



Christ Church News (18)

by and for the Christ Church Family
5th July 2020 4th Sunday after Trinity

Contact number for our new minister,
the Rev'd Helen Higgin-Botham,
at the manse is **01243 771338**.
Her day off is Saturday. If you leave a
message on the answerphone she will
get to it the next day.

Dear Friends,

Well we made it!! After a socially distanced farewell from a few of the Gosport Elders we were on our way. Despite all the odds, despite it being one of the hottest weeks of the year, we manage to move all our worldly goods from Gosport to Chichester in just 4 days!! I say 'we', but in reality it was mainly due to two great guys and a smallish van from a company called 'Bishop's Move' who definitely went the extra mile in making our relocation go as smoothly as possible during current COVID19 restrictions. From the moment they pulled up in the driveway

of our former Manse at around 8.30 am, to the first lot of unloading at Beth Salem on the Monday afternoon, they certainly were on top form.

Our choice of movers, however, did raise some eyebrows amongst our former neighbours – one remarked that I must have got a promotion – until it was pointed out to them that the URC does not have Bishops, I was simply answering the call to another pastorate! Moving to a new home does indeed have its challenges but you'd think that after the number of moves Colin and I have made we'd have it down to a fine art. In some respects that is true – Colin has once again perfected the art of flat pack furniture construction; we both agreed (more or less) on where things should be placed; my love of tidying ensured a homely feel (eventually); and as I write there is not one packing box in sight! We did end up with our fair share of scrapes and bruises and we both scratched our heads at the many quirky features this lovely house has to offer, but so far it has lived up to its name – Beth Salem – a House of Peace. We would, however, like it to become a House of Hospitality and welcome. Yes, it is our home, and for that we are profoundly grateful, but we both love to entertain, and Colin never needs an excuse to cook or get the BBQ out!!

So in the weeks and months to come, as I try to get to grips with two new churches and a whole host of strangers who I'm sure will in due course become friends, I will do my best (by the Grace of God) to minister amongst you and live up to the call you made. Forgive me if I take a while to remember your name; allow me to make mistakes as I wrestle with unfamiliar practices; help me to get to know you better as you get to know me in this shared journey of discipleship. May our time together be full of wonderful moments, lots of laughter, perhaps the sharing of a few tears, and even days when we have to disagree agreeably – as my Mum and Dad used to say, 'It's all part of life's rich tapestry'!



Throughout it all though, I will remain yours in Christ ... Rev'd Helen <><

Word for the Day – Romans 7: 15-25a

Reflection *(adapted from The Preacher's Companion 2020)*

Life can be full of conflicts and contradictions - opposing events, actions and words each challenging the other - each presenting an alternative view. Life is complicated and often a muddle of decisions made with insufficient preparation or information. It feels like we are swayed in one direction and then the other - always having to compromise.

Even within our own being we are sometimes at war with ourselves. Our feelings pull us from one thing to another and our best intentions are often undermined by our own decisions and actions. St Paul speaks of this struggle in his letter to the Romans. He says he can will what is right but he cannot do it. He wants one thing but does another; he expects one thing to happen and the opposite comes to pass; he is captive to the will of his body when, perhaps, his mind and his heart are pulling him in another direction. He may desire to follow in the law of the Lord, but he is blown off track again and again by his propensity to be drawn into sin; it almost seems like one step forward and two steps back. Paul acknowledges that there is an answer to the contradictions and conflicts that each of us may be fighting within and without, and the answer is Jesus Christ. We are called to follow him and learn from him as he is the one who can keep us on the straight and narrow way..... Jesus offers a solution through this moral and spiritual maze. Interestingly, he doesn't say that he can make conflict, complexity, contradiction and challenge disappear altogether, but he does promise rest for our souls and refreshment for our hearts. He promises an oasis of calm where we can offload our burdens and find a new kind of peace, which may then help us navigate and understand a complex and challenging world. Ultimately, we are to put our life in his hands with the simple trust of a child.

Victoria Johnson

Prayer

How hard we make things, O God,
how heavy the yoke we place on ourselves through our insecurity and pride,
through our fear and unbelief, through our denial and stagnation;
How threatening our world becomes when we make life and joy depend on our own ability.

But, you have invited us to a different life, a deeper joy,
you have offered us a lighter yoke if we will just stop for a moment and follow you.

Thank you for your gently urgent whisper, your softly persistent touch,
calling us to come, to rest, and to lay down our self-imposed burdens;

With relief and hope we respond to your invitation,
gladly taking up your yoke, joyfully lifting your burden,
and freely giving ourselves to you in love, in praise and in service.

Amen

'Sacredise'

The funeral of Wendy Corney's husband Pat will take place on
Thursday, 9th July at 2 pm at Westbourne Cemetery
and will be conducted by the Rev'd Ian Suttie. Family only flowers.
Donations to Moores Traditional Funeral Directors at Southbourne.
All are welcome
but, of course, social distancing will be important.

Congratulations & best wishes to
Philip Ellison on his up & coming
40th Birthday,
on Monday, 6th July
Have great day, Philip

12 Choir Students Sing a cappella 'How Great Thou Art'

sent by Karen Lillington

Click on the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGWKGWNX>