

**Christ Church News (23)**  
*by and for the Christ Church Family*  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share the latest plans and thoughts about activities for Christ Church during August and September. Rev'd Helen went into hospital on Monday for a knee operation and I have heard that the operation went well and she is back home and on the way to recovery. Helen will, of course, be taking sick leave over the next weeks. During August, if you need to speak to a minister, please contact Ian Field on **01243 774271** in the first instance. Ian will let you know whether Helen is available. *Doreen*

### **Some thoughts on changing and challenging times:**

#### **Philippians 1: 3-8**

##### **Reflection**

It's been good to share with you, more than you'll ever know.

The times we've been through, the experiences we've faced,  
they've gone together, little by little, bit by bit  
to weave a web between us – our lives inextricably entwined.

I've preached the word to you, led your prayers and guided your thoughts.

I've visited your homes, heard your problems, witnessed your joys.

But more than that, we've laughed together, learned together,  
grieved together, grown together – the time that's passed  
as much about your ministry to me as mine to you.

And they will live with me - the moments we've shared,  
the good times, the bad, the times of joy, the times of sorrow -  
remembered or unremembered. They have all been special -  
every one of them a part of the person I am,  
a symbol of all that we have been together.

It's been good to share more than words can express  
and it's hard to part - more difficult than you may think.

But it is not goodbye - not for us or anyone who holds dear the name of Christ -  
simply "*Farewell*" until the day we meet again in this life or the next -  
whatever the future, whatever we face, come rain or sunshine, pleasure or pain.

We are one with each other always, through being one together in Him.

##### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,

We thank you for all those with whom we have walked on the journey of faith,  
those who have been part of our family in Jesus Christ.

We praise you for the gift of fellowship which continues to mean so much to us -  
for all the strength and support we receive through it -  
the love, the comfort, inspiration and encouragement it brings us in such abundance.

You do not leave us to travel alone, but bind us together through your Spirit,  
granting us unity of faith and purpose  
which transcends those things that keep us apart.

Forgive us if we have failed to share as we ought, neglecting each other's needs,  
and forgetting our mutual responsibilities.

Forgive us the divisions we have allowed to come between us -  
the thoughtless words and careless actions which have broken your body.

Teach us to open our hearts to one another, to grow together in love  
and to celebrate the privilege of belonging to your people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,                      Amen.

## Further news...

### Private Prayer

As you know Christ Church has been open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10 am – 11:30 am and Sundays, 4 pm – 5:30 pm since 22<sup>nd</sup> July. A risk assessment group carried out the planning and operational requirements to make our building, welcomers and visitors as safe as possible; thank you to all who have worked on this to make it possible for re-opening our church. The risk assessment group met on Thursday to review the arrangements. At the time of writing our church has been open on five occasions; two or three people have visited on four occasions and no one visited on one occasion. Despite the low numbers, people who have visited Christ Church have appreciated the opportunity to do so. Apart from prayer, people visiting have had the opportunity to meet with each other and the welcomers on duty - although at a safe distance. This, perhaps, has been as important as attending for prayer, which we know, as practising Christians, we can do anywhere. However, the plan is to continue with opening our church for private prayer until the end of August. Please remember that - due to further Government regulations - we are now required to wear a face mask when visiting Christ Church, as in any other building, unless, of course, you have a medical reason for not doing so. We have some disposable masks at church if you forget yours.

### Moving On ....

From September we will extend the purpose of the two opening times to enable small groups of people to meet with Helen. In this way we will get to know each other and Helen will be able to move forward in her ministry amongst us. The Elders will meet via Zoom to work out how this will be managed. The plan, at the moment, is to begin these "Meet & Greet" sessions when Helen is back from sick leave.

### Welcome/Induction

A Methodist Circuit service will be held on **Zoom on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30 pm** to welcome Helen and two retired ministers into the Circuit. Details of **how to access this service** will be sent later via the newsletter.

The Elders are planning **Helen's formal Induction Service for Christ Church and St Ninian's on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at 11 am in Priory Park**. Pam Parsons, Elizabeth Manson and Debbie Mabbitt met with Ciaran McGreal, Chichester District Councillor, to make the initial arrangements and the Elders will carry out a Risk Assessment for gathering in the open air - more details in a later newsletter.

Thank you to all Pastoral Visitors who are keeping people, who do not have email access, up to date with Christ Church news.

God Bless you and keep you safe in this strange new world!

*Doreen*

### Church Family News

Jeanine Moore, a member of Christ Church for many years, has moved to be near her family in Durham. We wish Jeanine every happiness in her new home and hope she will soon settle into her new surroundings.

### Fishy Reminder

It's been a long time since we met in person at Christ Church, but it looks as if we may begin the long process of coming out of lockdown soon. I would like to encourage you to have your fish ready to be gathered up when this happens.

As a reminder - 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 approximately 5½ in by 3½ in, 14 cm by 9 cm, to give you an idea of size)*. To begin with, we would like to have one fish per family.

Attached are instructions for making knitted or crocheted fish. 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)

### MAKE YOUR GARDEN WORK...

for **Save the Children** by inviting a comfortable number of friends and neighbours for a coffee morning or other garden event - benefiting the organisation in its endless compassionate endeavours.

Local co-ordinator, Linda Savage, welcomes offers and inquiries:

**07765 048590**

[linda.savage@5miles.net](mailto:linda.savage@5miles.net)