



Christ Church News (16)

by and for the Christ Church Family
21st.June 2020 3rd Sunday after Pentecost



Dorcas was the first woman with a Greek name in the early church. Not much is known about her other than that she lived in Joppa, a sea port in Palestine, and that she was generous in giving to others - especially sewing and weaving garments for widows and needy causes. She is best known for a miraculous healing. In Acts, Ch 9, we learn she became ill and died. Two of her friends sent for the apostle, Peter, who was nearby in Lydda. When he arrived, she had already been washed and laid in an upstairs room and was surrounded by mourning widows who showed Peter some of the many things that Dorcas had made for them. After sending everyone out of the room, Peter knelt and prayed; then he turned towards Dorcas and commanded her to get up - whereupon she opened her eyes and sat up! Peter took her hand to help her to her feet, calling the believers and widows to witness that she was alive. The story concludes that the news spread all over Joppa and many people became believers when they heard.

This episode shows that our Christianity should be evident - not just in words but in actions as well. Putting faith into action is moving from belief to discipleship. Following the initial act of trusting in Christ we must submit to his rule. Faith without works is dead. Dorcas was not just a talker, she was always 'doing' as well. Her faith in Christ was seen by the work she did. No one is saved by good works alone, but it is the obligation of every saved person to be like Dorcas. There is room for all in the service of God. One can find a variety of ministries in Dorcas' story - as many in the home as in the church. There is no such thing as one 'main' ministry. The power of God is still operating today through kindly care of God's people as well as in inspiring words.

Christiane Rolls

Word for Today **Philippians 4: vv 4-7, 10-12**

Reflection

Was I happy? No I wasn't! Oh, I gave thanks; don't get me wrong – I marvelled each day at the love of Christ and rejoiced constantly at the awesome grace he had shown to me. But for all that, there was much I found difficult - far more than I'd bargained for.

It wasn't the weariness, the endless travel, the days and weeks - even months - without rest. I could cope with those. It was the hostility, the beatings, the stone throwing, the interminable hours languishing in a prison cell. That's when it became hard to bear and when I began to wonder what I had got myself into.

It was enough to break the strongest of spirits and yet, somehow, even in my darkest moments, I found the strength I needed. A word of encouragement, a sign of hope, a light dawning, and I knew that Christ was with me, even there - especially there - in my time of need. I may have been hungry, but I had food for my soul. I may have been broken in body, but my spirit had been made whole. I may have been poor in the things of this world, but I was rich in the things of God. The sufferings were just as real, but it changed the way I saw them. My perspective on life, on death, on everything, transformed for ever. I had joy in my heart, peace which passed all understanding, and the promise of treasure in heaven.

Whatever else might be taken from me, nothing could take away those.
It was enough and more than enough!

Along with the newsletter there is an attachment of
a virtual choir singing 'Amazing Grace'
in 50 COVID19 affected countries.
It is very moving and inspiring!

Prayer

Loving God,

you do not promise those who follow you a life in which everything goes smoothly;
you do not guarantee success or prosperity,
nor do you offer immunity from the trials and tribulations of this world.
Indeed, true service may involve us in sacrifice and self-denial - more demands rather than less,
greater and more testing challenges than we may ever have faced without you.
But what you do promise is fulfilment in Christ to meet our deepest needs
and give inner peace and enduring contentment in each and every circumstance.
Such peace matures gradually as, day by day, we learn to let go and put our trust in you.
Reach out then, and draw us ever closer to your side,
so that we may learn the secret of being content with whatever we have.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We Will Meet When the Danger Is Over

from dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

John L Bell (C) Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community

We will meet when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are over;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

So let's make with each other a promise
that when we've all come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join to break bread and share wine;
and the peace that we pass to each other
will more than a casual sign.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for every new day.

If in Word, Ctrl + Click on the link below to play the video of
'We Will Meet When the Danger is Over'. If in pdf, just click.
https://player.vimeo.com/video/429204412?fbclid=IwAR0iLGNqPVC_oZFoBYDgf5nBcx8FwyeFv_qCFu8vgMvJbnukIIHhoFhxglms



HEART Administrator post vacant

message from Dan Slatter, Revelation Family Church Leaders Team

Please find **attached a Job Pack and Application Form**
for the role of HEART Administrator (part-time).

Hannah, who has done the job wonderfully,
is finishing the role to have a baby.

We are seeking a permanent replacement to the role.

Dan Slatter - on behalf of HEART Trustees
(*Rachel Hawes, Mark Payne, Geoff Merry, Dan Slatter*)

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Your purse/wallet may have been locked down,
meaning your bank balance has been growing
unintentionally –
so why not up your regular giving or boost
organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontieres
at the desperate frontline of relief and need
in five continents -
its work now aggravated by COVID 19?

Terry Timblick