

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

Christ Church Birkenhead

Bessborough Road, Birkenhead, CH43 5RW

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for room bookings etc.

or leave a message on 0151 652 3990

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

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



CHRIST CHURCH
BIRKENHEAD



Parish Magazine
Autumn 2022

Services in Church

For Autumn 2022

All Sundays at 9am
Holy Communion (BCP)

Main services at 10.30am

4th September *Trinity 12*
Morning Prayer

11th September *Trinity 13*
Holy Communion

18th September *Trinity 14*
Morning Prayer

25th September *Trinity 15*
Holy Communion

2nd October *Trinity 16*
Harvest Thanksgiving and lunch

9th October *Trinity 17*
Holy Communion

16th October *Trinity 18*
Morning Prayer

23rd October *Bible Sunday*
Holy Communion

30th October *All Saints Day*
Holy Communion

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

Moving house?

A newly married couple viewed a house in the country and decided to buy it from the vendor, the local vicar. After purchasing it they realised that they had not noticed a W.C. They wrote to the vicar asking of its whereabouts. The vicar, being unaware of the term W.C. thought they were referring to the Wesleyan Church. You can imagine their surprise to receive the following reply.

Dear Mr and Mrs Jones,

I deeply regret the delay in replying to your letter. The nearest W.C. is seven miles away. This is rather unfortunate if you are in the habit of going regularly. However, it may please you to know that many people take a packed lunch and make a day of it. By the way it is built to accommodate 300 people and the committee have decided to refurbish with plush seats in order to secure greater comfort. Those who can walk, do so, others go by train and arrive just in time. The last time my wife went was 10 years ago and she had to stand all the time. I myself never go. There are special sessions for ladies, presided over by the minister, who gives them any assistance they may require, whilst the children sit together and sing during the proceedings.

Sincerely yours

J Brown (Rev.)

P. S. Hymn sheets are provided and can be found behind the door.

*Submitted by a Parishioner
who wishes to remain anonymous*

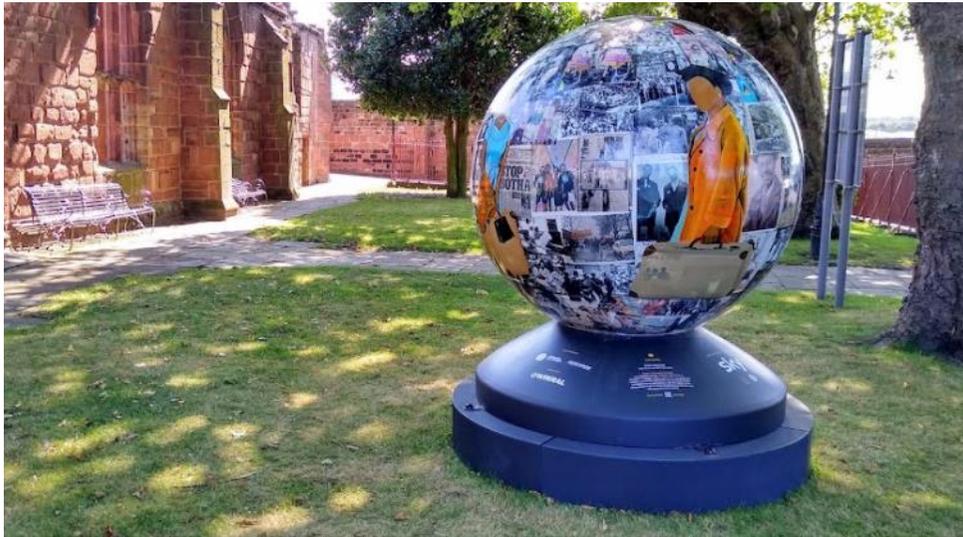
Scaffolding

Soon after you have this, there will be scaffolding all around our church. With stonework having recently falling from the church walls, the PCC decided it is time to spend money on having remedial work done to the high-level stonework. Our architect, Graham Holland has prepared a plan of action, and appointed builders to undertake the work. It will take a good number of weeks. The stonework will be made 'reasonable safe and sound for the foreseeable future'.

The World Reimagined

103 unique globes have been put up across the UK exploring the history, legacy and future of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans through the work of a group of incredible artists.

Ten trails have been created in various cities. Each has a series of globes – and the Liverpool region trail includes a globe outside the Birkenhead Priory as seen here.



Each globe depicts one of nine themes dealing with the story of slavery: Mother Africa, the reality of being enslaved, stolen legacy: the rebirth of a nation, abolition and emancipation, a complex triangle, echoes in the present, still we rise, expanding soul and reimagine the soul.

The project is explained in a website which not only outlines the themes of the globes, but also describes the work of the various artists, community involvement, and opportunities for learning. Created by artists, teachers and educationalists, The World Reimagined Learning Programme is an experiential and transformative journey that empowers students, teachers and school communities to create a future for racial justice.

<https://www.theworldreimagined.org/>

The Revd writes ...

It seems a long time since I've written for the magazine yet it's only been two months! I hope you have had a splendid summer, if a bit hot at times! I've personally had a lovely holiday in Harlech with family and had some lovely days in sunshine with a blue sea and sky - all with reasonable temperatures in the low 20s. My sort of summer. Feeling rested and suddenly it's September and everything begins again.

The country now has a new Prime Minister and there is a massive list for her to tackle - not least the rising cost of living with fuel prices going through the roof! These issues and many more can cause anxiety for very obvious reasons and it is hoped that something meaningful will be done without delay - let's hope it has before you read this!

For the church family we have news - the building has been suffering from damage caused by the weather and general wear and tear for some years - the high-level stonework on a fair amount of the building needs attention to avoid further damage which would rapidly become a health and safety issue.

We (the PCC) are in the fortunate position of being able to get the work done as we have some shares that can be sold to finance the works. This is our 'rainy day fund' and the rainy day has arrived. The work will begin almost immediately as we have been given a start date of the week commencing 19th September. The church will have scaffolding erected in the places needed and the safety and security issues have been risk assessed. We will still be open and a canopy will be erected over the west doors (the way in), to protect people as they enter and leave the worship space. The rooms downstairs will still be available for the various activities too. It is expected that work will take around 12-16 weeks, so the church will likely be scaffold clad for the rest of the year.

Whilst we would rather not have to spend money on this work at this time, it seems best to do so now to ensure the on-going use of the building from a safety point of view. It's never easy to commit to large numbers when it comes to spending but in order to continue to meet for worship and for community activities we feel it is right to do so. We want the on-going work of sharing God's love through Jesus Christ to continue in this part of Birkenhead for the foreseeable future.

Speaking of the future, we might all be wondering what that might look like in

light of the current issues that we face. Now, more than ever we must look to the Lord as we seek to share the gospel in word and in action. The reality is that we are fewer in number than we were and our general monthly income and expenses for running costs are out of sync - more going out than coming in. It's not easy and of course everyone is facing similar situations in their household budgets. We can all pray of course, and I would urge you to do so in your own prayer time.

Perhaps you would like to use the following:

Dear Lord,

In times of difficulty and trial be with all who need your loving touch of peace and comfort; help those with power and privilege to seek and find compassion which leads to real and just action. May those who are struggling financially be blessed with gifts to sustain them; may those who are able to help be overcome with generosity. Help each one of us at Christ Church to undertake our part and to build a future here for our shared communities, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless,
Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

<p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms <u>July</u> Faye and Ava Buckley Rose Caitlin Bamford <u>August</u> Betsy Cullimore</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Funerals <u>July</u> Christopher Alan Shaw</p>

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley 1849-1903

William Ernest Henley wrote 'Invictus' in 1875 to show his resilience following the amputation of his foot. He was the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's character Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*. While in prison, Nelson Mandela recited the poem and was said to have been empowered by its message of self-mastery.

The poem is quoted several times in the 2009 film *Invictus* which tells the story of the success of the Springboks, South Africa's rugby teams success in the 1995 rugby world cup.

Offered by MaryJo Blades

Church Development...



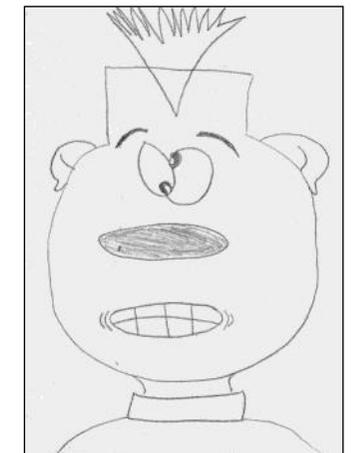
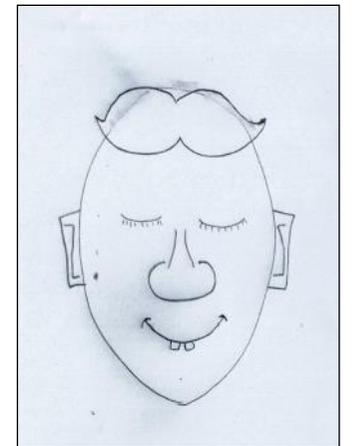
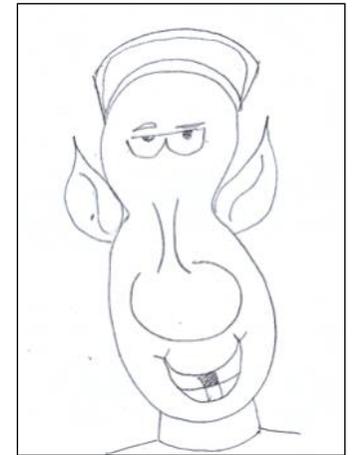
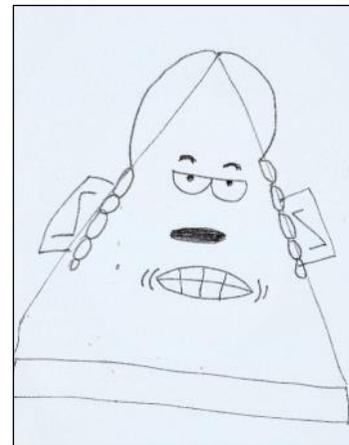
The Church of England's website is a fascinating place. The opening page is regularly updated with online services, daily prayers, quick to read items and links to more extended matters for thought or discussion.

Exploring the links to other pages leads to everything from prayer techniques and resources, to information for vicars about church and financial management, professional conduct and their own expenses and retirement!

As I write, the opening page discusses two items particularly important for us here at Christ Church. Firstly, the 'Church of England Environment Programme' designed to help us move our carbon emissions towards net-zero by 2030. Church heating, perhaps? Secondly, 'A Vision for the 2020s' - something the PCC is currently considering.

What is our vision? Where is Christ Church going to be in ten years time? As our numbers decline, how shall we continue?

Artwork from the Beetle Drive?



But who drew it?

Love your neighbour as yourself, love your enemies

Late July I was at WOMAD festival in Malmesbury (29th July– August 1st). There was sunshine, music, talks, workshops, all to be enjoyed in three days of glorious sunshine. In the tent that neighboured mine was Jono. A similar age to me and a Buddhist. We didn't know each other but over the three days we chatted. At the end we exchanged numbers and left hoping we might meet up again next year. He signed off a text with, "best wishes and metta". I looked up *metta*. It can be translated as "benevolence," "loving," "friendship" or "kindness".

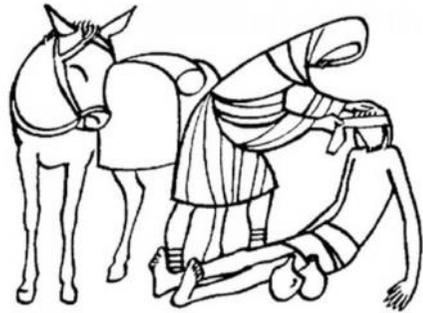
See <https://www.yogapedia.com>.

I then remembered a conversation with a work colleague—and friend—in Cheshire. She was a Buddhist. And in one of our many faith conversations she described a meditation, a *meta* meditation. This connection set me on an internet search.

Metta meditation, or cultivation of *metta*, is a popular Buddhist form of meditation. In the *Theravada* school of Buddhism, the yogi first cultivates their benevolence toward themselves; then toward their beloved family, friends and masters; then toward their enemies; and, ultimately, toward all living beings. In the Tibetan Buddhist school, a breathing technique is used where the yogi inhales love and benevolence and exhales distress and suffering. See <https://www.yogapedia.com>.

I then googled and found many videos of guided meditations around twenty minutes long. Ringing in my ears were Christ's command to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 12.31) and "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5.44). It struck me that this traditional Buddhist meditation offered a practise – something one could do – to cultivate and nurture both these attitudes. As with the Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37), the "other" has much to teach us.

Allan Goode



The London Marathon

This "marathon" event has been "running" since 1980. (Sorry for the puns!) It runs for 26.2 miles from Greenwich Park to The Mall, passing numerous sights including the Cutty Sark, Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf and Big Ben. It has always been a literal lottery to get a place, with 20,000 applications for that first race of which less than 8,000 were given a place.

The 2022 Marathon is being held on Sunday, 2nd October. (Unfortunately they weren't aware of our Harvest Lunch.) In recent years almost half a million people have been applying for a place in a field of about 60,000, although elite runners such as Mo Farah and Eilish McColgan receive personal invitations.

This year Rob Perry was successful in the ballot and will be running the marathon again, but not as fast as Mo or Eilish. Although he may find a strange pleasure in running around the sights of London, he is using it as an opportunity to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research to help find the cure for this fatal disease. If you would like to be a vital part of his marathon run, please sponsor him on the form at the back of church or on-line through the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robert-perry8>

The race will be covered live by BBC with highlights repeated in the evening.



Rob Perry