

Christ Church News (37)
by and for the Christ Church Family
15th November 2020

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

In rummaging around my 'Oddments and Resources' computer folder - searching for inspiration this week - I came across the following, which I thought I would share with you.....It's called '**The 23rd Psalm for Busy People**'.



In a world where we are always busy, (even when 'retired'), there often comes a time when we need to just stop, refocus on the important things, and give ourselves permission to rest - not easy in the age of technology where we can be 'accessible' 24/7!!

However, for the next two weeks – apart from our AGM and Gathered for Prayer meetings – I am hoping to take some time to catch up on some reading and reflection before we get to the traditionally busy time of Advent and Christmas. Perhaps it won't be so busy this year -with being limited on what we can do – or am I just being hopeful!! Online Services are being led by George Watt, Shelagh Morgan, and Wendy Corney and I'm hoping that someone will have a burning desire to write pieces for the Newsletter as well – as they say - '*watch this space*'!!

*The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness, which restores my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind,
and His guidance is plain.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for His presence is here,
His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours;
For I shall walk in the peace of the Lord, and dwell in His house forever. Anon.*

Yours in Christ,
Helen <><

Word for Today Matthew 25: 14-30 (*Second Sunday before Advent*)

Meditation of a reader of Matthew 25

I'll use my talents all right, don't you worry about that! Well, you have to, don't you, if you're to get on in the world, and, like any other, I mean to do that.

You know what they say, '*God helps those who help themselves,*' so spot on Jesus: nice parable.

What's that you say? I've got him wrong? In what way?

You mean it's about serving God, not self? About using our gifts for his glory, his kingdom, rather than personal gain?

I'm not sure I like the sound of that, though, I guess, it does fit rather better with the man and the message - all that stuff of his about good news for the poor, riches on earth, treasure in heaven.

Shame - I was quite hopeful there; thought I had carte blanche to feather my nest, but it seems not – the day coming when I'll be called to account.

Oh well, I must overcome the habit of a lifetime, I suppose – learn to give rather than take; but it won't be easy – not without help.

Ah, you feel the same! That's encouraging. At least I'm not alone.

'In more ways than one!' you say?

'Not one of us left to cope on our own?'

Tell me more!

Prayer

'God helps those who help themselves' –

that's what people sometimes tell us, lord,

and that's what we'd sometimes like the words of Jesus to mean,

for it makes them more comfortable to live with,

fitting in nicely with our instinctive approach to life.

Yet, deep down, we know that the gospel message is not about doing well for ourselves,

looking after number one,

but about employing our gifts in whatever ways we can

to help further the growth of your kingdom.

Help us to do that,

consecrating our lives to your service.

Help us to seek your glory and advancement

rather than our own.

Amen

Advent Services 2020

As an opportunity to gather together as a whole circuit - as we enter the season of Advent - we will hold a **circuit service via zoom each Sunday at 6 pm**, accessible by both webcam or telephone.

All across the circuit are welcome to join. Afterwards, the services will be uploaded onto our YouTube channel.

Services will be led by members of the circuit staff, arrangements TBA

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| Advent 1 | Nov 29th | 6pm |
| Advent 2 | Dec 6th | 6pm |
| Advent 3 | Dec 13th | 6pm |
| Advent 4 | Dec 20th | 6pm |

You can **request access details** by contacting us via email wscdmedia@gmail.com or calling Rev Dan Balsdon on **01243 823895**

Gathered for Prayer

Rev'd Helen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. It's an invitation to '*Gathered for Prayer*' **each Wednesday morning at 9 am** and will be by computer or phone-in.

Please see the attached document for details of how to join.

Services December to February

In the hope that 'lockdown' will end on 2 December, services at Christ Church are planned at 10:30 am each Sunday plus a Christmas Day Service at 10 am. *(see the website for December details)*

So, from now **Mary will be taking bookings for December services**

Harvest Donations

The total for our Harvest donations was.....**£1060!!** Truly amazing!!

As some were specific to the Stonepillow organisation, the split will be £540 to Stonepillow and £520 to HEART

Postage stamps for St. Wilfrid's Hospice

As Christmas approaches would you please save used stamps from your post. These stamps now go to St Wilfrid's Hospice, *(used to be The Leprosy Mission)*, and there is a box in the lounge in which to place these stamps – thank you in advance for your contribution.

Hugh Hawker