

**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

Rev Gerri's email: christchurch.gerri@gmail.com

Rev Gerri's phone number: 0151 651 0768

Website

<http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>

Facebook

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

Church office email: christchurchbirkenhead@gmail.com

for room bookings etc.

or leave a message on 0151 652 3990

**Don't forget—it's your magazine!
Contributions by Sunday, 26th September, please.**

***Paul Rees, Editor,
oxtonrees@gmail.com***



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
September 2021



Services in Church

Sundays at 9am
Holy Communion (BCP)

Sundays at 10.30am.
5th September: Morning Prayer
12th September: Holy Communion
19th September: Morning Prayer
26th September: Harvest Festival (followed by lunch)

You can also keep up to date 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.**



THE OXTON ACADEMY
TUTORING FOR SUCCESS

FOR ALL YOUR TUTORING NEEDS

20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
TEACHING AND TUTORING ON
THE WIRRAL

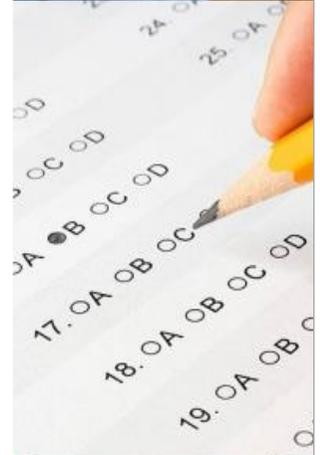
We provide the following classes:

- 11+ Preparation
- Year 4 Maths & English Support
- Year 5 Maths & English Support
- Year 6 SATs Support
- 1:1 Tutoring (across Wirral)
- Small Class Tutoring (Oxton Village)

For a full list of our services and prices, please visit our website or FB page.

Contact Us:

Kate & Chris at The Oxton Academy
Email: theoxtonacademy@gmail.com
Web: www.oxtonacademy.co.uk
Facebook: The Oxton Academy



Paul's Holy Socks—faith on his feet



Holy Socks website is at <https://www.holysocks.co.uk/>

The Rev writes ...

I had hoped to have something substantial and brilliant to pass on to you all this month but I think it will have to wait for the October edition of the magazine. That says to me that God is saying, 'think about it all Gerri!' So forgive me if you have to be content with some of my usual ramblings. My thoughts about the future will continue to brew for a little while longer.

I am praying and thinking about the future of Christ Church, our life together and our mission. I would ask you to pray too that God would continue to speak to us through many ways and means and different people; I pray too that our leadership and PCC might be inspired to flesh out some burgeoning thoughts. That might sound a bit mysterious, its really not meant to be but do pray for the PCC meeting on 22nd September.

The summer feels to be coming to an end as the weather turns a little cool, with the odd day of brilliant sunshine. The Bank Holiday weekend was lovely but literally changed on the Monday - typical. For September we will be re-introducing the 9.00am service of BCP Holy Communion. This will be for a trial period of two-three months with a review towards the end of that time to decide on the way forward. From September 12th we will be including more hymns in the 10.30am service and hopefully things will begin to feel a little more familiar.

Later in the month, on Sunday 26th September the 10.30am service will be an All-Age Harvest service - donations of food and other items for Wirral Foodbank. They have asked for the following for Harvest:

- * Tinned Potatoes * Packet / Cup a Soup
 - * Tinned Fruit * Shampoo
 - * Sugar * Toothbrushes
 - * Fruit Squash * Jam
 - * Coffee (small) * Rice Pudding
 - * Tinned Tuna * Instant Mash
 - * Custard * Biscuits
 - * Washing up Liquid * Rice Pudding
 - * Size 6 Nappies * Toothpaste
- They have plenty of BEANS, PASTA, TEA & SOUP!

The service at Christ Church will be followed by a light lunch of soup, bread, cheese and of course cake! Please let Jackie know if you will be coming, it would be great to see you and enable us to manage numbers. Lunch will be served in church at tables.

Thank you all for your support of the Foodbank in the past and for Harvest (in advance). We shall put out our usual boxes for Foodbank collections again in church and in the foyer for the Hall.

Back at the beginning of August we hosted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the Foodbank with the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor of Birkenhead as well as many Foodbank volunteers. It was a lovely occasion and very well deserved.

As I draw to a close with the future very much in mind I have thought of this verse from Romans 15.13: *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* Amen.

Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

Baptisms in July

Hugo Robert Gardner
Harrison Michael Gardner

Weddings in July

Christopher Lucas and Carrie Anthony
Lee Fenwick and Charlotte Cummings

Funerals in September

May Goat and Lesley Hughes

Did you miss the train?

A seventy-foot long model railway was on show at Chester Cathedral during the summer holidays showing off the works of Thomas Brassey, the 19th century railway engineer who was born in Chester. Included in the model were some of the tunnels and viaducts now part of our main West Coast main line to London. The model was accompanied by an exhibition of posters by Nicky Thompson of features on the mid-Cheshire railway line between Chester and Stockport. An excellent show, clearly bringing many people, church-goers and non-church-goers alike, into the cathedral.



There is a piece about the model and its history on the diocesan website at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/model-railway-shunts-into-action-at-chester-cathedral.php>

And a video about the construction of the model at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDMQVwVm6pM>

The news section of the diocesan website often contains items of interest about people and activities happening in our area. The parishioners of St Alban's Tattenhall have had their first fete since lockdown; there's a Lego model of St Mary's Stockport on display in their church; and the Rector of Woodchurch discusses the link between the Sabbath and holidays.

Missions Through The Ages

Voice of a Youth

To explore the world this universe
To inspire ourselves and others
To make the best when feeling the worst
To join as sisters and brothers
To make a strong and moral stance
To fight for common goals
To free mankind from ignorance
To free our hearts and souls.

Voice of an Adult

Carpe Diem, let's do it today ...

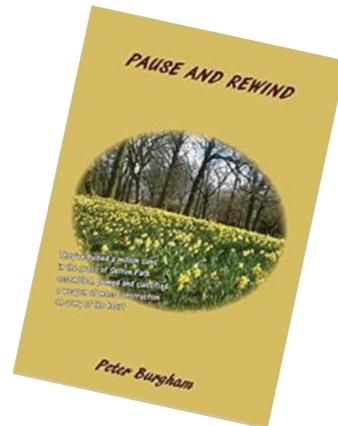
Voice of an Old Parishioner

'Ey up, let's put the kettle on first ...

Peter Burgham

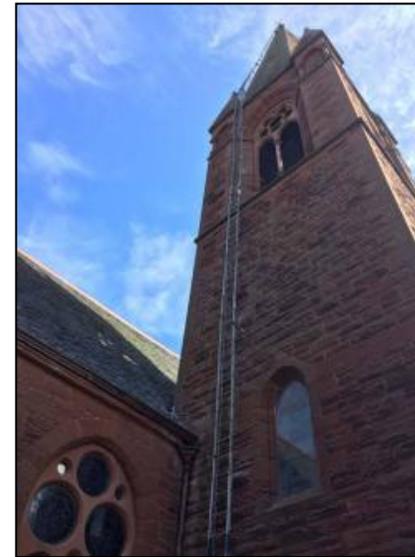
from his recent book Pause And Rewind

Offered by Rob Perry



Pause and Rewind is the inaugural collection of photo-poems on the theme of 'Places', blending together the author's own poems and images. A light-hearted tour in verse looking at life in the early 2020s. In *Pause and Rewind* we reflect on some of the values and customs which make the world a better place but seem sometimes to be in short supply, not least tolerance, patience, compassion and a sense of humour. Locations visited include Liverpool (Peter's home town), London, Yorkshire and Dorset, along with places in the Caribbean, Switzerland, France, New York and elsewhere..

Stonework Repairs



Many of you—and certainly the members of the PCC—will know that we need to have work done on the high level stonework here at Christ Church. It is a matter that we shall have to attend to in the near future.

Looking through the website of Harry Hunter at <https://harryhunteronline.com/> I was intrigued to see he had covered the subject in one of his acrostics.

He writes: 'Presently, our church tower has become unsafe and is undergoing inspection with a view to urgent repairs. It reminded me that "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe." (Proverbs 18:10).

Architects tell us our tower needs repair

Sandstone erodes, grout crumbles, timbers wear

Time takes its toll on brickwork and mortar

Rafters and beams suffer ingress of water.

Once our tower was weatherproof, undecayed;

Now it needs restoration, its structure made

Good once more to withstand the salt-wind's scour.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower

Offering the righteous a sure salvation

Within an impregnable fortification.

Earth's proud towers always need to be restored

Rock solid hope rests on the name of the Lord.

Digital Graveyards

19,000 churchyards are being surveyed in a Church of England project to create a digital map of every grave and feature in every churchyard in the country. The ancient church of St Bega on the shore of Bassenthwaite Lake is the first being surveyed using the sophisticated laser equipment. The Church of England has partnered with Cumbrian-based company Atlantic Geomatics who will use back-pack mounted laser scanners to quickly and accurately map churchyards and photograph all the visible headstones.



A website will go online next year giving free access to the map which will be of interest to local community groups, conservationists, and those researching family history. The website will also enable the charting of biodiversity and green technology. The project will take some seven years to complete. Data on burials will be combined with other information, such as the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, to present the most complete picture of churchyards to date.

Funding for the programme has come from Historic England, with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Caring for God's Acre supporting the pilot phase, along with support from genealogy research websites, all of which are allowing the basic service to be made available to parishes free of charge.

All Saints Thelwall is the first church in our diocese to be surveyed and mapped, with all visible monuments photographed. Burial registers were scanned and details uploaded, recording 1687 names from 1784 to 2020. It is now accessible at <https://thelwall.burialgrounds.co.uk/>.

More information at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/>



To make you laugh!

from MaryJo Blades

This is one of my dearest mum's jokes. It is a Dutch joke (my beloved mum was Dutch born and bred, and naturalised British). For me, it was the joke of my childhood.

A constable was checking his beat one day, and he paid particular attention to the house of the mentally handicapped..

When that gentleman arrived at their house for an inspection, he saw the home occupants climbing up ladders fixed to trees, then crawling along the boughs and then leaping off.

"What on earth are they doing?" he asked. "Nothing to worry about," said the boss of the home, "they're just playing rotten apples!"

Why was the archaeologist's wife always happy?

Because the older she became, the more interested in her he became.
Or was it ...
Because they did not have to dig too deeply to find their own happiness.

What is the clergy's favourite type of music? ... Soul music.

Heritage Open Days

Wednesday September 15th to Saturday September 18th
12noon to 4pm.

We're opening our church to visitors for the open days again. There will be displays about the history of the church and Wilfred Owen to look at. Refreshments will be available. Paul Broadhurst will be giving organ recitals on Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm.

Excitement at Wells Cathedral

Last week, Mary and I enjoyed a GB Tours coach trip to Somerset, staying at an hotel in Weston Super Mare. We had a wonderful time, visiting the West Somerset Railway, a demonstration of cheese making in the village of Cheddar and sampling seven different ciders at the Sheppy Cider Farm. But, so far as a parish magazine is concerned, the highlight of the visit was to the Bishop's Palace and Cathedral in England's smallest city, Wells.

Well, it should have been. When we got to the Bishop's Palace we were informed that we could only visit the gardens, because they were recording the 'Antiques Road Show' in there. Actually, we soon realised, that was not quite true—they were also recording it out on the lawn! So after a brief wander round in almost perfect silence we returned to find Fiona Bruce in action, ready to identify a box of medals. But, the producer wanted an audience to stand close up behind the medals. And ... seeing Mary at the edge of the lawn, they whisked her away and placed her in front of the camera! So, watch out for the Road Show in the autumn! She's in blue, in the centre of the photo below!



And as for me? Well I bought myself a pair of Holy Socks!

Paul Rees

For the Children



The Autumn term is here and we are looking forward to our Sunday School and the Tots Spot groups starting again. We cannot wait to welcome them back.

*Mary Kirby
Children and Families Worker*

He wanted Me!

I've been asked to share my story of how I first encountered my Saviour.

I was born in a traditional Liverpool working-class family that believed in God, but for whatever reason was no longer connected to Church. My teenage years were about trying to live life to the full and gain friends. My philosophy was "eat, drink and be merry", never mind about tomorrow.

In my early 30's, at a friend's wedding, I was watching several old school friends and realised that although we had all achieved relative success in the worldly terms, there seemed to be a deep underlying unhappiness. We were all still drinking too much, some smoking and several already exhibiting physical weaknesses. This was reinforced by the presence of a person who was the life and soul of the celebration, completely relaxed, but not drinking – my friend, the groom, had told us about this person that was a bit "odd" because they were a Christian.

A few weeks later I decided to give religion a go and sneaked in at the back of my local church, St Mark's in Haydock. The people I sat near were very sensitive to my nervousness, just smiled with a polite "Hello". After a few months it felt so normal and welcoming, I was invited to after Church activities and started to attend morning services. I eventually became involved in Boys Brigade and running Children's Summer Camps, but I still felt something was missing. I had tried saying the Prayer to accept Jesus into my life and although I was sincere I knew there was more.



In 1986, I agreed to go on the Church's annual long weekend Retreat to the Lake District. It then shocked my brother that I turned down a ticket for the first Merseyside FA Cup game on the same weekend. On the Saturday evening, during our worship, there was a time of quiet for personal prayer. As I sat there, I sensed a picture of a brick wall surrounding me and God saying break this down and let me in. It was then that I realised that I lived behind a wall, never letting anyone get close to the real me because of the inferiority I felt. As I broke down the wall and I felt the warmth of God's unconditional love for the first time.

Rob Perry

A Prayer

Please may God bless you every moment
and keep you in his care,
Please may God send you gifts of hope and joy
and happiness to share.

Please may God walk with you each morning
and send you his guiding light,
And please may his everlasting peace
give restful sleep at night.

Please may God take your hand in trouble,
in turmoil and in strife,
And please may the comfort of His love
Forever fill your life.

Iris Hesselden
From The Friendship Book of Francis Gay 2000
offered by MaryJo Blades