



# **Christ Church News (12)** by and for the Christ Church Family Sunday after Ascension 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

On 24 May 1738, exactly 282 years ago today, John Wesley recorded in his journal:

*“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”*

Of course, Wesley was an ordained Anglican priest. He had a thorough grounding in theology. But his head-knowledge of the nuts and bolts of Christianity had given him no assurance of salvation. It was not until he experienced God’s working in his heart that he knew by faith in Christ that his salvation was secure.

Rational argument can never save a person’s soul. It can bring us part of the way, but there will always remain a final step – a step of faith – that is required before assurance of salvation is ours.

So, as we navigate this season of what the Apostle Paul describes as “*light and momentary troubles*”, let us “*fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). After all, “*faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*” (Hebrews 11:1)

Certain hope of eternal glory – that’s a light to guide us through these troubled waters.

*Ed Martin*

## **Word for today. Acts 1. Vv.6-11**

### **Ascension Meditation**

Suddenly he was by our side no longer  
But our faith, if anything,  
is stronger than it has ever been.  
Because his going that day has somehow  
brought him closer than he has ever been before,  
Filling our whole being – body, mind and soul -  
Transforming our every thought, word and deed.  
He’s here! He’s there! He’s everywhere!

No person beyond his love,  
No situation beyond his purpose,  
For he has not simply risen, he has ascended -  
Jesus, the man who lived and died amongst us,  
Who shared our flesh and blood,  
Now is One with the father.  
Lord of Lords and King of Kings.  
Nothing in heaven or on earth  
can separate us from the wonder of his love!

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You were brought low,  
            Yet you have been lifted high.  
You were servant of all,  
            Yet you are above all and beyond all.  
You were despised and rejected,  
            Yet your name is exalted above all names.  
You were fully human,  
            Yet you are divine.

You were taken into heaven,  
            Yet you are here by our side.  
You are higher than our highest thoughts,  
            Greater than our minds can ever grasp,  
So, with all your people in every age,  
            We bow before you  
And confess you as our risen Saviour,  
            To the glory of God, the Father,  
  Amen

There will be a **Circuit Service via Zoom on Sunday 31st May at 10:15 am for 10:30 am**. If you would like to attend, please would you let me know **by Wednesday 27th May** at the latest. I will send names and email addresses to Ian Suttie and he will then send you an email with an invitation to join the service. Ian needs to know who wishes to attend as numbers are limited on the current Circuit licence. So, get your names to me quickly!

*Doreen*

**Zizi Temple** (*see Newsletter 10*) We wish you all that is good in this new and exciting chapter of your life.  
Thank you for being a part of Christ Church Singers during your time with us.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of Christ Church News, the community newspaper of the people of Christ Church. Thank you to everyone who has contributed news items, stories, poems and reflections over the past three months. It has been fascinating to learn your spiritual insights and what excites, interests or amuses you. We have all been enriched and encouraged by your contributions. If you haven't yet contributed to Christ Church News, and would like to, we invite you to send us something - maybe a prayer, a poem, a reflection - perhaps an account of the "kindness of strangers", some experience connected with "lockdown," or something you spotted in a newspaper that touched, intrigued you or made you laugh! If you have already sent something we won't mind hearing from you again! Thank you!

Send your items to [chichristchurch@googlemail.com](mailto:chichristchurch@googlemail.com)

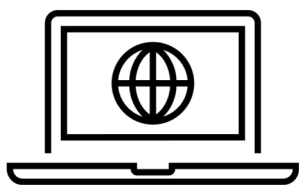
*(If we receive a large number of responses and don't have room in the Newsletter we will keep them for the next magazine – whenever the next one appears!)*

## Message from Mark Payne of St. Pancras

The Mayor has set up **The Mayor's Hardship Fund** to meet the needs of those who have no money coming in as a result of the lockdown. The initial contact is by telephone **07740 621812** to the Mayor who does the initial filtering. The person applying will need to have a community contact - (e.g. community leaders, a member of the clergy etc) that can back the claim.

Items, such as electrical appliances, can be ordered on behalf of the applicant. The normal turn around is two days. All information will be kept confidential. The scheme is only for residents of Chichester and the surrounding parishes.

Grants will normally range between £100 and £250.  
*Derek Wales*



As you know we have been able to project words and images onto our screens at Christ Church each Sunday morning for a number of years. Recently, the technology has been updated and the two screens now give us improved visual aids. This aspect of our worship, with the words of hymns and the many varied images on screen, is an important aid to worship and we appreciate the time and commitment of our small team of friends who operate the projector. However, it would be helpful to have a few more people on the team.

### Is this for you?

Full training will be given when we are able to go back to church. Of course we are not sure yet when that will happen or what the new 'normal' will be, but, in terms of safe distancing, the plan is for the projectionist to sit at a separate table so as to keep to the recommended distance from the person at the sound desk.

*Please contact me on 01243 774271 if you would like to discuss further.*

*Doreen*

## A Crafty Christ Church Challenge

*from Margaret Martin*

As many of you may know the fish has been a symbol of Christ our Redeemer and Saviour and Hope for the future. Methodists in the Southampton District, the South East District and the Channel Islands District have been challenged to create a fish to use as an object for prayer, gift for others or tool for evangelism. We at Christ Church thought we could take it one stage further. We would like the congregation to create fish that we would then bring to the first service after the Lockdown ends to give thanks for God's care of us. Then after they have been collected we would take them away and have the fish attached to a banner to be hung in the Church to remind us all of this period in our lives.

The fish could be knitted, crocheted, made of fabric, or any other medium that could be attached to a banner. We ask that you try to keep them relatively small, so we can fit as many as possible on the banner. (The knitted fish pattern produces a fish of approx 5 ½ by 3 1/2in, 14 by 9 cm to give you an idea of size) To begin with we would like to have one fish per family.

\*Instructions for making knitted or crocheted fish are sent with this Newsletter. Also, a template for a fabric fish is included although you may want to change the size.

If you have any questions contact me at [martin.margaretj@gmail.com](mailto:martin.margaretj@gmail.com)

\**Knit\_A\_Fish.pdf and Crotchet\_A\_Fish.pdf*