

OUTREACH

APRIL 2019



Christ Church Cheltenham

guide price 50p

THE CHURCHWARDENS WRITE

Dear Christ Church

By the time you read this letter Tim will have celebrated his last Holy Communion at Christ Church and we will have wished him and Sue every blessing in his new post and for their new life in the Diocese of Newcastle.

We have already had a Churchwardens' meeting with Archdeacon Phil and Revd John Risdon, our Simeon's Trustee Patron, based in Gloucestershire, who have explained how the vacancy process will work.

On their advice, a Pre-Vacancy meeting has been convened on Wednesday 3rd April in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm where all members of the PCC and our Readers will be briefed by Archdeacon Phil and John Risdon to explain more fully how the vacancy process will work.

It is our responsibility to arrange for Clergy, along with our excellent Readers, to conduct services during the Vacancy. Tim has been working hard to organise Eucharistic and Readers' cover until the end of this year. What we must now do is ensure that all plans are realistic and sustainable.

On Wednesday 15th May at St. Mary's in Charlton Kings we will be admitted to the office of Churchwarden at the Archdeacon's visitation. We do ask for your prayers for us as the huge responsibility of running Christ Church falls on us both – to quote Archdeacon Phil, "the buck stops with you". Working without Tim's leadership will be a challenge. We are very thankful that our church is blessed with such a good team of Readers and with Curate Mike – at least for a few months, and with highly experienced staff in the office and former churchwardens in the congregation. As Tim said "We must seek the face of God together. It is a team game".

With your help and prayers, we will do our best!

Sarah and Barbara

THE EDITOR RAMBLES ON

This issue of Outreach hits the pews on Tim and Sue Mayfield's last Sunday; from 1st April Christ Church enters a period of vacancy with all the challenges and opportunities that brings. Please pray for everyone who is taking on added responsibilities and for all those charged with seeking a new person to be our vicar.

In our Lent course on Jeremiah we have been thinking of the importance of being still, stopping to listen to God about the plans He has next for our church family. For me it's always a challenge to be still, stop and reflect. My first tendency is usually to plan my rush into action and to be doing something (anything!) to address the problem. This though is not what Christ Church should be doing right now.

In the month ahead we will experience the sorrow and joys of Easter, see the opposite page for details of the Easter reflections and services to help us get the most of this special time. Our Alpha course starts on 24th April, Martin Osborne explains more on page 9 and asks all of us to prayerfully consider who we could invite.

Turning to rambling did you catch Major General Andy Salmon, formerly of this parish, talking to Clare Balding on the Radio 4 programme, Ramblings? Available on the Ramblings podcast on BBC Sounds, he talked about his programme Journey into Conflict, a highlight of a previous Christian Arts Festival. You can look ahead to the delights on offer this year on pages 10-12.

And still on the subject of radio, Sarah and Zac Hicks were live on Radio Gloucestershire early on Sunday 24th March talking about last summer's Toilet Twinning event. Sarah said, "this was a great opportunity to raise awareness of Toilet Twinning, and remember Christ Church's fabulous achievement last June."

Susan West

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2019

Sunday 14th April : Palm Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion CW
- 10.30am All-age Worship
- 12 noon Shortened Holy Communion
- 6.30pm ‘The Passion of our Lord according to St Mark’
 with Christ Church Choir

Monday 15th April to Wednesday 17th April

7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Harwood Hall

Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th April

Reflections for Holy Week - In the Shadow of the Cross

7.15pm for 7.30pm, ending at 8.30pm in the Harwood Hall



Thursday 18th April : Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

Friday 19th April : Good Friday

2.00pm ‘At the Foot of the Cross’, a service of
Reflection for Good Friday, in church

Sunday 21st April : Easter Day

- 8.00am Prayer Book Holy Communion
- 10.30am Easter Day Family Communion
- 6.30pm Easter Sunday Choral Eucharist



Christ Church Cheltenham

Malvern Road

*The Passion of Our Lord
according to Saint Mark*

Charles Wood

Christ Church Choir

Directed by Timothy Ingold

Tenor: Deryck Webb

Bass: Brian Pursey

Organist: Fiona Brown

Palm Sunday

14th April 2019

7.00pm

Admission free with a retiring collection

A PRAYER FOR THE VACANCY

Guiding God,
we pray for Christ Church.
During the vacancy,
we pray for those who will preach and lead our worship.
Please be drawing to living faith many who don't yet know you.

Then we submit to you the appointments process.

We pray for the Church Council
as it appoints Parish Reps.

We pray for the Trustees, in their special role

We pray for Bishop Rachel,
for Archdeacon Phil,
and for Area Dean Gary.

In your time, and in your way,
please raise up the right woman or man
to be the next vicar of Christ Church.

In the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for every parish and diocese to hold their local MPs, politicians and the members of the Government and civil servants in their prayers.

Their concerns are for the social divisions, which “feel more entrenched and intractable than for many years”, and also for “the divisions within the major political parties, which are stifling the emergence of a hopeful and viable vision for the common good in our communities.”

HEADLINES FROM THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON 24TH MARCH

Barbara Lucas and Sarah O'Meara were elected as Churchwardens for a further year.

Jennie Preece reported the PCC has focused on how to encourage those on the edge of the family of faith; the impact of reduced financial giving; and reordering.

Phil Whitefield reported the General Fund showed a deficit of £18,000 with collections down 10%. The repair work to the apse had been the principal expenditure. Christ Church is due to receive a large legacy from the late Winnie Smith, some will be spent on the Garden of Remembrance, some on youth and children's work, with the bulk going to the development fund.

There are plans to replace the boilers in the coming year. This is more complicated than first envisaged as the south boiler has been condemned, the boiler house has asbestos and problems with its ventilation. A contract services engineer is advising us on the best way forward.

Rev Tim Mayfield regretted there had not been more progress on reordering. He has written a Statement of Needs for the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the church equivalent of planning permission) setting out what we want to do and why.

Tim thanked Colin Albert, Flavio Ormerod, Jennie Preece, Karen Jameson and Pat Hopkins for their service on PCC as they stand down.

After the first elections for many years and drawing lots to decide on the final place, Gail McHardie-Jones, Graham Donaldson, Mandy Whitefield, Stephen Thiselton, Sue Jenner and Tony White were elected to the PCC.

Rev Mike Smith said how much he has enjoyed being part of our community of faith. He singled out the youth and children's work, Family Time and the Happiness Lab for special thanks and praise over the past year.



In his final Vicar's report, Tim drew out some highlights from the past 15 years and said it feels the right time to move on. He reminded us of the high quality of people in various roles in our church family and wished us well for the time of vacancy.

Immediately after the Annual Parochial Church meeting, the new PCC met to elect Ian Kirkwood as Vice Chair of the PCC and co-opted Phil Whitefield as Treasurer and Jennie Preece as PCC Secretary.

Susan West

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO ALPHA

When Rev Mike asked for volunteers to help with an Alpha course, I was intrigued. I had heard of the Alpha course, but hadn't actually been to one, so I decided to look into it.

The Alpha course is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith and is primarily aimed at those people who would not describe themselves as Christians or churchgoers. It aims to consider big questions about life – why am I here?, what is the purpose of life?, is there a God, etc, by asking people who come what *they* think. And listening to what they say, offer the Christian view for consideration and discussion.

Although there are fliers and publicity about the courses, Alpha depends heavily on word of mouth – people inviting their friends to "come and see". Experience shows that even the hardest non-believer's life can be changed for ever. One of the world's best evangelists, Billy Graham, (whom I personally have to thank for telling me about what Jesus has done for me), became a Christian because "a friend told me about Him".

Let's prayerfully and seriously consider whom we might invite to our course which starts on 24th April for 10 weeks. Each course begins with a meal and warm welcome in a relaxed atmosphere.

Hope to see you there with a friend (or three!).

Martin Osborne



23 April – 26 May 2019

Easter Holiday Workshops (12 – 17 April)

Encounter Jesus at the Christian Arts Festival

Be Inspired Be Encouraged Be Uplifted
So much diversity So much to love

The Sower: Encounters with Jesus by John Swan

‘Moving and Impactful’ - Balcarras School & C3

Concert of Contemporary & Traditional Music - St. Mark’s Methodist

Hymn Writing and Songwriting Workshops, discover or develop your skills, potential for publication! - Christ Church

Harry and Chris World Poetry Slam Winners - infectious songs and sharp clever wordplay - Trinity Church

No Abiding City – Bishop Michael Archbishop Primate of Jerusalem talks of churches bursting at the seams! - Christ Church

The Lyra Singers, St. Petersburg Conservatory -The Minster

The Sermon Slam – Do you feel a call to preach? -3 Minutes Messages – University Chapel, Francis Close Hall

Drama Workshop, Saltmine Theatre, learn to make sketches -YMCA

Dai and Cath Woolridge (Sound of Wales) passionate about scripture, ooze Welshness with song, wordplay and humour – St. Luke’s Church

Book tickets and reserve free places online
christianartsfestival.org 01242 898403



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Full details and tickets from
christianartsfestival.org
Call 01242 898403

CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

CHELTENHAM 2019

Elim Sound

Sunday 28 April, 7.30pm,
Elim Church

Christian Musicians' Collective

Thursday 2 May, 8pm,
Christ Church

Homegrown Worship

Friday 3 May, 8pm,
Trinity Church

Jonathan Veira

Sunday 5 May, 7.30pm,
St Luke's Church

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Sunday 12 May, 7pm,
Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies' College

**10% Early Bird Discount until
17 March 2019**

If you are going to an event or taking part in the Christian Arts Festival and would like to share your experience with Outreach readers in a future issue, please get in touch with Susan West at susan.blackett1@btinternet.com.

MESSY CHURCH SCIENCE

As part of the Christian Arts Festival, we will be hosting a 'Messy Church Science' afternoon at Gloucester Road Primary School on Saturday 27th April, supported by Christ Church. Do come and invite your friends to join you!

Quoting from the Christian Arts festival brochure, “*See how science and faith are complementary and enable children and adults alike to appreciate the wonder of Creation. Children of any age, please bring an adult. Come and enjoy Messy Church Science together! Hands-on fun science activities to enjoy exploring the Christian faith with live storytelling and refreshments. Warning: don't wear your best clothes!*”

To book free places online visit: christianartsfestival.org. For more information contact Maureen Jones at maureenjonesbt@btinternet.com.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Jackson Leo Greatorex was baptised on Saturday 16th March. A son for Wesley and Caroline, Jax was baptised by Rev Tim Mayfield.

Anowa Afua Pierre Haynes, a daughter for Naif and Matthew, was baptised by Rev Tim Mayfield on Wednesday 27th March.

We welcome you into the Lord's family

APPOINTMENTS

Revd Canon **Janet Faull**, formerly a curate at Christ Church, and currently Area Dean of Gloucester City Deanery and Vicar of St Barnabas in Gloucester, is moving to become Rector of Hook Norton with Great Rollright, Swerford and Wigginton in the Diocese of Oxford from 22 May.

CAP CRÊPERIE SMASHES TARGET

Thanks to everyone who cooked, tossed and ate pancakes on 10th March raising £523 for the Cheltenham CAP Debt Centre. To this was added the proceeds from the Sunday morning stalls and Tim's book sale giving a total of £623.75.

Sara Hicks and her team, Amanda Thiselton, Annette Teschner, Chris West, Jordan Odame and Zac Hicks came armed with stacks of pancakes to serve to hungry members of the 8am and 10.30am congregations. People of all ages tucked into the warm pancakes, choosing either sugar and lemon, chocolate, or cheese toppings.



Left: Felicity Davies and Gwynne Tucker Brown

Right: Kevin and Suzanne, Jessica and Linnea Quincey



Left: Ali and Denise Hardy



Christian Aid Week 2019

Christian Aid came into being in the aftermath of the second world war. Its immediate challenge was to offer aid to refugees and displaced peoples across Europe and the world. Christian Aid has brought Christians of all different denominations together for the common purpose of spreading God's love to those in need across the planet and at the same time helping to foster Christian unity in towns, villages and cities throughout the country.

Fundraising is mainly achieved during Christian Aid Week which is usually the second full week of May – this year it is 12th-18th May. There will be various fundraisers held across the town – some churches hosting Big Brekkies, Coffee Mornings and even fairs. The biggest fundraiser however is the House to House Collection. In the early years, collectors would knock on doors with a collection tin but this would often limit the donations to small change. The introduction of the donation envelope helped to increase the donations and offer the opportunity to gift aid donations. This however means that the collector needs to both deliver and then visit the house again to collect the donation.

Over the years Christian Aid has brought emergency relief to every major disaster from earthquakes to famines. It has also been involved with development projects across the developing world with the aim of helping communities to provide for themselves. For example, with educational projects to support development of their potential and promote economic independence and supporting women in communities with business schemes, giving them autonomy. Christian Aid was one of the first voices to lobby governments for action on climate change and Fairtrade.

I first supported Christian Aid as a teenager when I realised it was something I could do with Phil because of its ecumenical basis. (I was a Roman Catholic at the time). I have been impressed by the efficiency and excellent accountability of the charity which has come a

very long way and learned many lessons over the years. They have cut ties with the professional fundraising company that almost ruined their reputation and now totally rely on volunteers from churches for fundraising.

At Christ Church we are hoping that this year our Christian Aid Week House to House collection will reach more homes than in previous years. There are several new roads in the Parish that have never been collected from. I would be very willing to give support to new volunteers. If you would be willing to collect from your own block of flats or road, please contact me and I'll either supply you with the materials or put you in touch with the rep of the church that traditionally collects from that road. We now feel that House to House collecting is as much about spreading the word about Christian Aid as it is about raising money. Volunteers going out in all weathers to spread God's love and highlight needs of people across the world – surely this is God's Kingdom on earth.

If you would like to be part of this, please contact me on amandawhitefield2@hotmail.com or call 07880 715200.

Mandy Whitefield

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On Wednesday 10th April our speaker is David Howe who will be entertaining us with his talk "Laughter is the Best Medicine" which should be full of fun!

Then on Wednesday 24th April we welcome Hannah Jones who will be telling us all about the Stirling work done by the Great Western Air Ambulance, which will be very interesting.

Our talks take place in the Harwood Hall from 2.30 until 3.30pm and cost £1. Everyone will be made most welcome.

We also offer a free fitness class. This class is only available to people who come to Friendship Club. The class starts at 11.30am and lasts for 45minutes. Come along and have fun and get fit!

THY KINGDOM COME, THE GLOBAL WAVE OF PRAYER

30 MAY TO 9 JUNE

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are asking Christians across the globe to join them in a global wave of prayer for the Church between Pentecost and Ascension. There are lots of ways to take part:

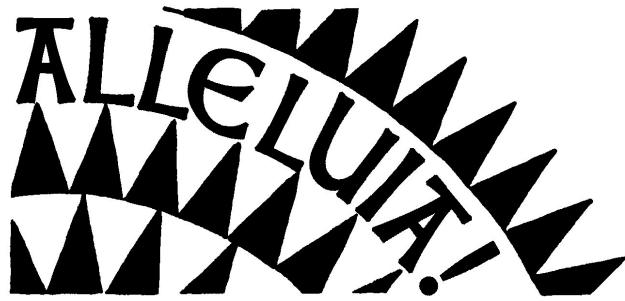
- Download free resources and inspiration like the Adventure Prayer Map to guide children's prayer (one free copy of the map is being supplied to all Church of England pupils in years 4-6).
- #Pledge2Pray and add your prayer light to the map by adding your pledge at www.thykingdomcome.global
- Share what you are doing on social media with #Pledge2Pray and #ThyKingdomCome in all your posts.

Find out more at www.thykingdomcome.global.

EVERY DAY FAITH - SHARE YOUR STORY

The Diocese of Gloucester is inviting you to share your everyday faith story in a short video. Whether you are a mum, builder, administrator, doctor or are retired, the aim is to create two-minute-long videos of people sharing how they live out their faith every day. Each video will be linked to the diocesan LIFE vision and Thy Kingdom Come. All films will be promoted through the diocesan website and social media and made available for you to share on your own online platforms. Please contact Sam Cavender, scavender@glosdioc.org.uk or call 01452 835527.

Both of these stories are from the Messenger, published by the Diocese of Gloucester, available at <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/>



April
2019

1st	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
3rd	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP

7th SUNDAY – The Fifth Sunday of Lent

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Julia Hook
		10.30am	Parish Communion CW [organ/choir]: David Laszlo
8th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Alstone Porch
10th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		12.30pm	Friendship Club Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood Hall
		2.30pm	Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: Laughter the Best Medicine - David Howe



14th SUNDAY – Palm Sunday

		8.00am	Holy Communion CW: Rev Mike Smith
		10.30am	All-age Worship [group]: Rev Mike Smith
		12 noon	Shortened Holy Communion
		7.00pm	'The Passion of our Lord according to St Mark' [organ/choir]
15th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		7.15 for 7.30pm	Reflection for Holy Week: 'In the Shadow of the Cross'
16th	Tues	7.30pm	Reflection for Holy Week: 'In the Shadow of the Cross'
17th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		7.15 for 7.30pm	Reflection for Holy Week: 'In the Shadow of the Cross'

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 18th April

7.30pm Parish Communion for Maundy Thursday

GOOD FRIDAY, 19th April

2.00pm 'At the Foot of the Cross' in church

EASTER DAY, 21st April

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Smith
10.30am **Easter Day Family Communion**
[organ/choir/group]: Amanda Thiselton
6.30pm **Easter Sunday Choral Eucharist**: Andrew Judge



- 24th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
12.30pm Friendship Club Soup & Cheese Lunch:
Harwood Hall
2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall:
The Work of the Air Ambulance - Hannah Jones
7.00pm Alpha 1 in the Harwood Hall
27th Sat 10.00am 'Engine Room' Prayer Event in the Harwood Hall

28th SUNDAY – The Second Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion CW: Rev Mike Smith
10.30am Morning Worship: Angela Smith
29th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
30th Tues 7.45pm Playgroup Committee in the Lansdown Room

MAY

- 1st Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
7.00pm Alpha 2 in the Harwood Hall

5th SUNDAY – The Third Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP:
6th Mon May Day Holiday - *parish office closed*
7th Tues 7.30pm Fabric & Hall Meeting in the Music Room
7.45pm Evangelism Meeting at 17 Royal Parade
8th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
12.30pm Friendship Club Salad Bar Lunch:
Harwood Hall
2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall:
The History of the House - Rose Hewlett
7.00pm Alpha 3 in the Harwood Hall
11th Sat 9.30am Clergy/Readers' Meeting in the Malvern Room

ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERS

For young people:

Playgroup: 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or phone 243021 / 07989 124492

Crèche: Sundays from 10.20am in the Alstone Porch

Sunday Morning Children's Groups Anna Laszlo 581593

Uniformed Organisations:

Rainbows: Thursday 5.00pm in Bayhill/Lansdown Maureen Jones
517183

Brownies: Thursday 6.00pm in Harwood Hall Maureen Jones 517183

Guides: Thursday 6.15pm in Bayhill/Lansdown Maureen Jones 517183

For adults:

Baby & Toddler Group for Mums (& Dads!) with pre-school children
Monday 1.30pm-3.15pm in the Harwood Hall

Sarah O'Meara 513067

Coffee Morning every Wednesday, 10am - 12noon in the Alstone Porch

Dee Rice 231764

Friendship Club - Lunch Club & Afternoon Tea Meetings on 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays in the Harwood Hall

Tina Benney 512246

Music for Worship:

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Ingold 01452 524199

Trebles and choir practice, in the Music Room

Friday 6.30-8pm Trebles rehearsal

7.30-9pm Choir rehearsal

Worship Group: Beck Donaldson: 01451 860561

Our Mission Partners:

Philbert Kalisa (REACH for Rwanda)

Corrie Verduyn (CMS) Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda

Wendy Phillips (The Matilda Project) matildaproject@gmail.com

Mission Without Borders, Contact: Jos Downey, jdowney@mwbuk.org

OUTREACH MAY 2019

Copy to Susan West at susan.blackett1@btinternet.com or to the Parish Office by no later than Sunday 14th April please.

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION - a said service 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays (Prayer Book) 2nd & 4th Sundays (Common Worship)	
10.30am	1st Sunday	PARISH COMMUNION CW
	2nd Sunday	FAMILY SERVICE and at 12noon HOLY COMMUNION
	3rd Sunday	PARISH COMMUNION CW
	4th Sunday	MORNING WORSHIP
	5th Sunday	MORNING WORSHIP

The children are in church for the first few minutes of each service, and then leave for their Sunday teaching groups.

Scramblers (Key Stage 1), Explorers (Key Stage 2) and Pathfinders (Years 7-9) meet during each 10.30am service except Family Service.

CRECHE available each Sunday morning for the under 3s.

6.30pm	Christ Church hosts occasional 6.30pm evening services. On Palm Sunday, 14th April, <u>at 7.00pm</u> : 'The Passion of our Lord according to St Mark' with Christ Church Choir On Easter Sunday, 21st April, at 6.30pm: Choral Eucharist
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Monday to Friday

8.45am	MORNING PRAYER This is a wonderful way to start the day. You'd be very welcome to join the small group who enjoy the benefits of Morning Prayer. We meet for about half an hour.
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Wednesday

10.30am	HOLY COMMUNION BCP
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HOMEGROUPS for Bible Study & Fellowship
meet regularly on different days of the week.
Newcomers are always welcome.