

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

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.

**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/>

Don't forget—it's your magazine!

Contributions to me by Sunday, 29th August, please. Thanks.

Paul Rees, Editor,

oxtonrees@gmail.com



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
Summer 2021



Services in Church

Sundays at 10.30am.

4th July Trinity 5: Morning Prayer
11th July Trinity 6: Holy Communion
18th July Trinity 7: Morning Prayer
25th July Trinity 8: Holy Communion

1st August Trinity 9: Morning Prayer
8th August Trinity 10: Holy Communion
15th August Trinity 11: Morning Prayer
22nd August Trinity 12: Holy Communion
29th August Trinity 13: Holy Communion

You can keep up to date with us via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/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.

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

Motion submitted to ruling body says clergy should be addressed as vicar or bishop rather than Reverend

The Church of England is being urged to abolish the title of Reverend as part of efforts to tackle a culture of deference. Instead of titles such as Reverend, Right Reverend, Very Reverend, Most Reverend or Venerable, clergy should be addressed using the names of their roles, such as vicar, rector, bishop or archbishop, says a motion submitted to the C of E's ruling body next month.

The motion quotes Peter Hancock, who was the C of E's lead bishop on safeguarding until last year, who told the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA) that "issues of clericalism and deference have allowed abuse to be covered up and the voices of the vulnerable to be silenced".

The title Reverend, referring to a person who should be held in reverence, has been in use for centuries. Crockfords, the C of E reference book, says in a section on how to address the clergy: "A good deal depends on circumstances, and, where a personal preference is known, it is usually good practice to follow it."

In a damning report published last October, IICSA said the C of E's culture of deference and "clericalism" meant it was a place where abusers could hide. The report added: "Deference to the authority of the church and to individual priests ... presented barriers to disclosure that many victims could not overcome." The clerical culture of the church "meant that the moral authority of clergy was widely perceived as beyond reproach", it said.

The motion, submitted by James Dudley-Smith, the vicar of St John's in Yeovil, Somerset, is unlikely to pass the threshold of 100 supporting signatures to be debated at next month's General Synod. A C of E spokesperson said: "This is a private member's motion tabled in February which is not due to be discussed at synod."

The Guardian newspaper, 25th June

From September 2021, we will reintroduce the 9am BCP Holy Communion service each Sunday at Christ Church.

Tasting Tots Spot



Tots 'taster' sessions opened under strict Covid guidelines on June 16th and 17th. Some six families were booked on each day. It was amazing to see our families again after so long. Everything went really well, and we were so pleased to see how the children began to interact with each other after being separated from their friends for so long. Their parents and carers seemed relaxed too, as they began to socialize again—despite the restrictions.

After our summer break we hope to resume more normally in September.

Mary Kirby



The Rev writes...

I'll not lie, as I sit writing this, summer looks like its flat-lined! What's going on with the weather? Last week, whilst on phase two of our 'holiday' seeing family and a couple of friends down south - the weather was worse there than it was up here at home. One day it pelted down continually - all day. My nephew had managed to put up his mega-tent in my sister's garden the day before, just prior to rain starting. It rained solidly for a day and a half! Oh well, mustn't grumble.

It was funny though watching him work - he had bought it as it was possible for one person to put it up - very handy when you have a one year old. It took him about an hour and he said that with a bit of practice he would be able to do it in 15 minutes. The tent is huge - various 'rooms'; porch area, general area for living in and bedroom pods that could be zipped together in different configurations. When he had a 'carpet' delivered for the living area I realized that camping has changed quite a bit since I was in the Girl Guides as it was called then. In fact, the tent looked bigger than quite a few houses round and about. His own garden was not big enough for him to practice pitching it there, so dear old mum and dad came to the rescue. Fortunately, after the day and a half of rain, it stopped and the tent dried out - it hadn't leaked either - bonus!

You might be wondering why I'm going on about the weather - it crops us quite a lot in the Bible - often when it is unusual - think of the Flood in Genesis, Elijah praying that there would be no rain - for three years (1 Kings 17 & 18), and in the New Testament the parable of the wise and foolish builders (Matt 7), the storm on Lake Galilee (Mark 4) and so on. There are many others that you might be able to recall. A final one to recall - in Joshua 10.11 it mentions great hailstones falling on the Amorites and killing them. I remember hearing someone preach on this and they said that of course, this would not really have happened as hailstones were not that big! I had to put him right on that one after the service - I'd seen huge hailstones when we lived in New York and they could easily have killed a person. I guess it goes to show that something outside of our own experience can seem unreal.

It could be a project for you over the summer to look up weather events in the Bible (google might help with this!) See if you can find any meaning in these stories and events that might point us to a deeper understanding of God. What teaching points are being made through them?

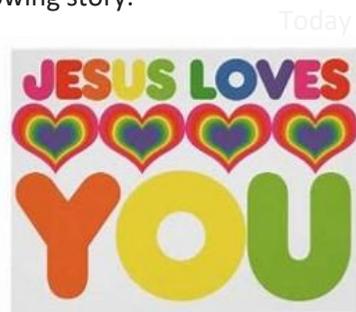
As we hope for good days ahead; peaceful days with some sunshine, a bit of a nice breeze and some decent warmth from the sun, I do hope that you are able to spend time with family and friends and maybe go away for a break from home and the routines that you are following day to day. We continue to hope for life to return to something resembling normal, yet are mindful that there is still a way to go. A summer reprieve will be most welcome and hopefully we shall see the science on the virus going in the right direction. Let's pray with hope for better times and give thanks for family, friends, church, community and our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

The Wayside Pulpit

Most churches have one. In our case, it's on the rear corner of the building on the bend of Christchurch Road as it turns to go up the hill into Oxton. A display box mounted some 20 feet high, in which we display printed posters with messages such as *Jesus loves you*. It's easy to be dismissive of them as trite and simplistic. And to overlook them. I confess to having done both. But Andy told me, as we chatted outside after church, the following story.

'I was tidying up hedge cuttings on the pavement of Christchurch Road when an elderly chap stopped to share a few words with me. He spoke of how tidy the church grounds were. Then he commented on the poster that had been in the wayside pulpit. He had woken up one morning and seen the poster. And it had given him a lift for the whole day.'



God at work through the simplicity of that poster. Healing, encouraging, affirming. God at work through the simplicity of that poster – or a smile, kind word, thoughtful act, time given to stop and chat.

Revd Allan Goode

Thoughts for the beginning of a new day

O God, as I go out to life and work today
I thank you for the world's beauty
For the light of the sun
For the wind on my face
For the colour of the flowers
And for glimpses of lovely things
I thank you for life's gracious things
For friendship's help
For kinship's strength
For love's wonder.

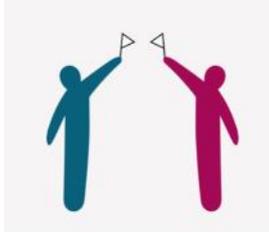
Dr William Barclay (1907-78)

Make this day a happy day,
make it work for you.
Put the zest and joy of life
in all you do or say.
Love and laugh, be positive,
enthusiastic, bright.
Say no to all that's negative,
soon all will turn out right

Kathleen Gillum

*Poems offered by MaryJo Blades
From the Friendship Book of Francis Gay, 2000.*

Flags of Welcome – Refugee Week 2021



‘Recently we have seen the effects of inequalities in our society but also how interconnected we all are. We have seen how coming together, with all our individual differences, can create a ‘bigger us’, can empower us all to move forward, do amazing things.

‘This year the theme for Refugee Week was ‘We Cannot Walk Alone’ or ‘Walking Together’. In the spirit of this we invited the public to show its support for those coming to the city of Chester, fleeing from violence and persecution, by ‘planting’ a flag of welcome as part of our installation at the Cathedral between 17th and 20th June.

For more information visit <https://chester.cityofsanctuary.org/>



Here’s Mary Kirby planting a flag!

COFFEE

I was quite taken with the testimony of a man featured on the Sunday Morning Live programme this week and I thought it might be worth sharing for the magazine.

Pastor Mick runs the Church on the Street ministries in his hometown of Burnley, But before finding God = or God finding him - he was an extremely violent criminal working for drug dealers. In describing his conversion to becoming a Christian, Mick shares these words:

“I felt loved. I felt that God saved me and I didnt deserve it but he did it anyway. - for ME!! ME!!!!!! who had done so many horrendous things.”

I found this to be a powerful affirmation of God's Grace from Pastor Mick. We never deserve God's Grace and forgiveness, but he gives it to us anyway.

The second thought provoking point from the testimony was that Mick described himself as a quiet, timid little boy when he was small, but he learnt how to be bad very quickly. He had watched the film The Godfather and he saw that the gangsters were treated with respect and he wanted to be like them. How sad that a small boy has not been able to grow with any sense of belonging or feeling loved which then leads him down a dark path of destruction.

On a lighter note, I was tickled by the large sign on the cafe counter in Pastor Mick's church building. In large letters it says: C O F F E E next to a picture of a cup of coffee. Underneath it reads: Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere!

I liked that and I wonder if Christ Church should think about reproducing this at the back of church. However, as a tea drinker I think we could preface it by saying: T E A ! Tell Everyone Around!

If anyone is interested in hearing more of Pastor Mick's testimony, it is within the Sunday Morning Live programme on BBC iplayer, Series 12, episode 2.

Joan Goodier

Evacuation

I must have been about seven years old, when the War started and, although we were all given gas masks and became very familiar with the sound of air-raid sirens, my ideas of what war actually was remained very chaotic, so the idea of evacuation and what it meant completely eluded me.

My chief memory of the actual occasion was of arriving in some confusion at a busy station, all of us hung around with various articles (and gas masks, no doubt!) and being ushered with crowds of excited children (all carefully labelled) onto a stationary train.

As the train moved out of the station, I had a last glimpse of my little brother held high in my mother's arms. At this last moment his face split open in utter dismay and panic as he realised his brother and sisters were fast disappearing, and it was at this very moment too that I realised that matters were after all serious. The journey seemed endless to us children, all hanging desperately onto our bags, lunches and paper cartons. But worse was to come. At some point my sister and I realised that our brother had disappeared. We searched desperately up and down the train, but he had simply vanished.

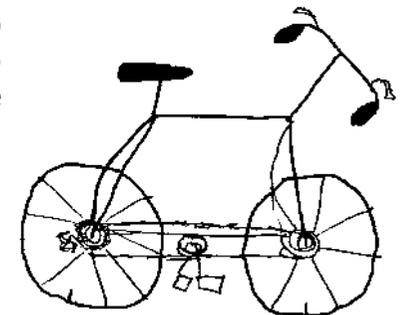
It seemed hours later when we arrived at Criccieth and left the train to be taken to a large wooden hut where we stood together in a crowd. From time to time people came in and left with a small bewildered child. The group grew smaller until only my sister and I remained. I think the organisers were trying to keep sisters together but eventually we were both taken off to different sides of the town. These organisers we regarded rather in the light of maiden aunts, all busy and kindly but not seeming to realise that for children a visit to the toilet is necessary. I had not seen one since I had left home.

I was finally taken to a large high domed hotel at the end of a long garden and was led into a room where my feet sank into at least two inches of carpet. The owners, an elderly couple, were seated on a settee regarding me - a rather dirty sticky child, still hung around with parcels. (We didn't dare lose any - after all, they came from home. It was at this point I think I disgraced myself - at least I never entered that room again. However, I was taken to the kitchen, another large room, where the presiding deities were the two maids Morag and Nancy of whom I became very fond.

Remember the Blue & Plaster?



Our 'Barnabas' correspondent, Judith Newburn, has indicated that while Canon John will have completed his cycling pilgrimage by the time you read this, he would still be very grateful to receive donations. Please give your address, mention Christ Church, and indicate if you are able to gift aid your donation when you write to him. Cheques, of course, to 'The Barnabas Fund'.






barnabasfund
hope and aid for the persecuted church

Canon John Bowers
2, Shalford Grove, West Kirby,
Wirral, CH48 9XY
0151 625 4831

50 miles Sponsored Cycling Pilgrimage

to Basingwerk Abbey

26th June 2021

Dear Friends,

It gives me real pleasure to express our appreciation for your continued support for our annual Sponsored Cycling Pilgrimage for the Barnabas Fund's programme of care for needy Christians. At the Last Supper, Jesus said we are to 'Love one another as He loves us'.

Last year you most generously responded with over £16,600 for those in need.

As in past years, my daughter Ruth with son Chris and his daughter Ayse will be with me on Saturday 26th June 2021. We will cycle some 50 miles to pray at Basingwerk Abbey, which was founded by the order of Cistercians in 1147 and later dissolved by Henry VIII in 1536. The ruins are now at the start of the North Wales Pilgrims' Way, providing a challenging 140 miles walk to Bardsey Island; fancy a week's holiday?

We will continue to support the Cana Girls Rescue Home in Kenya providing a safe refuge for girls escaping F.G.M., forced early marriage and other terrible customs. We will also help persecuted Christians in other countries where they face violence, injustice and other forms of harm. Please choose which area of vital work you would like to support.

I thank you most gratefully for such prayer and help as you can offer.

Sincere Blessings,

John Bowers

On a day shortly after my arrival, I was given a large saucepan and told that since I had little hands, I would be very good at picking gooseberries. Hoisting up my huge pan I made my way to the vegetable garden where I was soon very happily collecting the great sun-warmed berries that grew profusely all over the large bush. When I returned triumphant to the kitchen the girls showed me how to 'top and tail' the berries which I embarked on very contentedly, while listening enthralled to their conversation about their many boyfriends and their various shortcomings! At last, I knew I could be happy here.

Jean Broster



Second World War evacuees—*Liverpool Echo*, 27 November 2015.

One of 21 pictures published in that day's edition.

See <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/nostalgia/gallery/second-world-war-local-evacuees-10512910>

A Poem for Summer — ‘The Brook’

I come from haunts of coot and hern,
I make a sudden sally,
And sparkle out among the fern,
To bicker down a valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down,
Or slip between the ridges,
By twenty thorps, a little town,
And half a hundred bridges.

Till last by Philip's farm I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

I chatter over stony ways,
In little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays,
I babble on the pebbles.

With many a curve my banks I fret
by many a field and fallow,
And many a fairy foreland set
With willow-weed and mallow.

I chatter, chatter, as I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

I wind about, and in and out,
with here a blossom sailing,
And here and there a lusty trout,
And here and there a grayling,



The Arrowe Brook, June 2021

And here and there a foamy flake
Upon me, as I travel
With many a silver water-break
Above the golden gravel,

And draw them all along, and flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

I steal by lawns and grassy plots,
I slide by hazel covers;
I move the sweet forget-me-nots
That grow for happy lovers.

I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,
Among my skimming swallows;
I make the netted sunbeam dance
Against my sandy shallows.

I murmur under moon and stars
In brambly wildernesses;
I linger by my shingly bars;
I loiter round my cresses;

And out again I curve and flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)
offered by Linda Colwell*