

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

Christ Church Birkenhead

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**Contributions for our December magazine
by Sunday, 28th November, please.**

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



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
November 2021



Services in Church

Sundays at 9am
Holy Communion (BCP)

Tuesday 2nd November 6pm: All Souls Service of Remembering

Sundays at 10.30am
7th November: Morning Prayer
14th November: Holy Communion
21st November: Morning Prayer
28th November: Holy Communion

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.**



Lake District Hedgerow plate by Marie Mairs

**A car park, a railway station and a cathedral on the top of a hill.
But where?**

There are 42 cathedrals in England. If we include a picture of each in every issue, that would keep this magazine going for four years.
Please send in your photo!

Things to consider

1.

Strawberries might be picked, ripe, any time from late April through to August. The raspberry season is generally a bit later. Crops are usually harvested from August to October in northern Europe. Different fruits and crops ripen at different times throughout one year across the world. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us that there is one 'fruit' that is always in season. 'The time is always ripe', he said, 'to do right.' That is DO THE RIGHT THING.'

2.

An experienced hill walker set up camp while his friend explored. Minutes later the friend staggered back bruised and dishevelled. 'It was a snake! A black snake!' 'Black snakes aren't dangerous,' the experienced man said. 'They are if they give you such a fright that you fall off a cliff.'

3.

All too often it's our fears rather than the reality of our situation that do the damage. Perhaps that, and the fact that God watches over us is what the Bible tells us so often. 'Do not fear.'

Offered by MaryJo Blades



The Rev writes ...

The days seem to pass by so quickly at the moment. October has been a particularly active month and the fuller diary that I am experiencing is much greater than it has been for many, many months. I am finding it hard to keep up - its as if my brain and my body are working at different speeds and I have to stop every so often to catch up with myself again! Feeling tired and then extremely tired seem to be the result, so having to pace myself is definitely the order of the day, week or month.

I don't know about you but I could do with a good dollop of hope!

October and November are traditionally times of remembering - looking back, not to wallow but to be realistic about what has happened and to give thanks too. We have done some of this with our two sessions on Reflections on the Pandemic when people really found it helpful to hear from one another. We also had a special service on 31st October in order to take these reflections to God.

November of course brings All Souls and Remembrance Sunday when we look back in a different way. After these the church year winds down - very quickly this year and Advent Sunday falls on 28th November.

As Christians we are a people of hope, we have hope in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us on the Cross - our faith in him leads us to know deep in our hearts that he is the way, the truth, and the life. As we continue to 're-awaken' let's be mindful of those who are still suffering or have health issues within our congregation and let us also be people of hope too - hope for a continuing journey with God as we sense the way forward for our church.

Some folks will be entirely fed up with looking back and waiting, I understand that; others will be quite happy to wait for a long time. Waiting time is not wasted, it grounds us, certainly teaches us patience and enables us to rest. As Christians we have to hold realism with the world that we are living in and hold that - whilst at the same time having a sense of hope and trust in God for the future.

One way we can move between these two different places is to celebrate! Advent and Christmas offer us a great opportunity to celebrate - we wait with

hope during Advent and celebrate the incarnation in many different ways at Christmas. Is now the time to celebrate with a purpose? As far as we can, I think it is. Celebration doesn't have to be huge big events, but it can be found in the smaller things too - the wonderful cakes we shared at someone's birthday recently, a celebration of a life also took place recently. These things are important - they help us to come together of course and help us to give thanks and be thankful for life in all its fullness.

Each Sunday as we come to worship we are celebrating all that Jesus did - I hope that we look like we are celebrating too! Hebrews 13.15-16 say this: *'Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.'* Here the Hebrew writer is reminding us that sometimes praise and celebration require a sacrifice as we are asked to praise Jesus in our prayers, in our worship and in our testimony too.

By choosing to celebrate despite the difficulties that we all face we are choosing to take God at his word - being people of hope, caring for one another and holding fast to the Lord as we navigate the future.

Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

Today

During October

Baptism of Harper Rose Stading

Funeral of Iain Marshall Drummond at Landican Crematorium

Confirmation of Linda Jenkin and Jay Harrigan-Jones
at the Church of Oxton St Saviour

"Diocese of Leicester weighs plans for minster communities:

A new diocese-wide framework for ministry, finance, and buildings, under which Leicester's 234 parishes would be brought into 20 to 25 "minster communities", will be voted on by the diocesan synod on Saturday. It comes as the diocese faces what the last chair of the board of finance describes as "a financially unsustainable future", and prepares to reduce its full-time stipendiary posts by 20 per cent in the next five years.

The Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, insisted this week that the plan presented "no threat" to parishes.

The framework envisages that parishes in minster communities will "collaborate in mission without losing their individual identity", according to diocesan documents. They will work alongside Fresh Expressions and schools, and share finances "realistically and generously". The community will often be resourced from a "Minster Church". While each church will have an appointed minister, this may be ordained or lay. The "oversight leader" of each minster community may also be lay. The diocese has confirmed that, at a minimum, each minster community will have at least one stipendiary cleric in addition to other clergy, and that "sacramental provision is assured."

The number of full-time stipendiary posts in the diocese is expected to fall to 80 by 2026, the reduction to be achieved through retirements and moves. In 2020, there were 98 stipendiary clergy and 31 training curates in the diocese. It is expected that, at first, most of the 80 to 90 stipendiary positions budgeted for will be stipendiary clergy, but a diocesan summary explained: "Our aspiration is for increased lay ministry working alongside clergy across the diocese."

www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/8-october/news/uk/leicester-diocese-weighs-plans-for-minster-communities

Moving to the *Diocese of Leicester* website I read that its synod had agreed the framework.

www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diocesan-synod-votes-in-favour-of-a-minster-communities-framework.php

Times, it seems, are a-changing.

Paul Rees

A vision for the Church of England in the 2020s

The Church of England's calling is and always has been to **proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation** to the people of England.

The work to develop the new Vision and Strategy is underway but the foundations are already clear: The Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a **simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped**.

- * A **simpler** Church, both in governance and structure and in the way we live and share the gospel
- * A **humbler** Church, recognising our failings and working with others to serve the common good
- * A **bolder** Church energised and enthused by the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ and sharing that with everyone.

Our strategic priorities are:

- * **To be a church that is younger and more diverse**
- * **To be a church where mixed ecology* is the norm** – where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, schools and chaplaincies
- * **To become a church of missionary disciples** where all God's people are released to live the Christian life.

*the mixed ecology describes the flourishing of church and ministry in our parishes, and in other communities of faith through things like church planting, fresh expressions of church, and chaplaincy and online.

www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/emerging-church-england/vision-church-england-2020s

After reading this, I looked through the *Church Times* website for comments. There I found the following article dated 7th October saying that the Leicester Diocese, in which I used to live when I was teaching in Coalville, had already decided to make changes. The decision was to be made on 9th October.

During November

2nd November – 6pm All Souls Service of Remembering

14th November – 10.30am Remembrance Sunday – Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance

and During December

12th December – Christmas Lunch will follow the 10.30am service

19th December – 5pm Carol Service

24th December – 5pm Crib & Christingle Service

24th December – 11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th December – 10.30am Christmas Communion (no 9am service)

26th December – 10.30am Holy Communion (said, no 9am service)

Bishop Julie's Welcome Service - 18 October 2021: Christ the King, Birkenhead

What do Bishops wear beneath their robes? It's a question that many people ponder but never dare to ask a Bishop directly. But during Bishop Julie's Welcome Service, there was one person who took the bold step to ask Julie about a certain aspect of her attire. It was Mark, the Bishop of Chester, who dared to raise the subject of Julie's shoes. "Episcopal Boots," said Julie, who was quick to highlight the distinction. It seems that she's quite a fan of obscure and quirky footwear brands, especially ones with strange names. Julie herself admitted to not knowing the correct pronunciation of some of her favourite shoes (boots), and it seemed to not matter anyway as no one in the congregation was able to say if she was right or wrong.



*From the
Diocese of Chester website*

The Liverpool Mercury' October 26th, 1847

The following description of the new church at Claughton will interest many of our readers:

The church is placed on the acclivity of the hill leading to Oxton, on an angular piece of land, at the junction of several principal roads, near the Claughton Firs quarries, with the red sandstone from which it is built. It is erected in the tuck ravine fall towards the east, in the length of the church and chancel, of twelve feet, which has enabled the architect to obtain a crypt under the chancel and transepts which is appropriated to school rooms. The land on which it stands was given by, and the church built and endowed at the expense of William Potter Esq, from designs of Robert William Jarred Esq. architect of London.

The plan of the church is cruciform, having on the east a deep vaulted chancel and on the west a tower, terminated by a lofty rectangular broached spire, in extreme height 168 feet 6 inches. The church tower and chancel are 153 feet 3 inches in length, the width of the transepts, exclusive of the buttresses, is 91 feet. The church contains 1209 spacious sittings, according with the regulations of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; 414 of them are free, and to remain unappropriated for ever. The pews and 'Box pews' have no distinctive difference in appearance, excepting that the former, which in no instance exceed 3 feet in height, have very low doors.

The architecture is of the date of the latter part of the reign of Edward the First. The principal entrance is by a spacious lancet headed doorway in the tower, having clustered columns, plain moulded capitals and bases, deep seated moulded archivolt, ogre dripstone, with carved crockets, and foliated finials. Entrances and staircases, projecting from the eastern side, lead into the transepts.

In the nave the windows are lancet headed. The transepts have long narrow three light windows finished with richly carved dripstones. The tower has pedimented lancet-head spire windows, on four of its sides at the base, with long cross headed perforations in the upper part.

The interior of the church is particularly deserving of attention, the roof having a very imposing effect. It is of timber, high pitched and without tie-beams, as imitating in outline with that of Westminster Hall. All the timbers, which are

Peace

We all need peace and quiet, Lord
To help us on our way
We need to find serenity
To calm a troubled day.

We all need help and comfort
A beacon in the night
The gift of love and friendship
An ever-guiding light.

So, thank-you, Lord, for being there
Whatever comes our way,
For all the love which never dies,
And thank you for today.

Iris Hesselden

From the Friendship Book of Francis Gay, 2019

Offered by MaryJo Blades

Happy Birthday, Joyce

There were cakes after our Sunday service on 17th October when we celebrated Joyce Morris's 80th birthday!



Congratulations



Our Pastoral Worker Judith received her new licence from Bishop Mark at Chester Cathedral on Saturday 9th October. Thank you Judith for all your years of faithful service, and many more years to come!

Semper progrediens

As a former pupil of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, I receive email newsletters every term. The last one was headed *semper progrediens* which, having been compelled to study Latin at school, I could easily translate as **Always Progressing**. The newsletter then went on to say that despite covid the school would continue in going forward. New lessons, new classrooms, and even a new rugby team!

I feel that *semper progrediens*, in Latin or English, should be our motto at Christ Church, both as members of the congregation and as a community. Let us not look back, but go forward.

Further research on Google tells me that while the motto is not found in Latin literature or on a Roman tombstone it is to be found on the flag of the Dutch Caribbean island of Sint Maarten, and secondary schools in Ontario and Fairfax, Virginia!



visible in the moulded ridge, are of one continuous level through the nave, transepts and chancel, and lighted by circular windows, moulded with trefoil tracery, in the upper part of the gables. There are thirteen pairs of gothic arched, moulded and trussed principals, which stand on moulded stone corbals, and divide the roof into as many compartments, panelled by moulded purlins.

Above the windows are wrought and moulded plates, resting upon horizontal beams, which with the arches of the principals cushioning them together, form a perfect and complete bracket, lessening in operation the span of the roof, and converting the entire carpentry into one complete mass vertically seated, without the possibility of lateral thrust or pressure. The purlins, which are massive, are moulded and framed into the principals, not four feet apart; on these, inclining parallel with the directions of the valley of the roof, are laid strong wrought match planed and beaded boarding, to receive the slating. There is a gallery in the tower having the front trussed and panelled, moulded with trefoil heads, spandrels and cappings.

The communion or altar screen is richly carved general niches, trefoil and canopied pedimented heads, with carved crockets and finials. The railing is very massive. The reading desk and clerks desk are on the south side of the chancel on the level of the communion floor; they have turned columns, plain moulded capitals and bases. The pulpit which stands on the north side of the chancel upon a octangular pedestal, is ascended by a carved oak staircase, from the floor of the chancel, and has carved canopies, pendants, and quatrefoil panels in compartments.

The organ and choir are in the north transept gallery, placed so as not to obstruct the window. The pulpit desk and rails are all of solid massive oak. The principals and other timbers in the pews, gallery fronts, and all the woodwork in the roof is grained and varnished in imitation of oak.

The schools in the crypt are very extensive; they have seatings and desks arranged on the combined models of the British and National Societies, for the reception of 100 infants, 230 girls, and 370 boys making a total of 700 children.

Offered by Andrea Hendrick

COP 26—Glasgow 1st—12th November

As you will, no doubt, be hearing on radio and TV, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference is being held in Glasgow this month. According to its website, the Church of England has made a pledge to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030 according to a decision made at the general Synod held in February last year.

Our own diocese has set up an Environment Forum to help lead us in our understanding of the issues involved and our personal effects on the world we live in. We are also being encouraged to hold net zero services.

Leading up to COP26, a dedicated group of young Christians from around the country have been engaged in a walking relay from Cornwall, driven by 'faith, justice and a strong desire to make the climate summit count'. This Young Christian Climate Network began walking in June from Carbis Bay to Scotland.

As the group passed through England last month they were supported by local groups also making local relays. From here on Wirral, a group came together at Woodside on Saturday afternoon 9th October, joining the ferry to Liverpool and walking in procession through the city to the Anglican Cathedral to attend choral evensong.

Many carried banners or boats made from recycled paper on which they had written prayers for the success of the Glasgow event.



Mary Kirby went to represent us here at Christ Church, joining the walkers from a number of Wirral churches. She found the event both stimulating, being part of a group of like-minded Christians, and full of hope for the success of the conference in Glasgow.

