

## Christ Church News (5)

Holy Week 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020



In this most holy of weeks we think of Jesus moving from the “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem seated on a colt, through his anger in the temple, his encounter with friends and family, his last supper, the desperation in the garden, arrest, imprisonment, trial, possible release, torture, ridicule, execution & death. This is indeed a week that is set apart. A Holy Week. It is said that a week is a long time in politics. For the salvation of the world this week springs eternal. Its consequences are beyond time itself. It is a week where Jesus is hailed king, saviour, servant, friend, criminal, mere man, God, weak and forsaken. But he never forgot who he was and to whom he belonged. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran minister who stood up to Hitler, was imprisoned and sentenced to death. He moved from being a man held in respect in society to an abject figure in a cell. He was able to say, “Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine.”

*Ian Field*

### Reading John 13: vv.21-30

#### Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you knew one of your disciples would betray you, yet still you went to your death. You know that we are no better and that, with far less reason, we continue to betray, deny and forsake you today. Yet you still love us!

Despite the weakness of our faith and the poverty of our discipleship, you go on caring, faithful to us no matter how faithless we may be to you. Accept our thanksgiving, and give us strength to show our gratitude through staying true to our calling, wherever the path may lead, for your names sake. Amen.

#### Something Beautiful!

On a sunny, Sunday morning in June we left home at 7:30 to travel 125 miles to a small Methodist chapel on Canvey Island in Essex. My husband had been the minister there 32 years before and we were back to take an anniversary service.

In all the flurry of meeting and greeting as we arrived I failed to notice a small glass fronted display case which was propped up against the communion rail.

During the service, as the sun shone through the windows, a flash of light caught my eye and sparkled brightly on something inside the small case; jewels perhaps? I was most intrigued and after the service I took a closer look. I was surprised to find that what had appeared to me to be jewels were in fact just fragments of broken glass arranged on a silk lining within the box. The broken pieces had been formed in a circle with the splinters of glass pointing outwards. I knelt beside the case and pondered on this glistening work of art as I read the inscription.

“This ‘Crown of Thorns’ was made from some of the broken glass following extensive vandalism to 12 church windows on the night of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2003. We wanted to show that brokenness in our lives can be transformed into something beautiful by the power of the risen Christ, if we offer Him all the pieces.”

*Doreen Field*

*(To hear Doreen read this - open the attachment called ‘Pause for thought audio’)*

## A Prayer for Good Friday

Sovereign God,  
we cannot always make sense of your purposes  
but that doesn't mean you aren't at work.  
The way may be hidden, the path may appear dark,  
but sometimes when you seem distant  
you are in fact most near.  
You take what seems to be bad and use it for good.  
You transform what looks hopeless  
into new beginnings full of promise.

You turn sorrow into laughter, weakness into  
strength,  
darkness into light, death into life.  
Teach us, then, to never despair of any moment  
however bleak it may seem;  
for you have shown us  
that there is nothing in heaven or earth  
beyond your renewing power.  
To you be praise and glory, now and always.

Amen.

## How can you access online resources?

### The Methodist Church –

To access the news from the Methodist Church visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

To find worship resources during the pandemic visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

To find worship resources for Easter visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/holy-week-and-easter-2020/>

### The URC

From The Rev'd Andy Braunston

#### Daily Devotions from the URC

“(Each Sunday) we will send out, at 10 am, a service in both written and audio format. This will have the feel of a service on the radio in our style with well known URC people leading worship. There will be prayers and hymns to join in with as we pray together. There will also be, from time to time, a chance to share bread and wine together - the first such opportunity will be on Easter Sunday.

**Anyone in your church who has email** and would like to avail themselves of this form of worship **can sign up to receive the Devotions Emails**. They simply need to go to [devotions.urg.org.uk](https://devotions.urg.org.uk)

I will lead worship for us on Good Friday. Our General Secretary elect, John Bradbury, will lead Easter Sunday worship. Nicola Furley-Smith, our new Secretary for ministries, will lead worship for us for Low Sunday. After that Fleur Houston, Nigel Uden, Sarah Moore, Richard Church, Janet Sutton Webb, Neil Thorogood and Ruth Browning will all prepare worship for us. We will hear a variety of voices in each service and we will create opportunities for you to join in as well.

We hope that these are a useful resource for the church.”

To hear ‘Gethsemane’, sung by Mary Quiney, click on the attachment called ‘Gethsemane 2 verses’.  
If you wish to sing along the words are below:

To see the king of heaven fall  
in anguish to his knees,  
the light and hope of all the world  
now overwhelmed with grief.  
What nameless horrors must he see,  
to cry out in the garden:  
‘Oh take this cup away from me!  
Yet not my will but yours:  
Yet not my will but yours’.

What took him to this wretched place;  
what kept him on this road?  
His love for Adam’s cursed race,  
for ev’ry broken soul.  
No sin too slight to overlook,  
no crime too great to carry,  
All mingled in this poisoned cup  
and yet he drank it all.  
The Saviour drank it all. The Saviour drank it all.