



# **Covid-19 Outreach Support Team**

Christ Church has assembled a small, flexible group of volunteers to support vulnerable and self-isolating parishioners in a variety of ways - from shopping and collecting prescriptions to phone support and sending letters. For more information, email <a href="mailto:christchurch-covid19-outreach@outlook.com">christchurch-covid19-outreach@outlook.com</a>

#### **Pastoral Care**

If you, or someone you know, is in need of pastoral care, please call Tina Benney on 01242 512246 or Rev Simon Heron on 01242 515983.

#### **Lent Course**

In our 2021 Lent Course, taking place on Zoom, we are examining issues of identity, loneliness, forgiveness and faith using the Tom Hanks movie, 'The Terminal'.



Tuesdays 2pm from 23rd February, or Wednesdays 7.30pm from 24th February.

Email lent@christchurchcheltenham.com to book your place.



# **New Verger Opportunity**

Could you see yourself as a Verger? Christ Church are currently looking for a new Verger to assist the vicar in opening up the church for weddings, funerals and confirmation services. This could involve tasks such as reserving car parking spaces, setting out candles and manning the sound desk (training given). It could also possibly be a shared role.

If you would like to hear more about this very flexible and valued role please do give the Wardens a call: Sarah 01242 513067 or Barbara 07912 345056. Colin Masey has done the role admirably but has now decided to step down - he would also be happy to speak to anyone who might be interested on 01242 693116.

# Through the Day with Mary: A Lenten Quiet Day with Discover DeCrypt Saturday 6th March 10am-3.30pm on Zoom

Give yourself some time for reflection this Lent. This day will focus on four moments in the life of Mary, Mother of Jesus, to help us think about our own journey of faith during Lent in the light of God's great love for us.



There will be short sessions of input on Zoom with lots of time in your own space for reflection, creative prayer and activities, for which suggestions will be given. Come whether you long to pray or have prayed for a lifetime – all are welcome. For more information and to book your place, visit <a href="https://discoverdecrypt.org.uk/event/through-the-day-with-mary-2/">https://discoverdecrypt.org.uk/event/through-the-day-with-mary-2/</a>

## **Festival of Hope**

The Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival, has contributed online to the Versopolis Review's Festival of Hope. There are 17 Christian voices, with poetry and artwork - if you have 40 minutes to relax with a cup of tea, have a listen to some of these speakers reading their poetry and see the sculptures and artwork that accompany it. <a href="https://www.versopolis.com/festival-of-hope">https://www.versopolis.com/festival-of-hope</a>



## **Reducing Plastic Waste**

Consider signing this petition to ban the use of plastic packaging for all non-food items.

"Too many items are sold in non-recyclable, non-compostable plastic packaging.

Alternatives such as paper and cardboard are perfectly viable for such items as children's toys, tools, office equipment, mobile devices, clothes, electrical goods..."

# Daily Morning Prayer 9-9.30am on Zoom

Join us for Daily Morning Prayer online. Email Andrew for a Zoom link (andrew.judge50@gmail.com).

#### **Meditation for Lent**

At the heart of Christianity there is an ancient tradition of silent prayer, which allows us to be fully present to the gift of our life and a haven of peace for those around us, through the disciplines of stillness and awareness. Join us for a series of meditation sessions every Saturday morning 9.30-10.15am throughout Lent. For more information and a Zoom link, contact Rachel Candlin at rachel.candlin@hotmail.com

# Sports Leadership Online Course for Young People in Years 9-11

Do you know any young people that naturally engage in sport? Do they want to see a difference in themselves as well as the communities they are in?



Psalms are running an online introduction to sports leadership, which will help young people explore the role they have in shaping their friend circles, sports clubs and youth groups. Suitable for anyone in years 9-11, whether they have a strong faith or none at all. The online course will run on Mondays, 5-6pm, starting 8th March. For more information, <a href="mailto:here is an introductory video">here is an introductory video</a>, and to sign up, please contact Dave Moller: <a href="mailto:dave.moller@psalms.uk.net">dave.moller@psalms.uk.net</a>

# The Prayer Course - Mondays 7.30pm from 1st March

Have you ever wondered how other people pray? Is there a right way? Maybe you have questions and doubts about why prayers might not seem to be answered. Pete Greig, the founder of 24-7 Prayer, wrote a book about it which has been turned into an 8 session course. This online course is being led by the Diocese of Gloucester. To watch an introductory video, and to book your place, head to



https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-prayer-course/.

# Being a Christian in Your Primary School Community - Interactive Online Workshop Thursday 4th March 12-1.30pm or 7.30-9pm

Whether you are a pupil, parent, teacher, governor, or associated with a primary school, living a Christ-centred life every day brings God's love, hope and blessing into the life of that community. Can we really be openly distinct Christians in primary schools today? Questions answered, situations explored, dilemmas discussed. For more information, and to book your place, visit the <u>Diocese website here</u>

## **Support Christ Church financially**

You can give by texting CHURCH, plus the amount you would like to donate (up to £20), to 70450. So to give £5, text CHURCH 5 to 70450, or to give £20, text CHURCH 20 to 70450. This service costs your donation plus your standard message rate. You can also give any amount online by visiting <a href="http://www.give.net/Christ\_Church\_Chelt">http://www.give.net/Christ\_Church\_Chelt</a> - Thank you!

### **Prayers**

We thank God

- For the first signs of Spring: birdsong, daffodils and lighter evenings
- For the gift of a vaccine, and for the wonders of medical science
- For the love of friends, family and the church community and for all the kindnesses we receive

### We pray

- For those areas of the world where there is suffering and unrest, especially in Yemen and Myanmar
- For the speedy spread of a vaccine to the poorest.

#### We hold before God

- The lonely, isolated, the elderly in our local care homes.
- The sick, anxious, fearful and depressed.
- The bereaved.

We pray for ourselves, that this Lent our faith will grow, and Jesus will renew our love for Him.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, especially Chris and June Eddershaw, Jane Heaton, Tina Holland, Rose Marville, Dee Rice, Ros Saunders, Daphne Simpson, Rosemary Singer, Tim Smith, Topsy Southgate, William Staight, Anne Standish, Jane Weston, Keith White and Hazel.

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' Matt 11:28 NIV