

Christ Church News (21)
by and for the Christ Church Family
26th July 2020

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months we've all had to learn new skills in terms of Zoom Meetings and virtual conversations, but now a new string has been added to Christ Church's bow – Virtual Worship on YouTube!!

This was the result of a great many hours of research and practice by myself, Doreen and Ian Field, and the not to be underestimated skills of our Youth Worker, Anna Vowles, who has become our editing whizz! Whilst not everyone is comfortable in front of the webcam, we managed to overcome glitches and recording issues to produce, what will now become, a weekly Act of Worship by this small group.



They say *'you can't teach an old dog new tricks'* – well I would say, a bit less of the *'old dog'* and a lot more of the *'can-do'* attitude was all that was needed. Failing that, there was also the fall back position of speaking nicely to one's offspring, who were able to explain everything very carefully - (and write notes for you too) - just in case the thought of videoing, downloading or uploading to 'We Transfer' had one scratching one's head in utter dismay and confusion!!

Will all this become part of our 'future church' and our 'new normal'? I hope so. For those, who are unable to come to worship in person, it is a great resource for allowing them to still be a part of our communal gathering on a Sunday morning. Next, we need to consider those who cannot go 'online' but can access by telephone, so watch this space!!

So, to all who made this a success so far, my heartfelt thanks and admiration.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Helen <><

Word for Today **1 Kings 3: 5-12** *(just one of the four lectionary readings for today)*

Who would consider themselves to be a wise person? I, like many others, would mostly likely say that they are still a work in progress!!

Reflecting on the passage from 1 Kings, I began to wonder how much any one person actually knows, and how limited one person's wisdom is – even if you do have the Wisdom of Solomon. Each of us have some insights, knowledge and wisdom, but the scope is usually fairly narrow and limited to our individual sphere of influence and knowledge – our own world. We are good at what we do; or we've gained wisdom and understanding regarding our special interests and experience.

But if we were suddenly placed in a new, unfamiliar position or found ourselves in a foreign city unable to speak the language and not knowing how to find a loo, we'd quickly become aware of limitations. Our knowledge and experience will not help us. We'd need somebody to help us.

When we consider the six billion people, (or thereabouts), who inhabit the earth - each having wisdom about their own little world – we realise, even then, how little wisdom each of us, as individuals, possess. Compared to God—it's next to zero! If we took all the wisdom of everyone in the world and measured it against God's wisdom, it would still be next to nothing!

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God." (1 Corinthians 3:19).

So, what is wisdom? The Bible tells us in Proverbs 1:7; *"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom"*.

When we begin to recognise that our life is about God, not about us - that is the beginning of wisdom. It's not about being afraid of God, it's about reverence to God and all that he can do for us. When we make a conscious decision to know God by reading His word and obeying the insights and directions He gives us, then we are on the first step to true wisdom.

The writer of Psalm 119 says, *"Nothing is perfect except your words. Oh, I how I think about them all day long. They make me wiser than my enemies, because they are my constant guide. They make me even wiser than the aged."*

The Psalmist certainly understood one thing – that true wisdom can only come from God's word – God's action in our lives.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you have spoken your word,
you offer us your guidance,
yet all too often we go astray.

Despite our desire to serve you, we are swayed by those around us,
our faith undermined, our beliefs subtly influenced by pressures we are barely even aware of.

Forgive us the weakness of our commitment and teach us to make time for you each day
to study your word and to reflect on your goodness.

Draw near to us and help us to draw near to you,
so that you may be a part of us, filling us in heart and mind and soul.

In the name of Christ we ask it.

Amen.

Warning – email scam

Several Christ Church members have received an email from someone purporting to be Kenneth Lynch asking for money. Please delete any email from someone using Kenneth's name for the time being. A message has been left on the Rev'd Kenneth's land line telephone alerting him of the scam.

Doreen Field – Senior Elder

REMINDER

Christ Church is now open for private prayer twice a week:

Wednesdays: 10 am – 11:30 am

Sundays: 4 pm – 5:30 pm

For details see the attachment to last week's newsletter – *'Leaflet – open for prayer'*

