



Christ Church News (4)

Palm Sunday 5th April 2020

The story of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem seems strange. As far as we know Jesus normally walked everywhere. Most people did in those days - not on this occasion. He planned his arrival in Jerusalem carefully beforehand. He told his friends to hire a donkey so that he could ride the short journey into Jerusalem that day. It wasn't necessary. He was making a point. The crowds gathered by the city gate for the Passover festival saw him riding and understood its meaning. They knew the prophet Zechariah's prophecy concerning a longed for future king, "Shout for joy you people of Jerusalem, Your king comes, triumphant and victorious but humble and riding on a donkey." (Zech.

9.9). Jesus' silent demonstration was a powerful statement. His action, a claim to fulfil the ancient prophecy to be the king who would come to save his people. The crowds recognised him and rejoiced. They showed their approval, love and loyalty as they laid their palm branches at his feet. But some hardened their hearts, seeing in him a threat to their authority and began to plan to dispose of him. His hint at a claim to kingship on that Palm Sunday led to his arrest and sealed his fate. At his trial he revealed, "My kingdom is not of this world." Today Christ's spiritual kingdom is worldwide. It is in the hearts of his loyal subjects, wherever they are. What does this say to us? The kingdom of Jesus, also known as "the world church", has no boundaries. All are one in Christ Jesus. It is a kingdom characterised by mutual respect, love and self-sacrifice, care and service. The recent expression of appreciation for NHS workers, who are putting their lives at risk for others, shows many people recognise and appreciate this truth. Today's world must recognise and embrace it. The survival of humanity, literally, depends on it.

Ian Field

A Pandemic Prayer (found on the prayer tree in the coffee lounge)

May we, who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we, who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable.

May we, who have the luxury of working at home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health and paying their rent.

May we, who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no option.

May we, who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we, who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we, who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country let us choose love.

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen.

The Denton family have good news and bad news...

- Good news** Karen has been promoted to be head teacher at Newbridge Junior School in Portsmouth from September. Congratulations Karen!
- Bad news** Chris Denton broke his wrist playing hockey at school - just when he was on the run up to his A level exams. How could he write and draw with a broken wrist? Disaster!
- Good news** The A level exams were cancelled.! (You must be kidding!)
- Even better news** Chris was awarded an unconditional place to study Art and Product Design at Sheffield Hallam University from September. Brilliant! Well done Chris!
And the icing on the cake? He celebrated his 18th birthday on 20th March.
Many happy returns!

Wanted A photograph from a previous Easter of the cross at the front of the church covered in flowers. It is for next week's "Christ Church News". Send it to Mary Quiney at chichristchurch@gmail.com

Results of the Voting for the Rev'd Helen Higgin–Botham

Thank you to everyone who took part in the voting process via email. The process we have followed was put forward by the Southern Synod as a way of introducing Helen and deciding on whether to appoint her to Christ Church. The result is as follows:

103 members were contacted; 76 members returned a vote; 73 members voted "YES" which is 96.05% of the number of members who voted.

I am delighted with the result which means that **we now have a minister for Christ Church**. As we have had a different process for appointing a minister, Helen will be appointed, by the Southern Synod, for an initial period of three years. A review will then take place with the option of extending Helen's appointment. This process has been agreed by the Elders.

The plan is for **Helen to be appointed from 1st July, as a "virtual" minister for Christ Church** while she remains in her present manse during the coronavirus. Helen has agreed to this arrangement and is looking forward to working alongside us here at Christ Church. Thank you

to Mary Quiney for collating the votes,
to Chris Monkton for verifying the result
and to the Rev'd Kenneth Lynch for steering us through this whole process.

Doreen Field

Other News



Chichester Child Contact Centre - closed but still supporting families

As the coronavirus emergency developed it became increasingly obvious that the Chichester Child Contact centre would need to suspend contact sessions for the foreseeable future. We held a final session on 14th March, and I expected that would be the end of our work for some time.

Certainly, trying to contact all parents proved a challenge as many had changed contact details, but within the week I had confirmation that all concerned were aware of our closure. As a bonus, talking to parents I was able to encourage some parents to move to contact to the community, often with the help of supportive, even if somewhat wary, grandparents. Fortunately, many of the parents who currently come to us are very young so, in turn, grandparents fall outside the vulnerable age group.

What I was not expecting was the number of phone calls and emails enquiring about starting at the contact centre whenever it re-opens for contact sessions. It is straightforward to send referral forms by email and we now have a waiting list forming for pre-contact and first contact visits once we are able to restart.

At the other end of the spectrum we have families where non-resident parents are not allowed any contact with children outside the contact centre, but they can contact me. In turn I can contact the resident parent enquiring about the health of the children. At this time of great uncertainty, we are thankful we can offer that minimal, but vital, lifeline of reassurance.

Please hold in your prayers all children at the heart of such fragile relationships, their parents and our wonderful volunteers.

Kathleen Davies

Dorothy is well and sends her greetings to everyone at Christ Church.

Other ways to get in touch

Those of you who have a smart phone, (iPhone or Android), and/or iPad may already be familiar with texting and emailing. **Terry Timblich** has pointed out that you can extend your range of ways to communicate with family and friends using applications such as **WhatsApp, WhatsApp Messenger, or Skype**. Use the Internet to look up how to do this – or 'phone a friend'.