

Christ Church News (46)

by and for the Christ Church Family

17th January 2021

Musings from the Manse

What do you do when the Christmas decorations are nicely packed away, when the rhythm of the new year has well and truly set in, (for better or for worse!!), and you find yourself asking the question 'What's next'?!

Well, for me, my thoughts have turned towards Lent – prompted by a couple of conversations around how Lent 'can be done' this year. So, here's what I'm thinking...whatever else we can or can't do due to Covid restrictions, we can still have a Lenten Study Group(s), albeit on Zoom, (or distributed by study book), and we can all commit to joining in!! For me, aimlessly wandering towards Easter is not an option and, however busy life is in other areas, I will always try to find time to improve my discipleship by reading and studying through the days of Lent.



So, here's what I'm proposing... a **Lent Study**, based on something which appears to have slipped under the radar at Christ Church and Pagham! The something is a book called 'Holy Habits' by Rev Andrew Roberts and is based on the whole-life Christian discipleship call to adventure. Through a rich mix of biblical material and inspiring stories, the nature and nurture of discipleship is explored. This is done by looking at ten habits seen in Acts 2; these are: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, giving, service, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and the making of more disciples. If you haven't read the book, then I would highly recommend it to you as a vital part of your ongoing journey as a disciple of Jesus – I have a spare copy for anyone interested, but it is available through many sources and I will happily order copies for anyone who fancies a good read.

The Lent study book is called '**Holy Habits: Following Jesus**', and consists of **6 weekly study sessions, plus one study session for each day of Holy Week**. Again, this is widely available through many Christian resource websites or shops and, whilst we can photocopy each session, I always think **it's much better to have your own copy** for additional study and reflection outside of the group. So...anyone interested?

I'm happy to host a **Zoom group session each Monday evening, or during the day if that is easier, or both**. The sessions would need to **begin on Monday 15th February for six weeks**, and then **each day of Holy Week**. For those who are not confident on Zoom you have the option just to have 'Speaker view' on your screen, rather than 'Gallery View' – and I'm hoping that I can master the option to put you into breakout rooms for a smaller discussion. If you need any more information, just let me know.

If you'd like to order a Lent Study Book, or the 'Holy Habits' book from which it is sourced, let me know – it's cheaper to order in bulk – and I will do my best to get your copy to you.

I will need you to notify me of your order by Monday 25th January – thankyou.

Yours in Christ, Helen <><

Word for today John 1:43, 45, 46

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him,
"Follow me."

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote,
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

...Nathanael said to him,
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him,
"Come and see."

Meditation of Philip

I had to share it straightaway, for this man Jesus was different from anyone I'd met before - something about him, from the very start, reaching deep into my soul!

'Follow me,' he'd said, just like that – no preamble, no warning, no explanation – and, do you know what, I followed. The idea of quibbling never even entered my head, such was the magnetism of the guy – his quiet but compelling presence. But first I rushed off and found my mate Nathanael, blurting out the news that I'd met the Messiah, the one foretold in the Law and the prophets, coming to redeem his people.

He was sceptical at first, but not for long - not once he'd met Jesus for himself. His excitement and enthusiasm were then as intense as my own. Why you ask? Because we discovered in him what we yearned for – peace, purpose, freedom, forgiveness – new life that was suddenly brim-full of promise - not just now, but for all eternity.

I shared the news with my friend; I've shared it since in Judea and Samaria and I mean to go on doing so to the ends of the earth for as long as I've breath in my body – for meeting Jesus changed my life and it can change yours too!

Prayer

God of all,

help us to share our faith with others –

not trotting out pious platitudes or empty jargon,

nor repeating parrot fashion what we think we ought to say,

but communicating, simply and sincerely, what you mean to us,

what we have experienced in Christ.

Make known through us the riches of your grace and wonder of your love, to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

adapted from 'A most amazing man' by Nick Fawcett.

Gathered for Prayer....

During these difficult times, 'Gathered for Prayer' continues to meet every Wednesday morning (9am) and evening (7pm) on Zoom for a half hour of guided and extemporary prayer – all are welcome!

To Join...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5742722693?pwd=R3BEQ3pPV0ZJNndRWVKeWdvand6QT09>

Meeting ID: 574 272 2693

Passcode: xsX5UM

For those of you who wish to order a copy of '**Holy Habits: Following Jesus**', by Rev Andrew Roberts

Helen's contact details are:

email: revhelen@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01243 771338

Angel Stories?

Thank you to those who have sent information about what happened to their Christmas angels. Please continue to send any 'flight details'.

Just to clarify:

I don't need the personal details of the people who received them, just the 'stories' - including any interesting responses.

Receiving the Newsletter?

If you are receiving this newsletter and you no longer wish to because you have moved, please reply to the email and let me know.

If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter and is not on my list, either ask their permission to give me their email address or get them to email:

chichristchurch@googlemail.com