



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
February 2022



Services in Church

All Sundays at 9am:
Holy Communion (BCP)

And at 10am

6th February , 4th before Lent: Morning Prayer

13th February, 3rd before Lent: Holy Communion

20th February, 2nd before Lent; Morning Prayer

27th February, Sunday next before Lent: Holy Communion

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

**If you are reading this online you can
open this link - and others elsewhere in the magazine -
and go to them by pressing 'control' and click.**

The Rev writes...

Dear Friends,

As we try to shake off what feels like a very long January, I hope that there have been highlights for you! If you have felt a bit of gloom, you are not alone but the light beckons us too doesn't it - bright days and then grey days - they seem to tease us sometimes! Mike and I were very fortunate to have a week in Cumbria when each day was mostly sunny! Not very warm but sunny and no rain at all - that felt like a bit of a miracle!

Church services are times of joy as we gather together and sense the presence of the Spirit alongside our fellow worshippers. One can arrive with all kinds of thoughts and feelings and leave knowing that you have met with God. We feel lifted beyond the ordinary and everyday and have space to lay down burdens, ask for help and praise the Lord too. Do join us if you can - through prayer, praise, intercession and hearing the word in Bible readings and talks we join the age old, timeless pattern of worship that has gone on for more than two millennia.

Nothing changes, yet everything has changed - as a church we continue to seek the way ahead. This process encompasses our building, our shared life together and our outreach to others whom God is drawing in different ways. So there a little bit of fear as to what the future might look like but also great hope that God is still working with us and will guide us. To begin this process, in the next few months we will be focussing on our vision for the future of Christ Church. In a recent PCC meeting Revd Allan Goode shared this Bible passage from Jeremiah 6.16 *This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'* This is our hope that we will ask the Lord and receive guidance for our future.

Take care and please pray for Christ Church and its future as we remember you in our prayers also.

Blessings in Christ,
Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

During January

Baptisms

Jay Karlson

Isaac Wigmore-Karlson

Annabelle and Sophia Deer

Funerals

John Payne

Dates for your diary

We have a **Confirmation Service** on 20th March 2022 at the 10.30am service! We have three candidates and want to show our support for them so put the date in your diary and come and support Charlotte, Lisa, Charlie and their families and friends.

You can also meet the Bishop of Chester - the Right Revd Mark Tanner - it will be Bishop Mark's first visit to Christ Church, so let's give him a great welcome.



Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 2nd March at 6pm in church.

Lent with Lunch 12.30pm on Wednesdays - 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April. Soup and bread Lunch followed by Lent reflections. Each week in the Wilfred Owen room.

SPES MEA IN DEO



I'm sure you will recognise this image of Agnes Roper's memorial on the wall in church. But have you noticed at the top a lion standing up and a motto? 'Spes mea in Deo' are the words—Latin for 'My hope is in God'. A quick search in the internet confirms my translation but it also tells us it is also a motto used by the Freemasons Ancient Scottish Rite 32 but using a double headed eagle rather than a lion rampant! So was Agnes's husband into Freemasonry or did he have or invent a family crest? Or was Agnes a member of a secret club?

The enquiry continues!



Pied Beauty

by Gerald Manley Hopkins

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

The biblical lines which conclude 'O Lord how manifold are Thy works ... the earth is full of Thy riches' might have been the inspiration for Gerald Manley Hopkins's *Pied Beauty*. A deeply religious poet who died in 1889, Hopkins not only loved the major manifestations of God's beauty but also the endless variety of design in nature.

The pink dots patterned along the side of the trout, the intricate arrangement of a bird's wing, the streaked colours in the sky like those on a spotted (brinded) cow – all things counter, original, spare, strange. In his effort to capture the extravagancies and oddities of nature, Hopkins's language was also original and strange. He saw the world 'barbarous in beauty' and its luxuriant contrasts were a proof of God's grandeur.

Offered by MaryJo Blades



Today

Cathedral No. 4

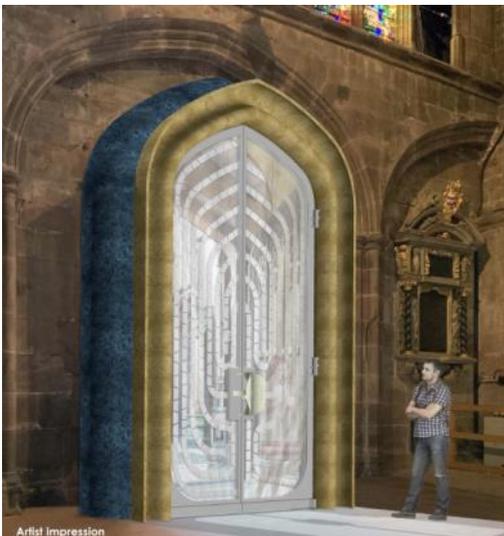
This time an interior, quickly taken just before the choir came in to sing evensong the other Saturday.
But where is it? Answer on page 14.

Pilgrim Porch

Chester Cathedral and Cheshire-based artist, Stephen Broadbent, are launching a project which aims to capture a snapshot of worshipping life across the Diocese as part of a new artwork to be installed at the west doors of the Cathedral. Every parish church has been invited to contribute through words and images which will be encapsulated into a new porch as part of a spectacular labyrinth design. The finished installation will be a sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass doors and will be unveiled later this year as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Bishop Mark says: "It is relatively rare that an artist is commissioned to create a new permanent fixture for the interior of a medieval Cathedral. Even more special, though, that such a project can mark and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of a reigning monarch. We hope that this project will be a fitting tribute to the remarkable reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a permanent enhancement to the fabric of our Cathedral."

Every church in the diocese can contribute by deciding what element of their church or worshipping community is a fitting contribution to the project, taking two quality photographs of the chosen element, submitting the photographs along with a short explanation to the artist, Stephen Broadbent.



Artists impression

Stephen says: “I am asking every church in the diocese to share an image that is significant and meaningful to them. Perhaps it’s an image of a piece of stained glass or a carved detail in the parish church, or another notable element of your worshipping community. Together, with almost 400 other contributions from across the diocese, we will create a unique permanent artwork that will form a labyrinth design, symbolically connecting every church to each other and to the Cathedral – the Mother Church of the diocese.”

www.chester.anglican.org/news/every-church-invited-to-contribute-to-new-jubilee-artwork.php

PCC meeting, 25 January

“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16

I think much of what people said at the meeting seemed to reflect the positive message in this verse from the passage Allan read to us before our discussions began. A feeling Covid is becoming manageable, a feeling winter is falling behind us perhaps? As we will soon sing ‘Sumer is icumen in...’

True, our monthly finances are only just ticking over and the high-level stonework still needs to be repaired which means we shall have to spend from our reserves. But as a community we can now think about the future and how we can go forward. We are looking again at our vision for the future—both as in our roles as Christians and as members of Christ Church.

We recognise the need to bring new people to our congregation and to heat the church better. We know we are a welcoming church but we need to retain our congregation. We are thinking about events to share with the wider local community—the Oxton Gardens Day, a church fair, contributing to the Queen’s Canopy project, and celebrating her anniversary in June.

As I quoted the Latin text in a previous magazine—Semper progrediens!

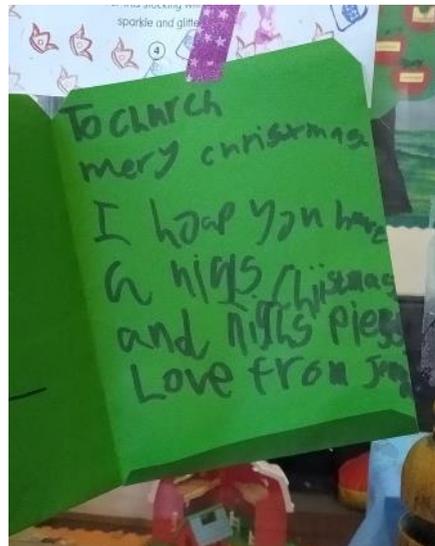


Merry Christmas

Here is Jenna with her Christmas card to us, the congregation at Christ Church.

As you will read below it says:

To church
Merry Christmas
I hope you have
a nice Christmas
and nice presents
Love from Jenna



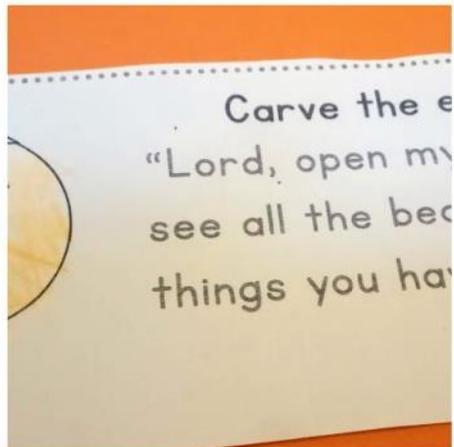
Go forward with the children

Hi all

2021 was a year where a lot of us stopped doing the things we love to do. Then when the rules began to ease our groups began to meet again albeit with some restrictions. This brought some really joyful moments both in our Sunday school and among our Tots as the children came together. It was wonderful to be with all our families again and see the joy among the children. Hopefully we will make many more memories with our groups in 2022.

God bless all

Mary Kirby, children & families worker



“Beauty from the Sands of Time” Church of St George, Madaba

One of our adventures was to visit Jordan in 2017. The ruined city of Petra had always been on our list of “must visits” and it certainly was wonderful. However, the biggest surprise of our trip was a visit to the town of Madaba.

We knew nothing of Madaba, but our tour guide was very knowledgeable. It had been a Moab city of the Old Testament (in both Numbers and Joshua), conquered several times, including by Christians and Muslims, until it was abandoned after a major earthquake in 746AD. The town became rubble in the desert until the late 19th Century when a couple of priests and ninety Christian-Arab families returned to the site.

Rebuilding the town, they came across the ruins of several churches, buried under sand for a thousand years, which they also rebuilt. One of these was the Church of St George. A very simple church from the outside, with no hint of the beauty awaiting within.

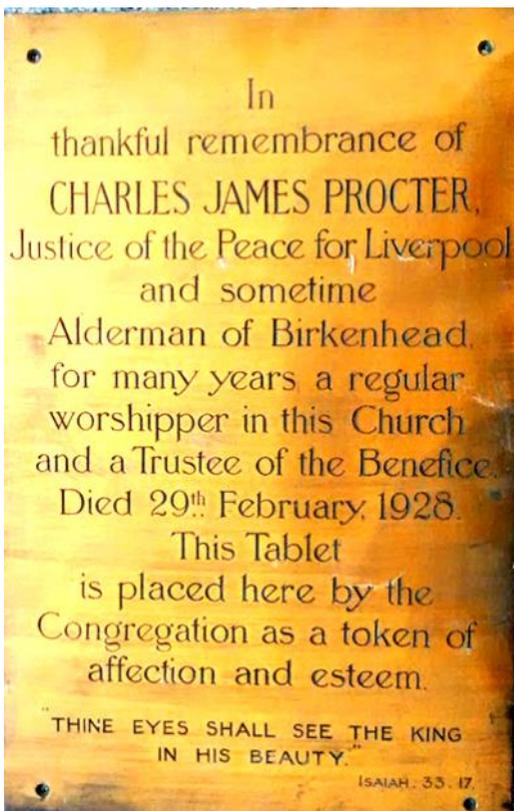


The interior held many works of art and was decorated in the Greek Orthodox style that was wonderful to see. The highlight, however, was the floor; a truly marvellous mosaic floor, which had survived for a millennium under the desert. Then, at the front of the Church, we were shown the mosaic map of the world, as known in the 6th Century, with Jerusalem at the centre.

An amazing work of craftsmanship, that we compared to the smaller, and over 700 years newer, Mappa Mundi in Hereford Cathedral. It was one of those experiences that photographs cannot do justice to.

Rob Perry





This brass plaque in memory of Charles Procter is to be found in the choir vestry, hidden by the chest of drawers where we keep the communion cloths. He died at the end of this month nearly a century ago, but I can't find out any more about him!

I've googled hard on the internet to no avail, and can only think I might find something in the library! More anon, I hope.

Oxton Secret Gardens

8th May 2022

Put the date in your diary and join us in church as well as the gardens.

Displays by Christ Church School, and about our church history.

Organ recitals and refreshments too!

Cathedral No. 4

Just across the river in Liverpool. Did you get it right?

I am alone, yet not alone

MaryJo Blades offers these lyrics to a song she recently listened to with Andrea Hendrick. The melody of the song and the sentiment of the words are, she suggests, all pertinent to us all.

Sung by Joni Eareckson Tada



Joni Eareckson Tada (born October 15, 1949) is an evangelical Christian author, radio host, artist, and founder of Joni and Friends, an organization "accelerating Christian ministry in the disability community".

Read more on Wikipedia.

I'm alone, yet not alone.
God's the light that will guide me home.

With His love and tenderness,
Leading through the wilderness,
And wherever I may roam,
I'm alone, yet not alone.

I will not be bent in fear.
He's the refuge I know is near.
In His strength I find my own.
By His faithful mercies shown.
That so mighty is His shield
All His love is now revealed.

When my steps are lost.
And desperate for a guide,
I can feel his touch,
A soothing presence by my side.

Alone, yet not alone.
Not forsaken when on my own.
I can lean upon His arm,
And be lifted up from harm.
If I stumble, or if I'm thrown,
I'm alone, yet not alone.

When my steps are lost.
And desperate for a guide,
I can feel his touch,
A soothing presence by my side
By my side!

He has bound me with His love,
Watchful angels look from above.
Every evil can be braved,
For I know I will be saved.
Never frightened on my own,
I'm alone, yet not alone.

I'm alone, yet not alone.

**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

**Contributions for our next magazine
by the end of February please.**

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