

# Christ Church News (7)

Easter+1 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Hello to all at Christ Church,

How was Holy Week and the Easter Weekend for you all? I suspect it will be one we'll remember for a long time to come – and not necessarily for the right reasons.

Due to the lockdown situation we find ourselves in, the past days have been like no other Eastertide experienced before ... no sharing of Maundy Thursday communion ... no Good Friday walk of witness ... and, sadly, no Easter Praise – in the way we would normally have it.

On Easter Sunday, life was not 'normal', but the reason for the celebration was the same as always. We celebrated the risen Jesus - we celebrated that Christ conquered death for all time - and once more we made our promise to live as Easter people.

We weren't able to meet together - we couldn't praise God together as we had in previous years - but we were one in the Spirit as always.

Our church may have been empty, but so was the tomb – and for this we give thanks; for in the words of the writer Thom Shuman (adapted) ...

*'Jesus is not here; just as he told you - he's out there: with your family, your neighbours.*

*He's out there: in the midst of this pandemic, in the middle of all our fears.*

*He's out there: home-schooling kids, caring for folks in retirement communities and the vulnerable in residential settings.*

*He's out there: making masks and ventilators, building field hospitals, working on a vaccine.*

*He's out there: stocking the grocery stores, delivering packages, listening to folks on the hotlines.*

*He is not here, he's out there, just like he told you”.*

Going forward, we will continue to live in hope that these difficult days will pass, and we will emerge as stronger people with a new-found sense of community and fellowship.

God will continue to be with us throughout these days of uncertainty, and through us, He will give comfort and compassion and help to those in need.

So may God bless you in the coming days and weeks - stay safe and keep well.

*Yours in Christ, Rev. Helen <><*

## Matthew 28:1-10

### PRAYER

Gracious God,

Through the resurrection of your Son

you not only raised him to life;

you brought also renewal and restoration to his broken disciples.

From the depths of misery you brought jubilation;

from the pit of despair you brought hope;

from the trough of doubt you brought faith.

Life which had seemed without meaning

suddenly pulsated with purpose again,

the future rich with promise as never before.

It is a miracle which has been re-enacted

in countless lives across the centuries

and which continues to be repeated today;

for you are at work still in the world and in our lives,

reaching out wherever there is need.

wherever people are broken, wherever hope has died,

bringing afresh your gift of life.

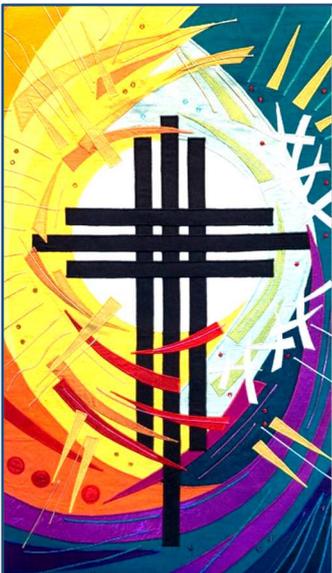
Gracious God, work within us now,

refresh our hearts and revive our spirits,

and make us a new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



## TWO SIDES OF A SQUARE, TENERIFE

To the north, against the black cathedral,  
Five Puerto de la Cruz boys play kickaround at midday,  
The ball ricocheting from 200-year-old walls,  
Sometimes at angles as taxing as Church theories  
And doctrines which, many years on, still bounce towards me

Twenty metres away, on the steps, it's Mother Teresa's daily rite  
As the mock-saint figure, in familiar blue-touched white habit,  
Poses statuesquely in the warmth, an inviting basket at her feet.  
Calcutta's world mother would, I suspect, smile wryly at  
The cheeky compliment and walk briskly on,  
Hands out to balm the pain and fear of the dying.

Saints' feet hardly touch the ground.

*Terry Timblich (written one month BC – before coronavirus)*

## A Rare Sighting!



My Trike had been happily sitting in our garage for some time! Fortunately, in early Spring and before the lockdown, I decided it was time it was serviced ready for an outing in the warmer weather. A few days ago I decided to test it out again as part of my exercise routine. Off we went to Centurion Way, Ian on his two wheels, me on my three. I have always been a bit self-conscious of riding my Trike –it has caused a few turned heads in the past. One notable time was, again, near the centurion way when a group of cyclists, who turned out to be French, wanted to know what make it was and where one could be purchased! At that stage I was still very nervously clutching the brakes at every slight incline and was ready to sell it on the spot! However, they smiled encouragingly and sped on their way.

The other day, while I was still feeling my way on my three wheeler, a young chap - in all the gear - sped past on his whizzy two wheels, paused, turned round, and with some awe in his voice said "Cool"! I now feel I have arrived as a member of the "Cool" cyclists of Fishbourne! Maybe the rare sighting is a thing of the past!

Stay well and enjoy whatever exercise suits you.

*Doreen*

## CHRIST CHURCH FLOWER MINISTRY

As most of you will know, the flowers which are displayed in the church on 'normal' Sundays are delivered by our volunteers to the sick, and/or elderly housebound members and friends, on the Monday at their homes.

I would remind you that, for years, we have been unable to take flowers to patients in hospital and it was agreed that we send a 'get well' card to our members and friends who have to spend a time in hospital. These have been sent by Megan Gardner in the name of 'the friends of Christ Church' when she has known about them. (Sorry if you have missed out).

Now we ask for your help.

Please tell Megan Gardner (781526) or Mary Edwards (788904) when you know of any church friends who are hospitalised for a period of time - together with the name of the Ward - and we will try to make sure that they receive a card from the church before they are discharged, so that they know we are thinking of them and remembering them in prayer.

*Megan*



Food for thought

*submitted by David Morrow*

If you want to request prayer, please contact Gilly Hansford (07470 709489)