

# Christ Church News (24)

by and for the Christ Church Family

16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends,

I read an article in my newspaper a few weeks ago which I thought you might like to hear about. The article was about the life of Eileen Rawlings, one of the last English Gypsies. It was written by Jonathan Herbert, chaplain to Gypsies and Travellers in Dorset and Wiltshire.

Eileen and her husband, Dave, travelled across England by horse and wagon; they supported themselves by making and selling clothes pegs, paper flowers and helping farmers with their harvests. Dave had a strong baritone voice and played the mandolin; twice a year they would travel to Stow-in-the-Wold for the horse fair and would stay for the winter on the old drove above the chalk valley in Wiltshire. Eileen and Dave became well known all over the south west of England - travelling for 50 years by horse and wagon. Eileen loved to talk with passing local folk as she sat on the steps of her wagon.

A simple life with time for passing strangers, it struck a chord with me. Perhaps we could learn a thing or two during these strange, restricted times - having time for each other and enjoying the journey!

Every blessing, *Doreen*

## Word for Today Matthew 4 vv.18-20

### Reflection

When Peter accepted Jesus' invitation to follow him, he could not imagine the journey he had launched upon. There were times of great insight, instances of well-meant mistakes, and failure through faltering courage. Throughout it all he stayed the course, learned the lessons and grew in insight and understanding.

These experiences, good and bad, prepared him for the leadership and ministry he would exercise in the exciting, but dangerous, times of early Christianity. Jesus took Peter forward into horizons previously undreamt of. His story brings hope to us all, for it reminds us - no matter how hopeless the future may seem - the grace of God is always there, waiting to lead us forward.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have called us to faith and we long to respond,  
to live as your people and offer our lives in joyful service;  
but the reality is that all too often we fail, the spirit willing but the flesh weak,  
and it is hard at such times not to lose heart.

Speak to us today and assure us of your grace which never gives up on us,  
however weak our faith may be, however often we may let you down.

Teach us to let go of the past and to look forward to the future,  
confident that your purpose continues and that you are able to use us in ways beyond our imagining.

In your name we pray.

Amen

## Helen's Induction Service - 11 am, 13<sup>th</sup> September - Priory Park

Plans are well on the way for the above special service to be held in Priory Park. The public "Events Area", to the right of the Guildhall as you face the building, has been booked with the District Council and the obligatory risk assessment will be carried out by the Elders.

We hope you, your family and friends will feel able to come and make this a really special time of welcome for Helen. **We need to know who is coming; please include all names.** Let us know by email [chichristchurch@googlemail.com](mailto:chichristchurch@googlemail.com) or telephone **01243 531594**. Email is preferred for ease of recording. **Please only use these two means of contact.** Will Pastoral Visitors please make sure their people, who do not receive the newsletters, know about this event.

If the weather is inclement we will hold the service in Christ Church and a separate newsletter will be sent out, as necessary, advising you of this. If we need to be in the church, we will have to restrict numbers and so a "first come first served" approach will be the fairest way of doing this. At the time of booking please make it clear if you would like a place in church and please book your place as soon as possible!

The service will **also include a blessing of the "fishes"**, (see last week's newsletter item). Please bring your fish, a chair - or let us know if you need a chair - and an umbrella for rain or shine! Also, if you wish to share time together in the park after the service - observing the safe distance guidelines - bring a picnic.



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### Services at Christ Church

Sunday services at **10:30 am at Christ Church** will take place on **20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September**. Please use the email or telephone number below to book your place. Please note, only one service each Sunday is possible at the moment.

October services will be announced later.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

*Christ Church Elders*

email: [chichristchurch@googlemail.com](mailto:chichristchurch@googlemail.com)  
or telephone: **01243 531594**