reporter, news editor, feature writer and columnist, famous for his elegant, and almost poetic style. His weekly column in the Liverpool Echo as the Bard entertained many readers, especially in Wirral. David was a strong supporter of our community here at Christ Church.



## Bishop Mark's ministry begins

Bishop Mark Tanner began his public ministry as the Bishop of Chester on Sunday 20 September. The service of welcome for the new bishop had to be altered to conform with the coronavirus restrictions. This meant just 30 people were able to attend and witness the beginning of Bishop Mark's ministry.

On a bright autumnal day, with the sun illuminating in multi-coloured splendour the almost empty nave, the scene was set for the special occasion.



*Bishop Mark stands on the threshold of the West Door and prays a blessing over the city, county, and diocese.*

Bishop Mark processed formally through the cathedral into the Quire with prayers at the door, the font, and the nave platform. He paused at the cathedra and reflected on the consequences of coronavirus before sitting with the College of Canons and Choir for Evensong.

At the end of Evensong, Bishop Mark received the Melanesian Crozier at the High Altar and delivered a sermon to the 30 people in physical attendance and the hundreds of others watching online.

Bishop Mark brought the service to a close by praying a blessing over the city, county, and diocese.

[www.chester.anglican.org/news/bishop-marks-ministry-begins.php](http://www.chester.anglican.org/news/bishop-marks-ministry-begins.php)

At first only the people living in the Hall used the Church, and early on services were in Latin. After 1731 there was a period without an incumbent and services were intermittent. On 8th August 1772, when John Lloyd was squire at Trevor Hall, Bishop Shipley consecrated the Church. The residents at Trevor Hall used it, but now it served as a place of public worship for the area around.

The seating in the earlier period consisted of two pews at the front of the Church with open benches in the remainder of the building. The pew near the pulpit was for the incumbent and his family, whilst the Squire and his family used the one on the other side. In 1841 the remainder of the present pews which are of the old-fashioned box type were installed and are still used today.

Two particular clergy that served the church were Hugh Owen (1833) and Hugh Thomas Owen (1865) who were father and son. The latter died in 1890 after being blind for some years. He had memorised the services in both Welsh and English in order to carry out his duties. The approach to the Church used to be by three paths, and in the grounds, near the Church are three yew trees. The paths and yews symbolise the Holy Trinity. The entrance to the Church (from the porch) is down two stone steps representing the descent to the House of Prayer. The roof is semi-circular as a reminder of eternity.

My parents were married in this church on 22 December 1947 – when my mother was only 16 years old. Fifty years later and three daughters into the bargain, my sisters and I, secretly arranged a 'marriage blessing' for my parents to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.



Ten years later, three months after their Diamond Wedding (60years). Dad sadly passed away, and we had his funeral service in Trevor Church and we have promised that we will bring Mum back here when it is time to reunite them both.

*Jackie Harness*

## Congratulations

All our best wishes to Peggy Maskrey MBE for her 100th birthday on September 30th.

A regular attendee at our Fellowship Group meetings, here she is with friends helping at our Summer Fair a couple of years ago. We all wish her a very...

# Happy Birthday!



## Sunday morning, September 20th 2020



## Butterfly on the Buddleia



wings folded as bark  
flick open to flash

scarlet, yellow hoops,  
splatter of mauve,

a shadow opening to the heat,  
a hand clap for the sun,

give brightness  
and then, in a curve

as full as the earth's rotation  
light has gone.

*Eleanor Rees*

## Not a Sunday morning, 1900 – 1920

