

Christ Church News (39)
by and for the Christ Church Family
29th November 2020

Message *from Derek Wales*

Dear Friends,

I have been asked to fill this spot while Helen is taking a breather. Thoughts at this time of the year turn to sending greetings to family and friends for Christmas and a 'Happy New year'. Little did we suspect at this time last year what the new year would bring. For so many it has brought what one poet has called 'pain, sacrifice and deprivation'. But today we mark the beginning of a different year - the Christian one - as on Advent Sunday we cast our eye, as it were, over the whole scope of the Christian story before we enter the period of preparation for our celebration of the birth of Christ.

For the Christian year our greeting speaks not of happiness but hope. There may be more pain, sacrifice and deprivation ahead; indeed, in one way or another that is the common human experience, even without a pandemic, and it runs counter to our longing for happiness. But Christian hope, like faith, is born of love - God's love; it is not circumscribed by circumstance. It is grounded - not in what happens to us, but in what God wants for us. It is not a baseless optimism but a firm trust that God, who, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ affirmed his love for us, will both make us strong - walking humbly with God - to face whatever may meet us, whether personal or communal, and keep us in the conviction that God's purposes of good for all creation cannot in the end be defeated by any evil.

One feature of our walk with God is our reaching out to help others face their future. You have done that in a magnificent way this autumn through your response to the Commitment for Life appeal on behalf of Christian Aid. Our Treasurer, Graham Manson, reports that the appeal has raised **£1165**, which, when Gift Aid is added, will rise to **£1407** (£908 last year and £1114 in 2018). One of the countries on which the Commitment for Life programme invites us to focus our attention is Bangladesh, a country struggling not only with its own poverty and environmental issues but also to support the great number of Rohingya refugees fleeing from Myanmar (Burma). In the camps Christian Aid is working with its partners to strengthen hygiene stations, to provide training to Rohingya women in handicraft work - thus helping them earn a living and create an income - and to provide protective equipment against the Corona virus to trainers visiting workers in their homes.

So, as we reflect on the hope that God offers us in Christ, let us pray particularly for the people of Bangladesh - as suggested by the Commitment for Life team:

Prayer

God,

We thank you for the rich tapestry of the art, poetry and cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

We thank you that despite being the eighth most populated country,

Bangladesh is assisting Rohingya refugees and helping them
during the life-confining Covid-19 pandemic,

We pray for Bangladesh's poverty and environmental crisis,

including groundwater metal contamination and increased salinity
due to human and industrial greed for profit.

Help us to act responsibly, Lord.

Help us to live simply so that others in countries like Bangladesh can simply live.

Amen

Word for Today Matthew: 24:36-44

Toy Service?

There will be no Toy Service this December owing to the difficulties involved with quarantining the toys. However, Christ Church has made a substantial donation to Homestart and the Family Centre in Portsmouth. If you wish to make a further donation, details for giving are:

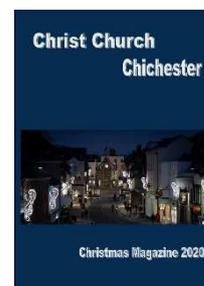
- transfer online to the Church bank account at CAF Bank – Sort Code 40-52-40 and account 0003 3603 with the reference of 'Homestart', or 'The Family Centre, Portsmouth' in the instructions to your bank
- or by cheque made out to Christ Church Chichester, with 'Homestart' or 'The Family Centre, Portsmouth' written on the back and sent to The Treasurer at the Church address: Christ Church, Methodist and United Reformed Church, Old Market Avenue, Southgate, CHICHESTER, PO19 1SW.

Christmas is coming:

The Christmas Magazine has been printed; the Christmas Angels have been knitted and put into bags of three. If you are on our list, you will be receiving a hard copy of the magazine and a bag of angels from your Pastoral Visitor sometime in the next two weeks.

Think of the pleasure the angels have brought in previous years and think of who you can give your angels to.

We have a few angels left; if you are receiving this newsletter and are not on our list but would like a copy of the magazine and a bag of angels please email chichristchurch@gmail.com with your request and, of course, your address! If we have enough angels and if you live in the area, we will endeavour to get them to you.



In memory of Anne Wales:

Sheila and George Wimbush kindly agreed to plant bulbs donated by Chichester Child Contact Centre volunteers in memory of Anne. It is hoped that these Spring flowers will be in bloom in the flower tubs outside the Church when we remember Anne on the anniversary of her death last year.

Gathered for Prayer

will recommence this coming
Wednesday, 2nd December.

Remember to 'Zoom'

The service on Sunday, 29 November will be via Zoom. Wendy Corney is preaching and Helen is hosting the meeting. You should have received an email with the invitation to join.