



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
March & April 2022



Services in Church

All Sundays at 9am:
Holy Communion (BCP)

At 10.30am our usual pattern is:
First & third Sundays: Morning Prayer
Second, fourth & fifth Sundays: Holy Communion

Wednesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March and 6th April 12.30pm:
Lent Lunches – a simple meal followed by a Lenten reflection

20th March 10.30am: Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark Tanner

27th March 10.30am: All-age Service for Mothering Sunday

Holy Week:

10th April: Holy Communion services for Palm Sunday
14th April 6pm: Agape Meal in the Hall for Maundy Thursday
15th April 2pm: An hour at the Cross for Good Friday
17th April: Holy Communion services for Easter Day

You can also keep up to date via our Facebook page at
[www.facebook/christchurchbirkenhead](https://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

This year we find Lent beginning just as war has broken out in Ukraine. We feel helpless to do anything, yet we are hoping and praying that something will change. Our lives have been disrupted a great deal over the past two years of the pandemic but if we think of all that is being suffered in Ukraine and the surrounding area we should feel blessed. Sometimes things come along and put our fears and worries into perspective. Not that we should not be aware of what might happen but to be thankful for what peace we do share at this time.

On Ash Wednesday we are called to a day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine and of course we want to join in. The prayer does not stop after that, of course, it is necessary and a commitment to our hopes for peace eventually in that country. I have to say that when I read an email from the diocese about praying at various points for peace in Ukraine, my first thought was - it's a bit late surely? Then I realized that we had been praying in any case, this was simply to encourage us to get the 'bit between the teeth'! However, I did come across a poem on Facebook that I will share which very much summed up my thoughts.

I No Longer Pray for Peace *by Ann Weems*

On the edge of war, one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tender-heartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God ...
that we can truly love one another.
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

Lent: As we come to the season of Lent, this conflict and all that it means will be on our minds as we reflect and come ourselves to repentance. Whilst watching the news from London today, there was a man holding up a placard saying 'Jesus saves from hell'. This is true, but the man holding the placard looked as miserable as the sin he wanted to be saved from. It caused me to wonder why he saw repentance in this way (or maybe that's just what his face is like!)

Repentance should be a cause of joy - it brings us relief, it leads us into paths of righteousness - it is a struggle to get to a point of repentance particularly if we are seeking to overcome something that feels welded to our very selfhood. The most important step is to acknowledge that whatever it is, you want to be done with it. Then pray and ask God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to enable you to do so - give the burden over to Jesus and ask for release from the temptation to pick it up again. In your heart, commit to turning away from 'it' and turning back to God.

I know that sounds easy and is in truth one of the hardest things that you might ever have to do - but we are told, *'there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'* Luke 15.7

Each of us has our own struggles, temptations, secret sins and when we consider the path of the Cross that Jesus took on our behalf; when we consider the dreadful happenings occurring in Ukraine; let us be galvanized to act, let us be determine to truly count the cost of following Jesus and commit to that afresh this Lent.

Easter: I cannot predict the future and now at the end of February, I find April and Easter feel like they are way off in the future - so much could happen and change in a few short weeks. War in Ukraine could be over - we hope; or things could have escalated and got worse. At a time of uncertainty and great change we can rely on the seasons of the church to help and enable us to stay grounded. Whatever happens, we know that Jesus died on the Cross for our redemption. We have been saved by grace and are free - free from sin and held by God through the work of Jesus Christ and have the promised Holy Spirit with us, in us and around us to guide and lead us.

Easter will bring with it that wonderful re-telling of the events that happened so long ago - events that were cataclysmic and changed the world - not that everyone noticed! The kingdom of heaven is often hidden and can be surprising too. As we journey together through Lent and on to Easter let us remember the centrality of Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come; who made the ultimate sacrifice for the redemption of the world. May we be drawn into his presence and find his peace through the times that we are living in.

Blessings in Christ,
Rev. Gerri Tetzlaff

During February

No Baptisms or Weddings
Funeral of John Weaver

Parish Magazines in 2022

The PCC has agreed to reduce the frequency of our magazine from the existing monthly to bi-monthly. Fewer and fewer contributions are coming in, and our new printing machine is a little less enthusiastic than its predecessor (it doesn't fold or staple). We will review things at the end of the year. So coming editions of the magazine will be published on 6th March, 1st May, 3rd July, 4th September, 6th November and 1st January 2023. Would anyone like to become involved in editing future magazines?

Paul Rees

THEY came in their hundreds to Christ Church, Cloughton on Sunday night. They cycled, they walked, they came on foot, on motor-cycles, and in cars. There were so many vehicles outside the church that police were needed to help ease congestion.

And why? - because The Roadrunners, a Birkenhead rhythm and blues band replaced the organ to supply music for an additional evening service designed to appeal to teenagers.

The service, an idea of the vicar of Christ Church, the Rev. Laurence R. Skipper, was a tremendous success. Even before the rhythm group started to tune up their instruments, 1,500 teenagers, including eight coach loads from Warrington, Bebington, Maghull and hundreds from Birkenhead, packed the church.

For late-comers there were no seats. By 8.30pm the church, which had its biggest ever congregation, was full, and the late ones sat on the altar rails, or stood at the back.

Still kept coming — black shirted youths with crash helmet tucked under their leather coats, long-haired individuals sporting C.N.D. badges on their black sweaters, girls with pony tails wearing the latest in teenage fashion.

BIGGEST-EV AT CLAUG SERVICES V

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TEENAGERS' NIGHT



Two men
David Pe

VER CONGREGATION HTON CHURCH FOR WITH RHYTHM BAND



Members of the group, David Boyce, aged 18, of Shrewsbury Road, Cloughton, on drums, and
Boyce, aged 19, of 5 The Wicnd, Rock Ferry, play the introduction to a hymn while the
Rev. L. R. Skipper looks on.—Photo by Wm. Cull.

Exeter Cathedral



Mary and I visited Exeter in 2019 and obviously had to visit the cathedral!

The bishopric was founded about 1050 and dedicated to St Peter.

Today's building was begun in 1112 but took many years to complete. Then in 1258 this original Norman building was deemed inadequate and an extension was begun in the Decorated Gothic style.

That extension was completed about 1400 and has created the cathedral we have today. It was refurbished during the Victorian period and again after damage during the Second World War.

The medieval vaulted ceiling is the longest in the world.

Read more at <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/>

Anyone got any cathedral photos they'd like to share?



Redeeming the Time

I have often wondered about the phrase 'Redeeming the Time' above our clock in the church tower.

In Ephesians 5:15-16 in the King James Version of the Bible, it says "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." The phrase 'redeeming the time' is also found in Colossians 4:5. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (KJV). In both passages, redeeming the time is related to wisdom in how we 'walk', that is, in how we live.

To redeem something means to buy it back, to regain possession of it. Time is a gift from God, and none of us know how much of it we are allotted. Only God knows how much time each of us has on this earth to make decisions that will impact eternity (Psalm 139:16).

When God says we should be 'redeeming the time', He wants us to live in constant awareness of that ticking clock and make the most of the time we have, rather than waste our days on frivolous pursuits that leave no lasting imprint.

One way we can learn to redeem the time is by asking God to help us. We could start each morning by committing our day to the Lord and ask Him to help us do something, like helping someone else, volunteering, serving at church, or to utilise our time in a productive way.

James 4:14 reminds us that our earthly lives are no more than a fog that appears and then quickly evaporates. Our money and possessions will be given to someone else. Our jobs will be filled by others. Our families may remember us with fondness but will move on with their own lives that don't include us. All that remains of our lives on earth is that which was invested in eternity. In the end, all that matters is what we did or did not do to redeem the time.

Jackie Harness

Dates for your diary

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

Confirmation Service on 20th March 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.

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.

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!

Wirral History and Heritage Association

WIRRAL HISTORY FAIR 2022

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**To worship God, to share Jesus,
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or leave a message on 0151 652 3990

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

***Paul Rees, Editor,
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