

## CHRIST CHURCH NEWS (3)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Today, Passion Sunday, our thoughts focus on the last week in Jesus' life. It begins with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ends a week later in his execution. Much has been written about the meaning of the cross. A close reading of the events show that it didn't have to happen! It could have been avoided, but Jesus chose not to. Indeed he made it easy for his enemies to arrest him and he did nothing to defend himself when put on trial. We have to conclude that Jesus life was not taken from him. He gave it. "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." That has proved to be true. The cross of Christ has the power to reach into the depths of our being as nothing else can. "He gave his life that we might find life, Life in all its fullness." "Greater love has no man than this. That a man lay down his life for his friends."

Today, (29<sup>th</sup> March), is the last day to vote in the ballot for the new minister. Go to your ballot email, click "reply", type your name in capitals and "YES" if you support an invitation to Rev Helen Higgin-Botham or "NO" if you do not. Press "send" and your vote will go to the Christ Church in-box where it will be added to those who have already voted. Couples sharing a computer should send two separate emails recording their votes individually.

News has come in of more churches streaming their Sunday morning services during Covid 19. Those mentioned are Chichester Cathedral, St Pancras., Chichester Baptist Church and Holy Trinity Brompton. A visit to their websites will give you the link. Thanks to David Morrow for this.

Tina Twaites has written recommending her daily bible reading scheme. She is following Holy Trinity Brompton's "Bible in one Year" course, available, free of charge, on line. Thank you, Tina. *Ian Field*

### THANKS FROM THE TREASURER

These are undoubtedly uncertain and uncharted times, but even with all that is going on around us, we have much to be thankful for at Christ Church, and I want to mention three.

Firstly, and predominantly, we have our God to thank for His care and protection of our hearts and minds as we grapple with living in this new world – remembering that it is still His world, and that His sovereign will does prevail.

Secondly, I want to give a huge thank you to our former Trustees and Treasurer for their wise management of our Church resources. We are blessed that, over the years, they have built up reserves which are sufficient to help see us through this.

Thirdly, I want to thank all those in Christ Church who make use of standing orders and the banking system to make regular payments to the Church. These standing order funds are continuing to come directly into the Church bank account, and that makes such a huge and stabilizing contribution to our finances. On those gifts, we are still able to recover the Gift Aid as that whole process is online.

While the Church is closed, there will be a significant reduction in all sources of income to the Church, particularly our lettings income. At the same time, our outgoings largely remain as before.

I'm sure our other income streams, such as regular weekly envelopes and cash offerings, will continue to be building up at home and will find their way to the Church finances in due course. If, though, anyone wants to change or alter schemes, then please do contact me - by email at

[grahammanson3030@gmail.com](mailto:grahammanson3030@gmail.com) or by phone on 07966 212 555.

I'm sure it's not a normal thing for a treasurer to say, but in these difficult times there are many more important things than finances, and we do have so much for which we continue to be thankful.

With very best wishes, *Graham*.

## THE REV'D DEREK WALES WRITES..

I would like to thank all those in Christ Church who have sent messages of condolence, love and support to me and to my daughter Nikki and our family on the sudden death of Anne in a road accident on the A27. There have been so many tributes to her and all her work with the Child Contact Centre, Parent and Toddlers Groups, Stonepillow, Messy Church here and at St.Paul's, Samaritans, and Christian Aid. They all emphasise her friendliness with everyone and her amazing ability quickly to get alongside people and put them at their ease.

The burial service at a Natural Burial Site near East Meon on Friday 3rd April has to be family only to comply with government restrictions because of the corona virus.

A thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Paul's as and when that is possible. We shall go to St. Paul's because, although Anne never wavered for one moment in her support for me during my ministry in the URC, as the tributes from congregations where we ministered have shown, her Christian faith and spirituality were formed and nurtured in the Anglican church and that was where her heart was.

It is difficult to accept that all her wisdom, gentleness, love, hopes and plans could be snuffed out in a few seconds by someone's (not mine) error or madness, but it is reminder to us all that there is no absolute security in this life.

With my love and gratitude, *Derek Wales*

## MESSAGE FROM KATHLEEN DAVIES

A very big thank you to Margaret Morrow for letting local solicitors know by email that the Chichester Child Contact Centre has closed for the duration of the coronavirus emergency. At the time this was extraordinarily helpful as it enabled me to concentrate on contacting parents, the Family Court and other professional bodies to inform them that the Child Contact Centre has closed, This reflects how supportive Christ Church members have been to those who use a venue for their activities. Thank you.

**HYMN FROM** [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk) on **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March** (sent by *Lindsay Marchant*)

**Here Hangs a Man Discarded** CH4 385 *Brian Wren* © Stainer and Bell 1975

Here hangs a man discarded,  
a scarecrow hoisted high,  
a nonsense pointing nowhere  
to all who hurry by.

Can such a clown of sorrows  
still bring a useful word  
when faith and hope seem phantoms  
and every hope absurd?

Yet here is help and comfort  
for lives by comfort bound,  
when drums of dazzling progress  
give strangely hollow sound:

Life, emptied of all meaning,  
drained out in bleak distress,  
can share in broken silence  
our deepest emptiness;

And love that freely entered  
the pit of life's despair,  
can name our hidden darkness  
and suffer with us there.

Christ, in our darkness risen,  
help all who long for light  
to hold the hand of promise,  
till faith receives its sigh



The Lenten Cross  
at Christ Church



Spring Flowers  
at Christ Church