

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

November 2020

Welcome to the November 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 November

1st November: All Saints Day, Service of the Word

8th November: Remembrance Sunday, Holy Communion

15th November: 2nd Sunday before Advent, Morning Prayer

22nd November: Christ the King, Holy Communion

29th November: Advent Sunday, Carols & Readings

All at 10.30am

Everyone is welcome
Full social distancing will be observed.

Finally, to make you laugh

An invisible man married an invisible woman.
Their kids were nothing to look at either.

I didn't think the chiropractor could improve my posture...
but I stand corrected.

I took my new girlfriend to the ice rink on our first date. It was half-price night.
She called me a cheap-skate.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them.
It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I used to date a girl with one leg who worked at a brewery.
She was in charge of the hops.

My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met.
I'm not buying it.

Did you know that a raven has seventeen rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has sixteen.
So the difference between them is just a matter of a pinion.

My cross-eyed wife and I just got a divorce.
I found out she was seeing someone on the side.

I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps.
He gave me a blank stair.

from Angela Barlow via Tony Blades

**And don't forget, it's your Magazine!
Please give me your contribution at church
or email it to me at oxtonrees@gmail.com
by Monday 23rd November.**

Those were the days!

When I put my last monthly call out for material for the magazine, John Barrett suggested we contribute some memories from our childhoods. So photos, snippets, drawings from long ago please. Here's something to get us started!

First a lad who wishes to remain anonymous making music.

Second a verse I remember reciting when my fork missed my vegetables.

Third a young lass representing the NHS.



I eat my peas with honey,
I've done so all my life,
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it sticks them to my knife.



The Rev writes ...

This November will be one where we find ourselves labelled as Tier 3 in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic (at time of writing). Across our region we are experiencing a rapid rise in infections and hospitalisation of very sick people; sadly, death rates are rising too. We face an enemy that we cannot see and it is one that does not bear any relation to our more usual enemies. Maybe that is the reason folks are taking pot-shots at one another. The enemy doesn't even know it's our enemy – it is faceless, voiceless and not as predictable as we would like. We cannot pin it down, we cannot eradicate it, we can only make educated guesses as to what it will do next ... and so on.

We are all sick of it in spirit as well as those who are sick in body. It messes with our lives, our well-being, our mental health. We get angry, we get so-o-o tired and we feel just a bit useless at times as we can do very little to change anything. The little we can do seems such a small offering doesn't it? Just to keep on washing our hands, wearing a mask and keeping our distance. Those are the things that can make some difference and we even have battles about those.

I do wonder what it was really like during the two world wars of the 20th century. Did people really get on and help each other? That's what we have always been led to believe. That is the image that we have received from our history books. What has been forgotten, I wonder? I also wonder what the legacy of this pandemic will be. Will it be about blame and finger pointing – probably, at least initially. I wonder what will be remembered longer term – some of the really good things too where people have come together to help in their communities, to celebrate as much as we are able and to care for one another.

This year it will be difficult for most people to attend a Remembrance Sunday service. Most of the usual ones will be or have been reduced if not cancelled entirely. Fortunately, we can have our usual service at Christ Church on 8th November as our memorial is in the church and we tend to mark the occasion simply during our regular Sunday service. I have heard that there will be a call for others to stand outside their front doors to observe the two minutes silence at 11.00am – what a great idea. We still need to remember and it will be rather poignant this year with all the deaths from this rather different war.

On 2nd November (All Souls Day) I will post a recorded service for people to watch either via our Facebook page (Christ Church Birkenhead) or from our website at <http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>

There will be an order of service posted the day before and during the service an opportunity to light a candle, hold silence and remember loved ones. So, as we remember amidst our current situation, do take time to do so with thankfulness, asking the Lord to take your pain and sadness and to bring healing and peace to your mind and spirit – that is my prayer for you.

God bless
Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Turville



An idyllic autumnal picture of a Buckinghamshire village church until you look closely at the PCC. St. Mary's, if you remember, masqueraded as the church of St Barnabus in the village of Dibley, for the TV series starring Dawn French as the vicar. Transmitted from 1994 to 1998, it is on Netflix and Prime Video, and coming to BBC iplayer soon. A fine period piece, it's a good laugh for lockdown!



A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-living God,
We remember those whom you have
gathered from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

And on the wireless

Do you remember the Home Service, the Light Programme, even the Third Programme? Walking down St Laurence's Road in Birkenhead the other day, I came across this access cover in the pavement. Remember 'Rediffusion'?

I can remember when I lived in Leigh at the age of five or six, we had a Rediffusion set in the kitchen, with a knob which simply selected the station. Not having the money to buy a full blown wireless, my parents rented it weekly from a local shop.



You can hear snippets of programmes from those days at www.turnipnet.com/whirligig/radio/index.htm.

Pursuing your goals

Whatever the goal you're pursuing,
No matter how rugged the climb,
You're certain to get there by trying your best
and taking one day at a time.

'Forever' is hard to imagine,
'The future' may seem far away,
but every new dawn brings a wonderful chance
to do what you can on that day.

As you reach for the Goals you would like to achieve,
may you find all the strength you will need,
to meet every challenge, one step at a time
till the day when you proudly SUCCEED.

Emily Matthew via Andrea Hendrick

Charing Cross Methodist Church

I'm sure many of you will recognise this building near Charing Cross in Birkenhead. Following a reorganisation among local Methodist churches, it is to close and its congregation to join that of the Tranmere church. This building is expected to be demolished in the next few months. A sad time for the congregation: we wish them all the best for the future.



Kathleen's Corner

What a kind, generous and caring action by the Tranmere Rovers Trust providing free school meals during half term for the children at Christchurch School.

As the Vicar pointed out this was the result of a chance sentence or two. This swift response we are witnessing today to the need or needs of people is something the COVID19 situation has seemed to bring about.

Great good has come from the trials and tribulations of the time. Many lessons are being learned with many more to come no doubt.

There now seems to be a consensus of belief that we will not see the end of the restrictions large or small until the late Spring. With Winter and the short days looming this is not a happy thought. It is not going to be easy to keep cheerful and positive and yet we must. The Church remains open, such a blessing; while many venues can be accessed: gyms and places to eat within the guidelines. And come what may, children and parents will find ways to celebrate the little fun times like Bonfire Night, Halloween and the joyful time of Christmas.

My mother made a lot of fun for us on Bonfire Night with trays of treacle toffee which we broke up with little hammers (great gusto used) and sticky sweet duck apples (much splashing in the dolly tub) as we tried to bite and hold one of the apples.

There will be The Queen giving her Christmas Message. How wise and comforting that gracious lady has become in her old age. One feels she cares deeply for her people.

I feel it is more important than ever to balance in this dreadful time the great goodnesses our communities are experiencing against the great sadness and hardship.

Kathleen Stansfield

More from around Llangollen ...Trevor Hall



I promised last month to tell you a bit about Trevor Hall, where the 'Church in the Woods' stands. The hall was for centuries a seat of the 'Trevors of Trevor Hall', one of the three principal branches of this Welsh tribe who claimed descent from the Tudor

Trevors, who lived in around the site of Trevor Hall.

The site is an ancient one, and was known to be the home of Bishop John Trevor, who built Llangollen Bridge in 1345. The house itself was largely reconstructed to its present form in the 18th century by John Lloyd of Glanhavon, Montgomeryshire, who in 1715 married Mary Trevor, heiress of the Trevor's estate.

A carved stone on the outside of the house has their initials and motto *Dum Spiro Spero* and the date 1742, as well as the name of 'John Roberts mason' to whom can be attributed the design as well as the construction of the handsome, three-storey red brick façade.



Trevor Hall has had a chequered past, largely due to the lack of male descendants over the years. By the turn of the 19th century the house had left the Lloyd family when the last heiress married Rice Thomas of Coed Helen near Caernarfon. They extended the house by a bay to the west to make a spacious dining room and a drawing room above. Although the Rice Thomas family owned Trevor Hall until after the Second World War, they ceased to live there after about 1820. The house was let to various tenants, including the manager of the local ironworks and a shipping broker from Liverpool. A long lease was eventually granted to the Edwards family, proprietors of the famous Trefynant Fire Clay Works of Ruabon. James Coster Edwards (1828-1896) was the high sheriff of Denbighshire, and his family carried out various improvements to the hall including a large new kitchen at the back. If you stand at the back of the hall, you can still see where these kitchens were added, supposedly without windows, to ensure that the kitchen staff were not distracted from their duties. Three generations of the Edwards family lived at Trevor Hall, but in 1956, Edward Lloyd Edwards, at the age of 95, surrendered the lease and the property reverted to the Coed Helen estate, which had no use for the house.

When Jesus comes ...

will it be when Jesus comes,
and heaven and earth are joined
and God is living with us,
walking here among us
just as once he did
when our first parents heard him
walking in the garden in the cool of the day:
will it be when Jesus comes,
when death is gone
and mourning, tears and pain are all no more;
will it be when Jesus comes
and all the splendour of this present world
is there in God's new world preserved;
will it be when Jesus comes again
we'll see once more in that new earth
the finest works of art displayed,
and hear again the greatest music ever played,
and walk once more on England's mountains green:
and will it be we'll taste again
the best of Wirral honey?

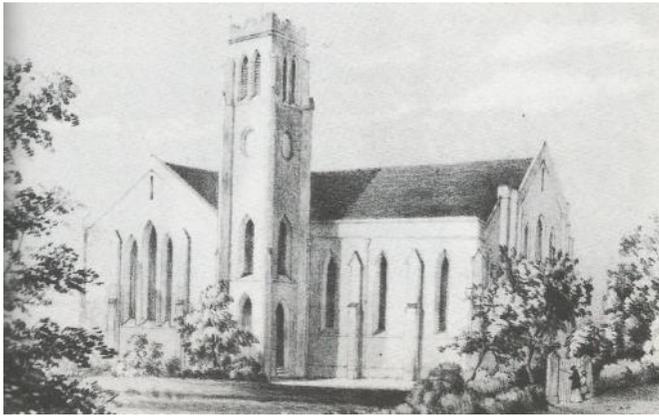
Anon, thanks to Jackie Harness

Lament and Hope in the Psalms

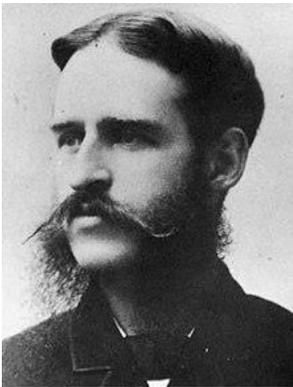
If you are interested in joining a series of four Bible studies looking at the psalms called 'Lament and hope in the Psalms', starting on Monday 9th November, 1.10pm to 1.50pm, please email Canon Jane Brooke on canon.brooke@chestercathedral.com and she will give you details. This is a Zoom bible study offered by the diocese.

Oxton Secret Gardens Day 2021

The Oxton Society has written to invite us to take part in next year's event on Sunday 9th May. Hopefully we'll be opening the church, admiring flower arrangements, listening to Paul playing the organ, and drinking cups of tea!



Christ Church, Moss Side, Manchester



On the 5th December 1879, the *Manchester Courier* newspaper reported:

“At a sale of work and entertainment held at Christ Church, Moss Side for church and school expenses, photographic views of ‘The new 33-ton submarine boat and its crew’, invented by the Rev. G.W. Garrett, son of the Rev. Dr Garrett, Rector of Christ Church, were exhibited. The name given to the boat is ‘The Garrett Submarine Torpedo Boat Resurgam’.

“It is a cylinder, six-and-a-half feet in diameter in the centre part, and tapers off at each end, the central part being encased in timber for the purposes of protection. The aim of the inventor is to convey torpedoes under water, and to approach a large ironclad invisibly, and within a certain distance to discharge a torpedo by means of the usual telescope and springs which are used by the Admiralty.”



A replica of *Resurgam*, which was built here in Birkenhead, can be seen outside the Woodside Ferry terminal.

A local timber merchant, John Evans bought the property, and its downward spiral began. Evans applied to demolish the house to build four dwellings on the site. Strongly opposed by local groups, a public enquiry in May 1961 saved the house. The Dudley branch of the Women’s Royal Voluntary Service then acquired the property with the intentions of converting it to a children’s home, but in February 1963 the building caught fire during one of the harshest winters the valley had known. The Fire Brigade found their work hampered by the weather conditions and lack of mains water. The house was reduced to a smouldering shell. Thus for the second time in two years the future of this important building was under serious threat.

One of my Aunts worked for a local farmer, Maldwyn Williams, and he eventually purchased the property and installed a temporary flat roof to provide shelter for his livestock. Remarkably, however, this agricultural use most probably saved the house from destruction, with the animal droppings protecting the floors from possible decay and the flat roof providing the structure sanctuary from the elements. In 1987, Michael Tree, then a chartered surveyor of the Crown Estates, bought the house and gardens and began the long process of restoration. Under his expert eye, the house was restored piece by piece over the next 11 years. In 1998, with the house completed to his satisfaction, Michael Tree put the house up for sale, to enable him to restore yet another condemned Welsh property, which he found in Llanrwst.

The present owner Louise Parker and her late husband Louis fell in love with the house and did not think twice about moving from London to the Hall, which became a much cherished family home as it is today. Trevor Hall has continued to be restored and renovated over the last decade. Each bedroom is themed, crammed with artefacts from all over the world and various family and pop memorabilia line the walls, as the Parkers were Tour Agents for bands such as The Prodigy, Boyzone, Nirvana, All Saints, Steps and many others, Indeed most of these group members have spent quiet holidays here.



The Victorian greenhouse is now back to its former glory, thanks to master joiner, Jonathan Roberts and the original 100 year old vines are still producing grapes in the summer. The gardens now reflect the grandeur of the house with 7ft high beech hedges, orchard and an Italian garden complete with lily pond. The original stone coachhouse and farm buildings were completed in December 2004 and Trevor Hall Farm purchased and added to the estate in 2010, thereby returning the original park and woodland to the Trevor Hall estate enabling it to once more be nestled in its centre.

Jackie Harness



**Harvest in Zimbabwe
by Stephanie Ponter**

Bishop Keith to retire

The Bishop of Birkenhead, Keith Sinclair, has announced that he is to retire on 08 March 2021, 14 years to the day after he was consecrated. Announcing the news, Bishop Keith said that he was thankful to God for calling Bishop Mark to the role of Bishop of Chester and said that he is hoping that his retirement in March will help the process of the appointment of two new suffragan bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead. On 14th October Bishop Keith wrote:

Dear friends,

After much prayer and seeking God I have decided that the time has come to retire as Bishop of Birkenhead, and I intend to take that step on the 14th anniversary of my consecration on 08 March 2021.

It has been the greatest joy to serve the Lord in this diocese, and I know the time will come when I can express my thanks to so many for so much. I am so thankful to God that he has called +Mark to be the next Bishop of Chester, and welcoming him and Lindsay, even though the constraints of lockdown have been many, has been a delight. My chief object now is to do all I can to enable him to begin this ministry to which the Lord has called him and to support him in every way I can. I am hoping that by making this announcement now, it will help the process for the appointment of two new suffragan bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead to go forward.

Thank you for continued prayer for Rosie and me in these days of transition. The challenges to the diocese over recent years have been immense not least with the impact of the global pandemic; it has been inspiring to see the way so many have stepped up and continue to walk in faith, hope and love even in all the uncharted territory of these times. I pray we may all continue to trust God for our keeping and his leading.

The Psalm for today as I write this letter is Psalm 23, which could not be more appropriate for me or us all.

With love in Christ.
+Keith

Bishop Keith reminisces about his time in Birkenhead on the diocesan website.

