

## Christ Church Birkenhead

Bessborough Road, Birkenhead, CH43 5RW

Priest in charge: Rev Gerri Tetzlaff

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## Services and Community Activities

Our 10.30am Sunday services have recommenced.

We hope to begin our community activities  
in the near future.

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 Sunday, 26th June, please. Thanks.

*Paul Rees, Editor*

*oxtonrees@gmail.com*

**To worship God, to share Jesus,  
and to serve the community**



CHRIST CHURCH  
BIRKENHEAD



## Parish Magazine

June 2021



## Services in Church

Sundays at 10.30am.

6 June: Trinity 1	Morning Prayer
13 June: Trinity 2	Holy Communion
20 June: Trinity 3	Morning Prayer
27 June: Trinity 4	Holy Communion

You can keep up to date with us via our Facebook page at [www.facebook/christchurchbirkenhead](http://www.facebook/christchurchbirkenhead).

There you will find our weekly online services, 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](http://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online).

**To open these links and others elsewhere in the magazine  
Go to it, press 'control' and click.**

## The more you give, the more you get

Agnes, although now in her eighties, is still able to recite poetry and takes an active interest in life beyond her front door. There is always a welcoming cup of tea at her cottage and she will usually have a little verse to amuse me or cause me to reflect a little. I was still thinking about her latest verse as I travelled home this afternoon and the next time I visited her, I took pen and paper and copied it down.

The more you give, the more you get,  
The more you laugh, the less you fret,  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you'll live abundantly.  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to spare,  
The more you love, the more you'll find  
That life is good, and friends are kind.  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

I was given a plan for a New Year vegetable garden, one which you will surely like to cultivate:

First plant five rows of peas—  
preparedness, promptness, perseverance, politeness and prayer.  
Next to them plant three rows of squash—  
squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.  
The put in five rows of lettuce—  
let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be loyal, let us love one  
another, let us be truthful.

No garden is complete without turnips and the New Year garden should have them – turn up for church, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, turn up with real determination.

*From 'The Friendship Book of Francis Gay', 1996  
Offered by MaryJo Blades.*

**SHIP OF FOOLS**

BLOG FORUMS MYSTERY WORSHIPPER FEATURES SHOP OF FOOLS

**O Happy Day!**  
Look up in the sky! It's a drone! It's a train! It's the Holy Spirit!  
**READ MORE**

The Mystery What? • Interested in becoming a Mystery Worshipper?  
• Looking for a church?

<p><b>Grace Wesleyan</b> Going barefoot and learning how to shoot – is that church? 30 MAY 21 WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, USA</p>	<p><b>CarChurching</b> Visible togetherness on Pentecost Monday – from the comfort of your car! 24 MAY 21 HESSER CENTER, FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY</p>	<p><b>St Leo's</b> Somebody's ringing the bell – is it the pastor? 22 MAY 21 MURRAY, KENTUCKY, USA</p>	<p><b>Evangelische Kreuzkirche</b> A foretaste of heaven – the church bells should have rung continuously! 15 MAY 21 FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY</p>
<p><b>St Joseph's</b> Beautiful, reverent, carefully planned mass – with elbow bump 18 MAY 21 KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, USA</p>	<p><b>Abyssinian Baptist Church</b> 'Don't get silly, now!' Honor your mother every day! 9 MAY 21 NEW YORK CITY</p>	<p><b>St Mary on Paddington Green</b> Sermon a useful spiritual tool in a restless worship atmosphere 2 MAY 21 LITTLE VENICE, LONDON</p>	<p><b>Funeral of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh</b> Prince Philip laid to rest amid an unwavering focus on God 17 APR 21 ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR, ENGLAND</p>

## The Rev writes...

As time presses on towards June we are beginning to see some signs that we might get a summer this year - not before time you might be thinking! May has been a cold month generally and not too sunny either. We hope for better weather ahead to help us cope with the on-going Covid situation.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May we held our Annual Meetings at church in the evening and were pleased to welcome Rita O'Loughlin as a continuing Churchwarden and Andrea Hendrick as a new Churchwarden - taking on the role from John Barrett who sadly died on 17<sup>th</sup> May. So whilst we acknowledge the sadness that John's death brings to us; we are grateful and thankful that Andrea has bravely stepped into the breach.

John Barrett was churchwarden for some three or four years and was also PCC Treasurer for at least 12 years - I don't think he quite remembered when he started. Our gratitude to him was acknowledged last year at the annual meeting when he stepped down from that role. We will miss John, not because of the roles he undertook but simply for the person that he was. He was known for his wit, his quirky sense of humour and his friendliness. I had a fair few photographs sent to me that had me laughing! John didn't like having his photo taken, so most were casual and often made me smile. At time of writing John's funeral will be later this week on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 2.30pm in church and 3.30pm at Landican Crematorium for Committal. He is much on my mind and on the minds of many I am sure. We lift him to the Lord and give thanks for him and all that he has done to serve here at Christ Church.

On another matter entirely, you may have seen on the news that the way in which marriages are registered is changing. From now on instead of registering the marriage in our church wedding registers and receiving a certificate on the day, the couple sign a wedding document that the priest then sends to the Registrar who then issues the couple their certificate.

This means that our marriage registers have now been closed and one copy has been sent to the Registry Office. We will still keep a copy of the old register in church and will now have a new book to record each marriage that takes place. The new marriage document allows for four parents to be entered giving the couple the opportunity for their mothers' details to be entered as well as their

Want to know what goes on in other churches?  
Try the Mystery Worshipper on the <http://shipoffools.com/> website.

fathers'. This also means that any copies of certificates will now only be issued by the Registry Office. Times are a-changing! However, as a church we still undertake the same marriage preliminaries and publish the banns of marriage as before.

We had hoped that as June progresses we might see a further lifting of restrictions but that is now less certain due to the new variant that seems to be spreading. Fortunately, many of us have received both vaccines and hope to be protected well; but of course, we do need to continue to be safe and take care.

Romans 8.38: 'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

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## Remembering John Barrett

I've known John some 16 years, both of us being members of the church family. John had come to Christ Church two or three years before me. We shared over the years fellowship in church life. Sunday worship - I'll miss him shuffling down that aisle always entering church from the rear entrance, saying "Hello Allan," to take his place in the end middle pew. John told me that David Wilson, the then minister, greeted him - with some surprise - when he walked through the church doors and guided him to the middle end pew and said, "You sit here John." So that was where John sat every Sunday from then on for the next 16 years or so. We shared fellowship in bible study groups- where John would occasionally struggle with the absence of any mention of dinosaurs in the creation story or how Jesus could be both God and son of God. For each of us our faith journey generates the questions which are unique and personal to us.

We shared the informal worship of Tuesday mornings, always followed by tea and biscuits and conversations on faith and politics - and much banter. John would join in and cheerily smile. It's sad to reflect that John is the latest to die from that group over the past few years. Michael Iddon, Gordon Smith, Mary, Alf Eacott, John Gilbert, Graeme Citrine - and most recently three months ago Ken Fletcher. John found Ken's death particularly upsetting. The loss weighed

The appointment of the two suffragan bishop posts completes the new episcopal team for the Diocese of Chester after Bishop Mark Tanner's appointment as the diocesan Bishop of Chester in May 2020.

Bishop Mark says: "I am delighted to welcome Julie and Sam to the Diocese of Chester and thank God for calling them to the roles and for all those people involved in the discernment process.

"Julie comes with significant experience as an Archdeacon and ordained minister but also brings with her many years of professional expertise in safeguarding. Her passion for justice and truth, and her joyful faith will be an asset and a blessing to us.

"Having led Leeds Minister since 2015, Sam has many gifts in building relationships and serving varied communities. His passion for sharing the good news of Christ with young people and enabling the Church to grow and serve will be a gift to us, as will his experience helping folk discern God's call in their lives.

Read more about our two new Bishops at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/the-next-bishops-of-birkenhead-and-stockport.php>

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## APCM 2021

The meeting on Wednesday 26 May was attended by 15 members of the congregation. Rita O'Loughlin and Andrea Hendrick were elected as churchwardens without a vote. They were inducted by the Revd Gerri on the authority of the Bishop. Jan Burkill and Paul Rees were re-elected to the PCC for a further three years. Colin Dooley was appointed to examine our finances.

Written reports on the various aspects of church life were received and briefly discussed. (They are available at the back of church.) Mike Tetzlaff spoke about our finances, Rita O'Loughlin thanked Revd Gerri and others for keeping the church going during the pandemic, Peter Martin gave a report on the status of our Planned Giving scheme (see page 11), Mary Kirby outlined her plans to reopen Tots in June and the Revd Gerri reflected on the past year and how we should look to the future with hope, praying for growth and refreshment within our church family.

## The next Bishops of Birkenhead and Stockport

The Venerable Julie Conalty, currently Archdeacon of Tonbridge, will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Revd Canon Sam Corley, currently Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport, Downing Street has announced.

Bishop-designate Julie says of her appointment: "Being nominated to be the next Bishop of Birkenhead is a huge privilege. I am both honoured and daunted to have been appointed. I have a strong sense of calling to this role and to serve the people of Chester Diocese but that doesn't stop me feeling unworthy and slightly terrified.



"I am assured that I will receive a warm welcome and I really look forward to getting to know my new colleagues and community. Please pray for me as I prepare, just as I will pray for you."

Bishop-designate Sam Corley says of his appointment: "It is humbling and so very exciting to have been nominated as the next Bishop of Stockport. Any act of discernment is as demanding as it is energising, but I have had a strong sense of God's leading throughout the appointment process and I am eager to begin getting to know people across the diocese and to learning about the different communities we serve. And what a gift to be able to join a new episcopal team at such a key time in the life of the diocese. I am so excited about working together with Bishop Mark and Julie as we strive to enable the discipleship and ministry of the whole people of



God to flourish and as we support churches, schools and chaplaincies across the diocese in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I know I have much to learn. But I come ready to listen and look forward so much to meeting you all and to all that is to come."

heavy on him. John regularly hosted tea and sandwiches after church at which Ken was a constant presence along with Mary, Paul and Judith. And hosted Ken's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

And in the midst of these were John's involvement in the redesign of the Church kitchen. His sorting handy man problems. His involvement every year on the door of our Summer and Christmas fairs. His attentive counting and bagging of the proceeds of such events. His long service over some 14 years as Church treasurer from which he only stepped down this year. And his service as Church Warden over three years.

In that time within our friendship John shared some of his life story. I trust now hesitantly my own memory here. He had been borne in the house he lived in Gilmour Mount. He had a design background and worked for Littlewoods designing store lay outs. When he learned I was from Leicester, he told me that he had redesigned Littlewood's store lay out in Leicester. He built a boat. That never ceased to amaze me. He had been married - and divorced. He had worked in Kenya. He had contact with - visiting them several times -cousins on his mum's side who lived in Canada. We will hear their memories shortly. And had travelled in the States. A heavy smoker, he stopped some eight years ago. He enjoyed a glass of wine - often more than one - but had stopped that for health reasons. He described himself as having been agnostic. But an event involving falling scaffolding which he miraculously survived through the intervention of an angel sowed the seeds of faith. These were nurtured by kindly visits from Rev David Wilson to John at his house when his mother died.

Already, it's a rich and full life - and I'm only sharing the little he shared with me. But the measure of a person is more than what he or she does. It's lovely to celebrate that history. But what they leave behind speaks more. John leaves a vacuum. One is aware of his absence. He is no longer with us. He will be missed. He could be contrary. He could sometimes be upset like a spoilt child. - rooted one recognised in a sensitivity and vulnerability. Yet one warmed to him. To his smile. He was kind and generous. Thoughtful. He was conscientious. He saw the funny side of things - and it was a joy to share those moments with him. Early on in his role as treasurer when giving his report at the APCM, acknowledging then as ever the fragile state of our accounts, he expressed his hope that Christ Church, while being poor, might yet be known as welcoming and generous. I loved that. It has stayed with me.

God bless you John.

*Allan Goode*

## I shall pass through this world but once

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good deed, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show my fellow creatures, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

Words written by Stephen Grellet (1772—1855). He escaped from the French Revolution, travelled to the United States where he began a life as a Quaker missionary.

I am sure his thoughts will continue to be remembered—relevant sentiments for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*Offered by MaryJo Blades*

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Marie Mairs

## Results of Planned Giving 2020

Our planned giving for last year resulted in a tax claim for £6164.54. The Inland Revenue gave us a further £8.59 in interest, so a total figure of £6173.14 was deposited in the Church accounts earlier this month. This consisted of monies given through the envelope scheme, loose collections or indeed Direct Debits/ Standing Orders, which other people changed to when difficulties rose during the Church closures.

*These options are still open.*

Although the claim is less than previous, it still remains a substantial effort on your behalf.

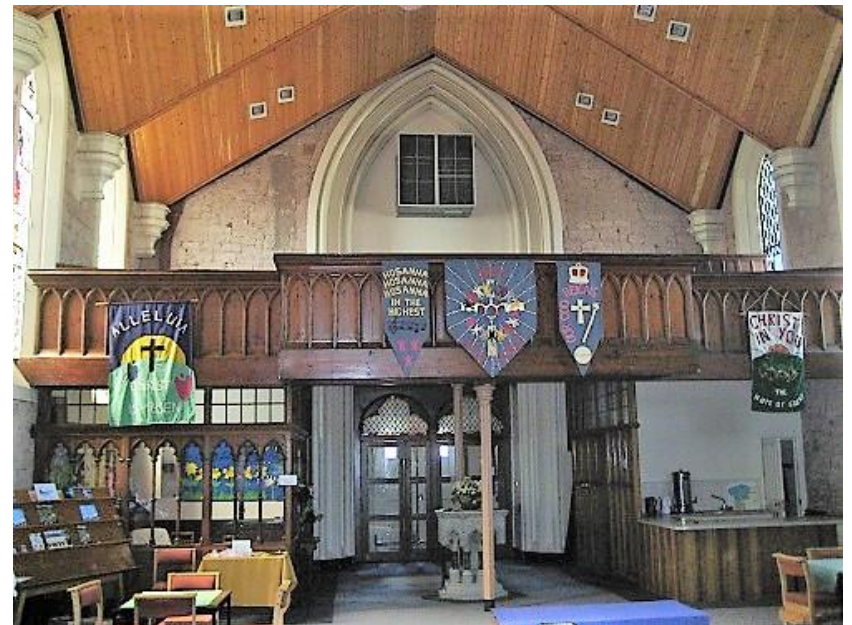
**WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

Anyone interested in contributing in any of these ways, please feel free to contact me.

*Jean Martin*

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## Remember 2010?



*Thanks to Andrea Hendrick*

The church hall was a popular sight at the end of Sunday services with cups of tea and hot “braddies” served to the congregation - nothing could have been more welcome and delicious after a service which often stretched to almost two hours! Thank heavens for Gerri’s succinctness.

I drifted away from regular church attendance as a teen and early twenty-year-old, but when I became a mother was drawn back into the church fold at Christ Church as I wanted my children to have the guidance and wisdom I experienced growing up to stand them in good stead for the way ahead. It was to be a lifelong relationship, giving me comfort, wisdom, support and friendship throughout my life and for that I am eternally grateful. I hope you enjoy my childish musings as much as I have enjoyed sharing them. Thank you.

*Yvonne Crowhurst*

### **Aberdeen Braddies**

450g best quality minced beef or steak

1/2 tsp salt & pepper

Grated white onion (medium)

75g Atona suet (shredded beef)

2 sheets ready rolled puff pastry

Whisked egg to brush tops before baking.

(Makes six average braddies)

Preheat oven to 200°C.

Put meat, suet, salt & pepper, into a bowl and mix.

Add grated onion and squash together.

Unfold pastry and cut sheet into four ovals

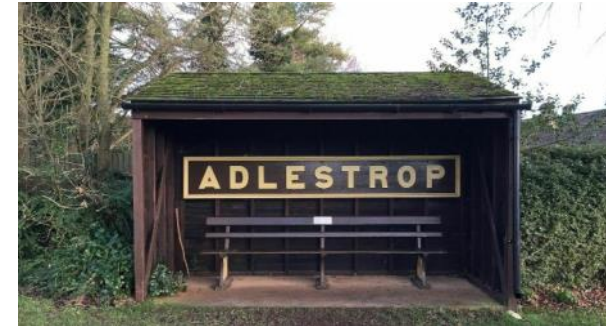
Put 1/6th meat mixture rolled into a ball onto one half of an oval and press down tightly. Fold pastry over to cover meat and seal edges, crimping to ensure no seepage during cooking.

Brush with beaten egg. Poke a hole on the top. Place on baking parchment.

Refrigerate for 20 mins or until needed.

Bake for 40 minutes at 200c. Cover with foil if browning too quickly.

### **A Poem for the month of June**



Yes, I remember Adlestrop –  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.  
No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop – only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

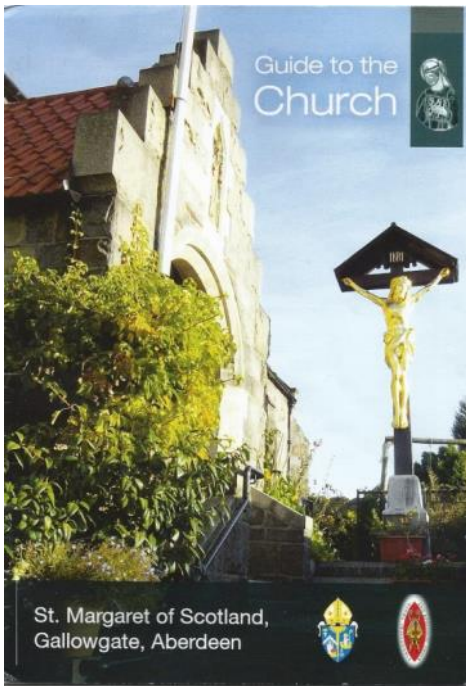
The poem was written by Edward Thomas (1878-1917) describing the occasion in June 1914 when the express train he was travelling on stopped unexpectedly at Adlestrop. The station closed in 1966: local residents retained the sign, appreciated still by thousands of poetry-loving tourists. Do you remember learning the poem at school as I do?

## Flower of Scotland - reflections of a six-year-old

Back in the days when all the summers were warm, days were endless and the world a newer and rosier place - if only in our memories - one of my first recollections of being in church were the occasions of family weddings in St Margaret of Scotland church in the Gallowgate, Aberdeen, our family's church for many years. My feelings are recalled as those of celebration and excitement, as I was six years old, attending the wedding of my aunt and attired splendidly in a brown wool coat with velvet collar over a pale lemon summer dress, matching ribbons, socks and MaryJane shoes. Very dapper!

Coming from a large family from both my mother and father, it was often the frequent weddings which loom large in my memory, rather than the church services I'm ashamed to say. Standing on the steps of the 'cathedral-like' proportions of the church to be photographed at numerous family weddings, was thrilling, especially as I knew that a great time was about to be had by all.

St Margaret's is an inner-city granite-built church dedicated in 1869, consecrated in 1890 and founded by Father John Comper, whose son Sir Ninian Comper was the architect. The building is quite hidden from passers-by on



three sides but, from the car park approach, it stands like a stronghold on a hill, the gilded and carved Lister Crucifix, standing guard in the South porch, beckoning us towards it like a light. This is now a replica, the work of Anne Davidson, a local sculptor, with the original safely stowed within the church.

I moved with my family to the suburbs when I was two, but St Margaret's remained our church for all the time Aberdeen was my home. (Still think of it as that, if the truth be known, as we so often do of our birthplace.)

Other memories of church attendance as a child are not so welcome. We were

Episcopalians, the meaning of which escaped me, but I remember the church service was what my mother termed "high English" of which I knew nothing. I can recall however having to endure the waft of incense liberally distributed as the rector and



entourage processed through the church, a mass sung in part and seemingly endless, and difficult to understand in one so young, boredom making me rigid.

An elderly clergyman used to frighten the life out of me by spending the whole of the service prostrate on the altar steps and adopting other quite bizarre practices. None of this behaviour was explained or excused by my mother and as a child in those days you asked less questions, but I can see him in my mind's eye to this day in his white robes.

However, a glorious memory which still makes me smile is attending the Easter Sunday service when, following the austerity of Lent, the church seemed to glow on entering. The clergy were dressed in magnificent robes, beautiful flowers adorned many nooks and crannies and the building always seemed filled with sunshine, streaming through the stained-glass windows and the hymns were sung loudly and enthusiastically to herald in the risen Christ.

The congregation -well the ladies at least - would be turned out in their Easter Spring outfits with wonderful hats, hope filling the air and an air of expectancy filling the church. It was joyful.

Having revisited my childhood church in more recent years, I realise that the "cathedral-like proportions" of the church was such as viewed by a six-year-old and in actual fact it is a church of modest size, with only one side chapel. It stands in a quadrangle, sharing the space with an even more modest school, where we attended Sunday School, taught by the nuns from the local convent, and a church hall.