

Christ Church News (25)

by and for the Christ Church Family
23rd August 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you have been booking your seats for services in September! Helen's Induction service on 13th September is filling up so please do email on chichristchurch@googlemail.com or phone 531594 if you have not done so.

Whereas there is room for a hundred in Priory Park, there will be much less room if we have to come inside the church. The services on 20th and 27th are also limited for numbers and are already almost full. We will let you know if you have a place as soon as the numbers are finalised.

Helen is progressing well after her operation and looking forward to meeting everyone. Of course normally there would have been many different opportunities for us all to get to know each other; after services, coffee mornings, and various meetings. However, as many normal meetings are on hold at the moment, and so that Helen can start to meet with us, she will be hosting

Meet & Greet meetings of up to 10 people. These will be in the Manse garden or at Christ Church, depending on the weather. These meetings will **start on Tuesday 22nd September** and be held **each Tuesday and Friday at 1:30 pm** for about an hour and a half.

You will receive your invitation in due course.

Every Blessing,

Doreen

Word for Today Philippians 4 vv. 4-7, 10-12

Reflection

Was I happy with my lot? Well I wasn't! Not at first anyway.

Oh, don't get me wrong; I gave thanks and marvelled each day at the love of Christ and rejoiced daily at the awesome grace he had shown me.

But, for all that, there was much I found difficult – far more than I had bargained for.

It wasn't the weariness or the endless travel, the days, weeks, even months without rest.

I could cope with those - despite my infirmities.

But when the hostility began, - the beatings, the stone throwing,

the interminable hours rotting in a prison cell -

that's when it became hard to bear -

when I began to wonder what I had got myself into.

You wouldn't believe the things I endured - the hunger, the pain, the privations, -

enough to break anyone, crush the strongest of spirits -

and yet, somehow, they weren't able to do that,

for, even in my darkest moments, I always 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 then - especially then.

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.

It didn't take away the pain; I can't claim that.

The hardship, the fear and the suffering were just as real, just as terrible,

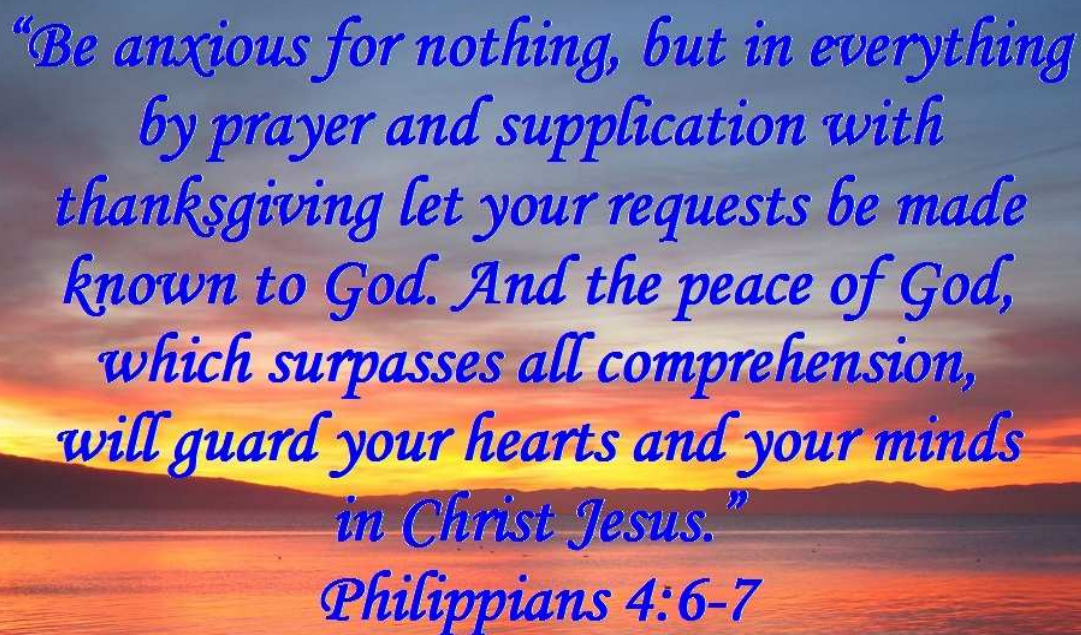
but it changed the way I saw them.

My perspective on death, on life, on everything was transformed for ever.

I had joy in my heart, peace past all understanding, 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!



*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6-7*

Prayer

Loving God,

You do not promise those who follow you a life in which everything will go 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 ever we may have faced without you.

But what you do promise us is fulfilment in Christ.

Through Him, you are able to satisfy our hunger and thirst, meet our deepest needs;
give us inner peace and an enduring contentment in each and every circumstance.

Such peace does not come overnight, it 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 we may learn the secret of being content with whatever we have.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Friends,

I would just like to thank you all for your messages and encouragement after my recent Knee Replacement Operation. Recovery is going well and I hope to be back in the swing of things by the beginning of September.

I feel that I have been truly blessed by so many since my arrival in Chichester, and both Colin and I feel very supported in our new home. Now that I'm not in post-op isolation, you would be most welcome to visit us at Beth Salem!

Yours in Christ,

Helen<><

As our response to popular request, please find 'A Place in the Choir' attached with this newsletter