



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
October 2021



Services in Church

Sundays at 9am
Holy Communion (BCP)

Sundays at 10.30am
3rd October : Morning Prayer
10th October : Holy Communion
17th October : Morning Prayer
24th October : Holy Communion
31st October : Special Service reflecting on the pandemic

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 Rev writes...

Reflection and Prayer

I don't know about you but I feel the need to catch my breath before we step into the winter months! The pandemic might feel like it is receding but it is still with us. However, I do feel that it is important to make sure that we process all that has happened in the past 18 months or so. The feelings of loss and grief that many have felt recently is not reserved for bereavement. There is grief over many other things but much of it goes unacknowledged. We should reflect and count the cost rather than carry on regardless.

We've seen our church here, shrink. People have been lost from our own congregation and from some of our families. There have been other losses too - loss of precious time, loss of our usual way of life, loss of independence and other things too. So, I am calling on you to reflect on the past and pray.

I would like to begin by having a time of Reflection on the Pandemic - an opportunity for people to gather on a Wednesday morning in church at 11.00am for an hour on the following dates: **13th October 2021 and 20th October 2021** with refreshments to follow.

These times will provide a space to share with one another, to reflect and to pray about anything we come with, or what God might be showing us is important to bring out and to lay down; with particular focus on the past 18 months and that sense of loss that we might be feeling.

Then on **Sunday 31st October** we will have a special service at 10.30am in order to bring to the Lord those things from the past. Partly so that we can express how we feel and also to ask the Lord for healing, peace and the courage to move on. There will be an opportunity to bring up pieces of writing, prayers, psalms that you have written if that is how you like to express yourself.

When I came to Christ Church, even before I began ministry here, I had a sense of being in a church that prayed. That might sound odd, people pray in church; of course, Christians pray! Yet, I felt the prayer life of Christ Church to be at the forefront of operations. Daily Morning Prayer, Tuesdays with a Bible Study too and very often inspiring intercessions at the Sunday services, as well as people willing to pray with anyone in need.

What does your prayer life look like now? What does the prayer life of the church look like now? If you are anything like me, it has been a bit hit and miss. My own prayer life feels tired and weak and our prayer life together as a church has been changed dramatically. The daily prayers in church went with the first lockdown. Other things have taken their place but they are mostly prayers that we have undertaken as individuals, or the odd Zoom session or on my weekly (ish) emails and of course at Sunday services.

Now feels like the time to begin to consider the way forward. We want and need to go forward in looking to the future. This, I believe begins with prayer. In light of this, Morning Prayer in church will begin again in October from Monday 11th October at 9.00am. We will be covering Monday to Thursday initially. The door to church will be ajar, please do join us if you can. Let's pray that the Lord continues to guide and lead us as we navigate the next phase of life at Christ Church.

Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

Coming Community Activities

(As at 27 September 2021)

Monday	9am - 4.15pm	Covid Testing	Main Hall (4th & 11 October)
Tuesday	9.30am - 10.30am 4pm - 5pm 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Pilates Oxton Academy Pregnancy Yoga	Main Hall Wilfred Owen Room Main Hall (starts 9 November)
Wednesday	10am - 11.30am 4pm - 5pm 6.30pm - 7.30pm 7pm - 9pm	Tots Spot Oxton Academy Pilates Oxton Sewing group	Main Hall Wilfred Owen Room Main Hall Wilfred Owen Room (fortnightly)
Thursday	10am - 11.30am 4pm - 5pm Evening	Tots Spot Oxton Academy Woodcraft	Main Hall Wilfred Owen Room Main Hall (to be confirmed)
Friday	Morning Afternoon	Krafty Krew Kids Aloud	(to be confirmed) (to be confirmed)
Saturday	Morning Morning	Art Class Mini First Aid	St Michael's Room, (starts October) (to be confirmed, occasional dates)

Dates for your diary

Morning Prayer: Monday - Thursday each week, beginning Monday 11th October at 9.00am in church for 30 minutes. This will be led by one of the Ministry Team.

Reflections on the Pandemic:

Wednesday 13th and 20th October in church at 11.00am

Coming together for an hour to reflect and pray with refreshments after.

Sunday 31st October - 10.30am service - a special service to bring to the Lord those things that we have reflected on and to ask the Lord to equip us for the future.

Open Church: Saturdays - from Saturday 16th October 10.00am to 12pm refreshments available and a Space to Pray at the prayer station.

Beckett in Birkenhead: 28, 29 and 30 October at 8pm .

Confirmation Service:

Sunday 31st October at 6.30pm at Oxtou St Saviour

Just before lockdown a Confirmation Service had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. This has been re-scheduled and two people will be confirmed who underwent preparation at that time - Linda Jenkin and Jay Harrigan Jones. Please pray for them as they take this step.

We are hoping to have a further Confirmation Service here at Christ Church next year.

All Souls Service: Tuesday 2nd November at 6pm in Christ Church - an annual service of remembering our loved ones who have died. This is open to all from our community as we commit our loved ones afresh to God and give thanks for them.



The Extraordinary Conduct of a Lady in Church

Birkenhead Police Court.

Tuesday April 10th, 1894.

Before the Mayor, Mr Benedict Jones, and Mr J Craven.

A middle aged Lady named Agnes Fairfield, living in Turner Street, was charged, on remand, on several informations for violent and indecent behaviour at Christ Church Claughton during divine service.

The circumstances of the case were reported yesterday, and Miss Fairfield had been remanded in custody to allow a medical examination as to her state of mind. Dr Cornwall stated that he had examined the prisoner as to her mental condition. He could not on the whole, come to the conclusion that she was a lunatic, although she was strange in manner, and would be all the better for being taken care of. The Mayor said that the prisoner must be held responsible for her acts. The bench would take a lenient view of the matter and would impose a fine of 10s. and costs on each information - £4.7s.6d in all, the alternative would be 14 days imprisonment, and Miss Fairfield would be allowed a week in which to pay the money.

You may be wondering what crimes Miss Fairfield committed, well, she was charged with violent and indecent conduct in her place of worship, Christ Church, Claughton, during Divine Service, on December 24th 1894, also during Holy Communion on Christmas Day, also with molesting, disturbing, vexing and troubling and by unlawful means disquieting the Rev. A H Rhodes, curate of the Church on the 31st December 1894, Further with Molesting and disturbing Rev. Canon Robson, Vicar of the Church.

Miss Fairfield was prosecuted on behalf of the Church Wardens Messrs. H Brooke and J Cooke. It was also stipulated that the Pew which the defendant occupied and created the disturbance from should be given up to the Wardens, and that another sitting would be provided for her. The Defendant, while agreeing to this stipulation, maintained she had not been guilty of either indecent or riotous conduct.

Liverpool Mercury, April 1894
offered by Andrea Hendrick

Global Images of Christ: Challenging Perceptions



This exhibition at Chester Cathedral is made up of over 50 paintings, African and Chinese sculptures, and orthodox icons, and aims to challenge the Western depiction of Jesus Christ and his followers.

The works, which include contributions from artists such as Mark Cazalet, Peter Eugene Ball, and Lorna May Wadsworth have been collected from churches across the UK by Chester Cathedral's Canon Precentor, Jeremy Dussek and curated by the Art and Design Department of the University of Chester. The exhibition is a collaborative venture by Chester Cathedral, the University of Chester and the Diocese of Chester and represents a desire by all to promote equality and diversity in a community partnership.

The Dean of Chester Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford says: "We are very familiar with pictures of Jesus Christ cast in our western European image. This exhibition helps us see him through the eyes of other cultures enlarging our understanding of God."

Global Images of Christ: Challenging Perceptions is open at the Cathedral Monday to Saturday 10am – 6pm; Sunday 12noon to 5pm from Saturday 25 September to Saturday 30 October. Entry is free and donations are welcome.

Further information on the diocesan website at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/global-images-of-christ-opens.php>

Decorations in church ...



The Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Thanksgiving

Donations to the Wirral Foodbank ...



... and our thanksgiving parish meal

From the moneys donated for the lunch we covered our costs, and donated £77.20 to the Foodbank. Many thanks to those who decorated the church and prepared our meal.

Today's the Day!

Take the chance that comes today,
tomorrow may not do!
Yesterday is in the past,
today is bright and new.
Don't let opportunity
start to fade away.
Do the very things you know
are wiser done today.

Elizabeth Gozney

It's so good to get away from noise,
from chaos and from din,
to seek in solitude and peace
the beauty that's within.
to go to a quiet wood
and breath its loveliness,
to contemplate in silence
those things which calm and bless.

The mysteries of the universe,
the wisdom of the sage,
take some old and lovely thought
from a bygone age,
and meditate upon the good,
the honest and the true.
This calms the mind and you will find
a blessing comes to you.

Kathleen Gillum

*From The Friendship Book of Francis Gay, 2000
offered by MaryJo Blades*

On the opposite page is an extract from the [Ship of Fools website](#).
Rather Catholic and US in style, it will still make you laugh.

gadgets for god

new gadgets

The wondrous world of holy hardware

Struggling to find that perfect birthday gift for a loved one? Looking for something theological to impress the new minister? Look no further and prepare for blessing as we introduce you to godly gadgetry.

They're handy... and holy! Here are the 12 brightest and newest Gadgets for God.

Click for more Gadgets...

New
Apps
Church
Death
Devotional
Fashion
Food and drink
Home and garden
Personal
Pope
Seasonal
Toys, pets, games
Witnessing



Rowan Williams hairshirt



Holy host dispenser



Luther sock



Hicco Homo



IKEA Confessional



Let my people go toilet cover



The Real Easter Egg



Abu Hamza key holder



Confession app



Crucifix Shoes



Holy Water Dispenser



God Trumps



Stopping the Liverpool Arms Fair

On Saturday, 11th September I was invited to join a peaceful demonstration in opposition to the Arms Fair which is scheduled for 11th—13th October in Liverpool, to be held at the council run Liverpool Exhibition Centre, ACC.

This arms fair business is about selling electronic armaments to countries and regimes across the world. This raises huge ethical issues, especially given that they may be used to oppress people, civilians, families, children. The arms fair will take place in the clean sanitised environment of the conference centre, but the destruction the arms exact will be very different. Thinking about what is security and what makes us safe, surely it's understanding and having compassion, generosity of heart and a willingness to listen to the other side?

The demo was organised by The Merseyside Pensioners Association (The Association of Old Crows) and began at 11.30am at the gates of Princes Park. The protesters heard speeches and then set off en masse, with a samba band, to the Catholic Cathedral.

It's always best to go to demos with friends. Happily I was able to go with a few of mine. We met at a cafe near The Philharmonic Hall. After a coffee, we walked over to the Catholic Cathedral where the protesters were gathering at 12.30pm for speeches given by a variety of people.

The speeches at the cathedral were very rousing. We heard from Labour MP John McDonnell, former Green Party Leader Natalie Bennet, and actress Maxine Peake alongside local activists, union speakers and charities, especially those involved in picking up the pieces in the aftermath of war. The speakers were easily seen and heard, stood atop a fire engine kindly lent by the Firefighters Union.

The march continued through the streets of Liverpool and then concluded with more speeches at the top of William Brown Street. It was a lovely demo, and so well organised by the Merseyside Pensioners. Police were present but in a supportive and friendly way. The police do take photos of demonstrators and demonstrations these days.

I was so glad to have been there and been a part of that demonstration. The feeling of solidarity across borders, and simply standing up for human rights, wherever our brothers and sisters are, was very warming and powerful.

For more information, check out *the Campaign Against Arms Trade*, at caat.org.uk.

Marion Worth



Organist Paul lets his hair down!

Emmanuel Theological College (twice)



“A bright new dawn broke on Saturday as representatives from Church of England dioceses across the North West gathered together for a celebration service to launch the region’s newest theological college. The special Eucharist Service took place at 10.30am on September 11 at Blackburn Cathedral and was attended by more than 300 students, staff, trustees and bishops.

“Emmanuel Theological College is non-residential and will serve the six dioceses in the region as well as non-ministerial independently funded students choosing to study theology. The launch of the new college is an exciting moment for the ongoing work in the North West of England to train future leaders in the Church. The majority of the initial 2021 cohort of more than 160 full and part-time students are sponsored by their local dioceses, as part of their formation towards becoming vicars and licensed lay ministers.”

Reading the above account of the launch of the Emmanuel Theological College on our diocesan website, I was reminded that a college of similar name actually once stood in our own parish. It was located where the Park House Care Home now stands on Park Road South at the bottom of Palm Grove opposite Birkenhead Park.

This summer's edition of TOGETHER issued by the Church of the Nazarene (<https://brooklandschurch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Together>) explains.

'Founded in November 1920 in Birkenhead by Scottish evangelist, J. D. Drysdale and originally called 'The Missionary Training Home and Bible College', the character and identity of Emmanuel was marked by an emphasis on worldwide missions, a zeal for evangelism, and a passion for holiness. Over the years scores of young men and women have gone out from Emmanuel to serve the Lord at home and abroad. In 1997 Emmanuel Bible College ceased operation and became an integral part of the Nazarene Theological College and in 2004 the Emmanuel Centre, a new library and classroom unit, was opened to mark the transition.'



John Drysdale died in January 1953 and is buried in Flaybrick Cemetery where his grave can be found.

Paul Rees



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

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**Contributions for our November magazine
by Sunday, 31st October, please.**

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