

Christ Church Birkenhead

Bessborough Road, Birkenhead, CH43 5RW

Priest in charge: Rev Gerri Tetzlaff

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Services and Community Activities

All services and community activities are currently cancelled.

Updates will be provided on our Facebook page and website.

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

<http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>



Don't forget—it's your magazine.
Contributions to me by Monday 22nd February, please.

Thanks.

Paul Rees, Editor

oxtonrees@gmail.com



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
February 2021



Services

We regret that during this third period of lockdown there will be no services in church until further notice.

However do please keep up to date with us via our Facebook page at www.facebook/christchurchbirkenhead. There you will find weekly reflections on bible passages, suggestions for prayer and ideas for positive thinking.

Other resources can be found on the Church of England's website at www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online.

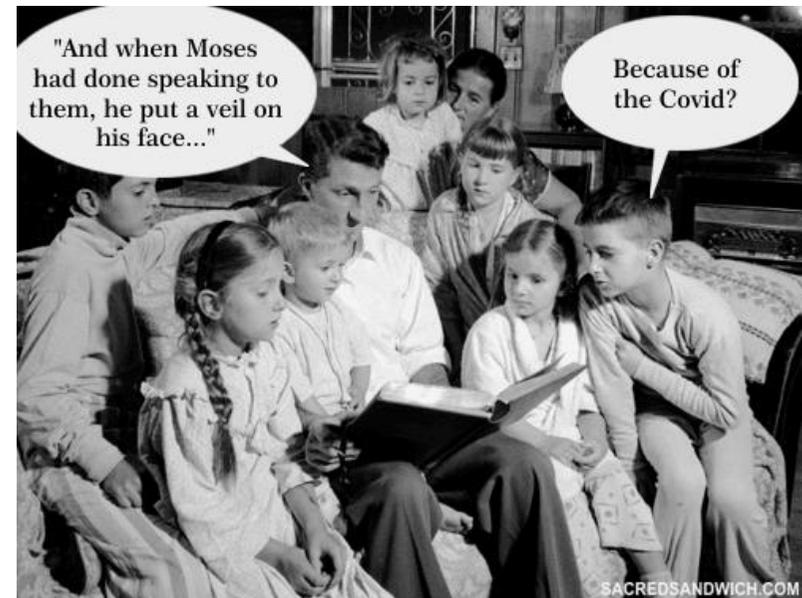
To open this link and others elsewhere in the magazine Go to it, press 'control' and click.

Chester Cathedral



Of course, the cathedral is closed but services are available online on its Youtube channel. If Church-services tv and Rsdio Garden offer too much choice for you as you surf the internet, try local!

[Chester Cathedral Youtube Channel](#)



[From https://sacredsandwich.com/](https://sacredsandwich.com/)

What Future for our Magazine?

As I finish putting together this magazine, I'm reflecting on three things. Firstly, as you may have noticed while reading it, there are only three contributions: It's been a bit of a chore finding other material. Clearly Covid may be the cause of this by locking us all down. On the other hand, has it not provided us with a bit of time to spare and to write? I'm sorry, but I have to admit to feeling a bit let down!

Secondly, and this factor will really come into play when lockdown is over, the superb printer in the church office is to be retired. It has reached the end of its contract. With its ability to print both sides of all the pages, fold and staple our magazine in one go, it was top of the range and quite honestly was a bit more than we could afford just to print a monthly magazine and a few service leaflets. I know we are looking at getting a replacement, but I suspect it'll mean more work putting the magazine together!

Thirdly we are now publishing the magazine on our website. While this is no more effort to me, how does it suit you as readers? I'm not sure how many receive printed copies, or have direct access to our website, read it on screen or print it at home. Is a full colour magazine once a month still what we should be aiming for? Or something shorter every week; or something perhaps just four times a year?

Oh, and what about our website and Facebook page? Where should they fit into this discussion and our methods of communication and keeping in touch?

If you have an opinion or ideas, do please let me know.

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PS. Contributions for the March edition to me by Monday 22nd February!

The Rev writes...

Dear friends,

The husband of a friend was recently admitted to hospital. He and his wife are both in their mid-70s. She said goodbye looking forward to seeing him again. Sadly, he died within 48 hours of his admittance. It wasn't Covid related. Her loss and shock were deep. She is separated from family who live hundreds of miles away. I have been in touch three times. Each time she has sown hope – she to me, not me to her – as she has spoken honestly of her situation. The deep loss and shock. The confusion. The anxiety around letting family and friends know, the waiting for an autopsy, the business of registering the death and sorting the funeral.

All the more draining and stressful in the restrictions of the pandemic. She speaks of herself and husband as not having a faith and asked that I pray for them. As time and the conversations have rolled on she has she told me of the funeral arrangements – two poems are to be read, one by Edward Dowson [A Poem a Day: They Are Not Long - Ernest Dowson \(poetry-fromthehart.blogspot.com\)](http://fromthehart.blogspot.com). Hauntingly moving in its honest struggle to celebrate the joys and pains of this life while recognising their briefness – and the uncertainty of the misty dream that hovers before and after. The second [So Many Different Lengths Of Time – Poem by Brian Patten | mybeautifulthings](http://mybeautifulthings) is by Liverpool poet Brian Patten. I sent the Patten poem to my sister - her mother died a year ago. She told me that she cried as she read it, finding consolation in the tears. My friend gave thanks for the support of family despite their distance, trusting their love. And for a friend who had been steady in helping her with paperwork.

My friend describes herself and her husband as non-believers. Yet she has faith, faith in the redemptive power of love. I thank her for the hope she has given me as she has expressed her faith. A faith all the stronger for its rootedness in the honesty, integrity and openness with which she speaks of her abandonment, her anxiety and more.

That sense of loss and abandonment is one we will all recognise one way or another. I have heard many use such words to describe their experience of the third lockdown. The loss of meeting with friends and family; the curtailed enjoyment of walks in the nature; the loss of the animation of faces screened by masks; the closing of access to simple shared pleasures and enjoyments.

Faith is tested in such times. The psalms (eg Psalms 6,10,13) movingly and honestly express this testing of faith. Christ on the cross cries the opening lines of Psalm 22; “My God, my God why have you forsaken me”. Hope and encouragement are found in the testing: “O Lord you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear “, (Psalm 10.17). The fullness of that hope is realised at Easter.

May each of us find sustaining hope in our faith – and be able to share it, that others might be encouraged and hope –now and in the weeks ahead.

Blessings
Allan
(Rev Allan Goode)



Mural in the now-closed Charing Cross Methodist Church

In February

Now in the dark of February rains,
Poor lovers of the sunshine, spring is born,
The earthy fields are full of hidden corn,
And March's violets bud along the lanes;

Therefore with joy believe in what remains.
And thou who dost not feel them, do not scorn
Our early songs for winter overworn,
And faith in God's handwriting on the plains.

'Hope' writes he, 'Love' in the first violet,
'Joy,' even from Heaven, in songs and winds and trees;
And having caught the happy words in these
While Nature labours with the letters yet,
Spring cannot cheat us, though her
hopes be broken,
Nor leave us, for we know what God hath spoken.

George MacDonald, 1824 – 1905



*Birkenhead Park Boat House in the February snow
From Facebook.com/BirkenheadPark*

To Be Sung in The Snow

"...it's a special Outdoor Song which Has To Be Sung In The Snow." said Pooh.

"Are you sure?" asked Piglet anxiously.

"Well you'll see, Piglet, when you listen. Because this is how it begins. *The more it snows, tiddely pom —*"

"Tiddely what?" said Piglet.

"Pom," said Pooh. "I put that in to make it more hummy. *The more it goes, tiddely pom, the more —*"

"Didn't you say snows?"

"Yes, but that was *before*."

"Before the tiddely pom?"

"It was a *different* tiddely pom," said Pooh, feeling rather muddled now. "I'll sing it to you properly and then you'll see."

So he sang it again.

The more it snows
SNOWS-tiddely-pom,
The more it
GOES-tiddely-pom
The more it
GOES-tiddely-pom,
On snowing.

And nobody
KNOWS-tiddely-pom,
How cold my
TOES-tiddely-pom
How cold my
TOES-tiddely-pom
Are
Growing.

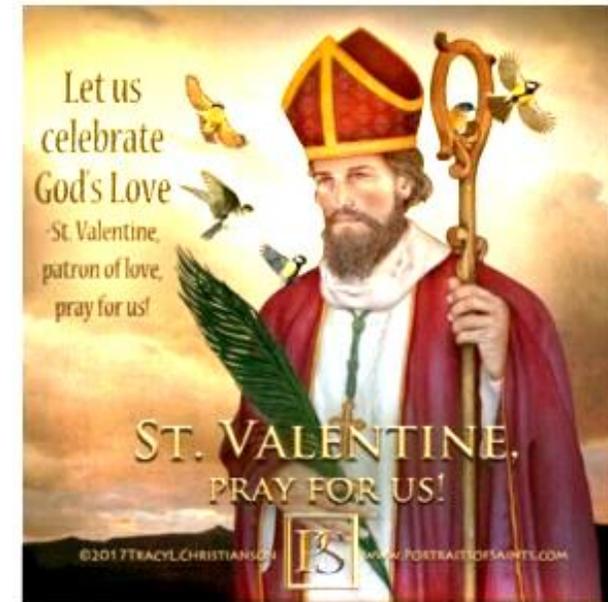
A.A Milne, illustration by E. H. Shepard

First published 1927; my worn-out copy 1966, bought when I was a student! Remember this, or those other activities in the lives of Pooh and Piglet? Or those wonderful poems in *Now we are Six*? Remember King John who was not a good man, Christopher Robin who had wheezles and sneezles, or the Knight whose armour didn't squeak?



Valentine's Day February 14th

Saint Valentine, for whom this holiday is of course named, was an actual historical figure. He was a Roman physician who was also a Christian priest during the days of the early church. This was at a time when Christians saw tremendous persecution, and many practiced in secret.



There are actually a couple versions of the Valentine's Day story. One version, has it that Valentine was so loved by the children of the town that they would constantly write him notes speaking of their affection, hence the origin of exchanging valentines.

In the other version of the story, Valentine is working to heal a blind boy and is arrested by Roman soldiers for his work as an 'undercover priest'. Valentine is shortly thereafter sentenced to die. And yet before he is taken off to be executed, he takes the time to write to the little blind boy a note explaining to him Jesus' love, enclosing a small treat. According to this story, when the boy eats the treat his eyesight is miraculously restored, and he is able to see well enough to read Valentine's note, which is, of course, at the exact same moment that Valentine is executed.

Mary Kirby

I came across this Irish based website while surfing the web instead of getting on with my book. As you will guess from its being based in the emerald isle, the majority of the churches supported by Church Services TV are Roman Catholic.



However, I did find two 'Christ Churches'- one in Bray in County Wicklow, the other in Delgany also in County Wicklow. Both Church of Ireland, and part of the Anglican Communion just like our C of E. The Bray church was built at the same time as ours and, from the photos on its website, feels very much the same.

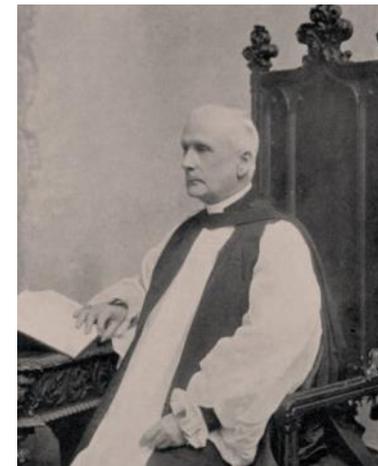
Churches TV also includes churches and cathedrals in England, Wales and Scotland: the closest to us being St Michael's & All Angels RC Church in Woodchurch. So just choose a church and follow a service!

The website explains 'Church Services TV was established in 2005 and streams services over the internet helping parishes and other religious organisations expand their reach across the globe well beyond what was traditionally possible. Parishes and Organisations can stream Mass, Weddings, Funerals, Music, and all other kinds of events from Churches, halls, or any other venues. By making services available on PC's, Laptops, Mobile Devices and TV sets anywhere in the world, CSTV helps those confined to home or care facilities, and those living away from home, keep in touch with their parish and continue to be part of the local community.'



*Christ Church, Bray
St Michaels, Woodchurch*

Music in London. Among countless other buildings and churches, he restored Chester Cathedral. The new church was built from local stone and brick between 1890-1892. It was consecrated on 21st February 1892 by Bishop Waite Hockin Sterling who was with the Patagonian Missionary Society. He became the first Anglian Bishop of The Falkland Islands. Christ Church in Stanley is the Parish Church of The Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and The British Antarctic Territories. It is the southernmost Anglican Cathedral in the world and is also the smallest Anglican Cathedral. Since 1978 the bishopric of this Church has been held ex officio by The Archbishop of Canterbury.



There are a number of valuable items held in the church; one of the most valuable is the Order of the Garter Banner, bequeathed by Sir Edward Shackleton, the son of Sir Ernest Shackleton. In 1933 a Whalebone Arch was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of British administration in the Falkland Islands. The monument consists of jawbones from two Blue Whales, the largest animals ever to have existed. The bones were brought to the Islands from South Shetland in 1922.



Andrea Hendrick

Christ Church Cathedral in the Falkland Islands



My son-in-law Des has just returned from a four-month posting to the Falkland Islands with The Royal Air Force. He has been there quite a few times and sent me a Christmas Card with a picture of Christ Church Cathedral on the front. I decided to Google it, and found it has a really interesting story.

The Cathedral is situated in the capital Stanley and was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and constructed in 1892. Stanley became the capital of the Falklands in the middle of the 19th Century. One of the first buildings was the wooden Exchange Building which was built on the site of today's Cathedral. In 1865 the east wing of this building was turned into a church named Holy Trinity, but it was never consecrated.

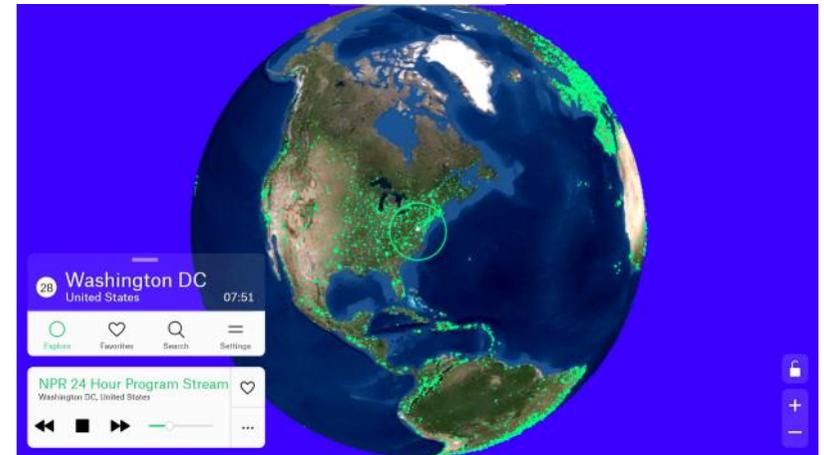


The winter of 1886 was very wet, with very heavy rain. One day a catastrophe happened when a peat layer slid down the slope of the hill next to Stanley and destroyed many buildings including the Church. The people of the Falklands with assistance from the United Kingdom got together and had a new Church designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, who had designed The Royal College of

Radio Garden

<http://www.radio.garden/visit>

And while I continued to surf the web rather than getting on reading my book, I came across the Radio Garden website. As you can see from the screenshot below it simply shows a global view of the world which you can rotate. As you do so the circle in the centre crosses the world flying over towns and cities everywhere and without hesitation tuning into their radio stations.



There are languages, music, talks and even advertisements of every type. My screenshot shows my recent interest in Washington for obvious reasons, but I've explored stations in northern Russia, South America, Greece ... and one Sunday after church we listened to a local radio station in Bermuda transmitting live the morning service from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal church. It was powerful stuff! There is a Radio Garden app, if you prefer to listen on your phone.

Great Hymn Singing

If you enjoy listening to hymns sung by huge choirs take a look at the website of the [Tabernacle Choir](#) at Salt Lake City. I'm not going to comment on the religious beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but simply suggest their choir makes a glorious sound!

In the news again!

One hundred year old Ms Marjorie “Peggy” Maskrey MBE attended the Covid Vaccination Centre at Miriam Medical Centre on Sunday to have her Covid Vaccination. She was seen here with Abhi Mantgani GP & Clinical Lead and practice pharmacists Kaye Edwards and Kirsty Ruzic.



In 2017, Ms Maskrey was awarded the MBE for her life long outstanding contribution to the work of Charles Thompson’s Mission. She first went to the mission aged 8 and has volunteered for the past 84 years. She was delighted with the service she received at the Miriam Medical Centre and commented “The care and compassion shown here to me and thousands of other elderly was excellent and I look forward to returning to my work with the mission soon”. Mrs Pat Hennessy who accompanied her said “Dr Mantgani, you have always given fantastic service to the people of Birkenhead. Your staff both times were so lovely with Auntie Peg & really lifted her spirits. Thank you.”

Found on the Miriam Centre Facebook page

Ding Dong Merrily on High



This well-known Christmas carol was written by George Ratcliffe Woodward and is from his 1924 *Cambridge Carol Book*. Born in Hamilton Square in December 1848 he went on to Harrow School and Cambridge University, and was ordained deacon in London in 1874. After six years he went to Walsingham in Norfolk, then to a small village in Suffolk returning to London in 1894. He supplemented his parochial duties studying music and publishing some two dozen collections of hymns and carols. He died in 1934.

Thanks to Rob Jones

Ron leaves Bidston

Many of you will know, or at least know of, Ron Iveson as vicar of St Oswalds in Bidston. After some eighteen years, Ron preached his last service there in mid January and by the time you read this will have moved on to his new benefice in Cheshire. As our rural dean, Ron was very supportive of us here at Christ Church during the last interregnum. We wish him well.



Information from the St Oswalds Facebook page.