

Christ Church News (8)

Easter +2 26th April 2020



How can Christ Church continue to be a church when the building is closed and there can be no services and meetings? "Lockdown", as it has come to be known, is a challenge but, happily, the internet has come to our rescue.

This weekly news sheet or "Christ Church News" comes to you by email. It contains a headline message, a bible reading, a prayer, articles of church family news and notices. Several of our members have contributed to it and it is edited and emailed out to over 100 of our congregation late on Saturday or early Sunday every week so that you will have it to read on Sunday morning when you would normally be at church. We are hoping that our faithful pastoral visitors will share the "News" with their off-line housebound members over the phone. Christ Church News is a

community newspaper. If you have something of interest to offer, post it to the church or send it to the editor, Mary Quiney, at chchristchurch@googlemail.com.

We have also found a way to hold meetings "on line." "Zoom" is an App that enables "video conferencing". In other words, you can look at your computer screen and hear the other members of the group and see them too! Two of our house groups are already using it and our leadership team are considering using it. "Zoom" enables you to "attend" a meeting while sitting in your own home -holding meetings without actually meeting!

A third novel development is streamed services. There is now technology that enables your local Church to stream services to your computer. Some churches are already doing this. Could Christ Church do this?. We have the preachers and worship leaders. We need volunteers to organise the technical aspects of that. Offers and suggestions please to chchristchurch@googlemail.com.

All the above are new and exciting developments but you don't have to use a computer to live the Christian life. There are many services and religious programmes on radio and television - "Thought for the Day at 7:50 am every day on Radio4, "Moral Maze": a discussion programme to set you thinking, "Songs of Praise" on BBC 1 - all are outstanding examples of programmes to inspire you in lockdown.

Ian Field

Word for today John 20 vv 19-29

Prayer

Sovereign God,

We don't understand how you raised Jesus from the dead,

 how you breathed life into his broken body,

 how you rolled the stone away from the tomb,

 how He appeared, unrecognised, to Mary in the garden and to the disciples on the Emmaus road,

 how He walked through locked doors to be with the Apostles,

 how He repeatedly appeared from nowhere to stand among his followers.

What we do understand is this – that he changed the lives of all who met him

 turning their sorrow into celebration,

 their despair into hope and their doubt into faith;

 and that He is with us now through his life-giving Spirit,

 remaking our lives in turn,

 giving us joy, peace and a sense of purpose such as we never imagined possible before.

We do not understand,

 but we believe,

 we rejoice,

 and we offer you our grateful worship

 in the name of that same Jesus,

 our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Extracts from the Methodist Recorder "Sunday service for home"

"I wonder if, as we have travelled our current road individually and together, you too have been surprised by Christ? Have you experienced any bread-breaking moments of recognising the presence of Jesus? What Scriptures or prayers or hymns have you found particularly speaking to your heart?"

"Faith is about discovering purpose." St Francis of Assisi is instanced: "Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible and suddenly you are doing what is impossible." *Terry Timblich*

In the past few weeks our lives have changed tremendously as we are staying in our homes and reducing our visits to buy food. We are thankful that most of us have a roof over our heads and sufficient food to sustain us. As Christians we should also be aware of those who don't have a home or are 'food-insecure'. As a church we have supported local charities that support those in need and I would like to encourage us to continue that support both in prayer and giving as we are able. Stonepillow has a ministry for the homeless and relies on food donations to feed those they house. Obviously, we can't donate food, but they do accept financial assistance. Details are on their website at <https://stonepillow.org.uk/how-to-help/donate> Our local Food Bank is supporting the food-insecure and details about financial donations can be found on their website at <https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/> and select **donate**. If you are aware of other local charities that are supporting those affected by the lockdown please email either **Doreen Field** or **Margaret Martin** martin.margareti@gmail.com with details so they can be included in the weekly newsletter.

Virtual Bible Study and Worship

I received an invitation to attend a social gathering and a Bible Study Group from my church in Glasgow. This was my first introduction to a virtual meeting via Zoom. It was wonderful, as people seemed as if they were in the next room when, in reality, they were 500 miles away. I found it humbling to hear about their experiences of being in 'lockdown' working at home, where it seems people are even busier than when they travel to work. Key workers talked about the stress of being out and about looking after everybody else, while one person is in complete isolation and lives alone. Many people don't have gardens, so are dependent on the city's parks, which are large and beautiful, but their freedom is curtailed, which is especially difficult for parents, who are educating children at home.

I have also been exploring on-line church services which are live streamed, and some pre-recorded. I very much enjoy the services where a range of people are contributing to the service and there is music. I have found it a great opportunity to move around churches and experience different things. I do enjoy 'Songs of Praise' on television too, as there is a range of locations, different types of church music and affirmative stories. I have learnt a lot during this time. But it is, of course, a bit like going on a holiday; you always look forward to returning home, seeing your friends and worshipping together.

Gill Constable

Safeguarding Issues

Phillipa Read, South East District Safeguarding Officer,
has written to all churches in the District with the following information:

"Unfortunately, there are several deception/scam situations that have recently been brought to my attention:

- *Cases of individuals trying to gain entry to the homes of the elderly/vulnerable by asking to use the toilet during their daily walk – a couple, with the woman claiming to be pregnant.*
- *People claiming to be police officers, visiting churches that are open (hosting foodbanks etc) and issuing on the spot fines for breaking social distancing rules. In one case this was followed up with an email – from a bogus account.*
- *Email and phone contact from a woman, claiming to be a Muslim who converted to Christianity, phoning church people saying she is needing to escape domestic abuse and needs money to travel to a refuge. She has been doing this in a number of areas around the Connexion, sometimes claiming her name is 'Bridget Jones'. Advice is to simply give her the details of the local Domestic Abuse organisation or national organisations.*

Please emphasise to your congregations the need to be vigilant about allowing access to their home and personal safety.

If anyone accessing or providing essential services such as foodbanks are approached by individuals purporting to be from the authorities, it is recommended that they request to see formal identification to verify this.

Please reiterate that no one should be providing personal financial details to anyone with whom they are not familiar – be that in person, over the phone or via email.

The Methodist Church has issued guidance relating to staying safe online – both as individuals and as a church volunteer – see the documents, which can be viewed via this link.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/safeguarding-considerations/>

Please ensure that any concerns or queries of a safeguarding nature continue to be reported via the usual channels and in keeping with Methodist Church policy."

Sad news that Vic Grigson died last Monday. Vic had been resident in a care home for several years.
Details of his funeral arrangements will follow when known.