

Christ Church News (36)

by and for the Christ Church Family

8th November 2020

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

This week has been a busy week on the planning front! Not least because of the new lockdown and the re-closure of the church for worship.

At the start of the week I needed to plan, prepare, invite a co-presenter and record a service for Remembrance Sunday – and pray that, once again, Anna can work her talents at editing and uploading it for sending out on Sunday.



Then, on Tuesday, I had an LICC zoom seminar on 'Planning a Covid Christmas' which gave us 5 possible themes to choose from. Of course, the Christmas Story is the same as it always was, but the challenge this year, as in other years, is how to present the message afresh – and do we have an in-person worship, uploaded service, or the possibility of a Zoom service! This may be a case of 'watch this space'!!

Today, (Thursday), I had a Zoom seminar organised by Southern Synod's Andy Twilley on 'Order out of Chaos – Planning as pastoral care'. This was led by Elizabeth Gray-King, who gave us various tools on how to plan our day/week/month/ so that we are not carrying too much about in our heads – thereby ensuring our own pastoral care. The trouble is, I'm not very good at filling in excel spread sheets, or doing anything by Tablet or Laptop - (mainly because I don't have either of these!!) – and, if I can't see it in front of me, then I forget it exists. Hence why I have an assortment of post-it notes all over my desk and a diary open in front of me all the time. And amongst all of this is the usual stuff of daily life and pastoral ministry – and often it's a bit of a juggling act between the two!

Planning is something we all have to do at some point in our lives; the trouble is that, nowadays, it feels like we can't plan anything because the future is so uncertain. Still, it doesn't stop us being prepared does it – a bit like the message of our Gospel reading today.

Having a plan means we can factor things into it - like taking time to just listen to God, or taking a walk, or doing something you enjoy which is not 'work' related.

I pray that, whatever you have 'planned' for the coming week, you will keep safe, take care of each other, and don't fret if your plan doesn't work out like you'd planned!! Sometimes God intervenes and makes us slow down, or stop, for our own benefit!

*Yours in Christ,
Helen <><*

Word for Today Matthew 25: 1-13 (Third Sunday before Advent)

Meditation of Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus

I could relate to that parable of his for, like those bridesmaids he spoke of, I've been caught short all too often - left with my lamp empty when it should have been full.

You know how it is: the oil's running low, but, no worries, you can deal with that later – only it slips your mind until night comes, leaving you stumbling around in darkness.

Could that happen with faith - reserves exhausted there too? You may not think so of me, for wasn't I the one who sat at his feet - drinking in his every word while Martha fussed and fretted?

Yet, don't be fooled, for kindling the flame is not enough. It must be kept burning, kept alive, and that means feeding it day by day, lest the fuel run dry.

And that can happen, you know – to you, to me, to anyone – distractions of this world causing faith to fail as we put self first, God second, time for **us** before time for **him**.

Take care, stay alert, keep watch, so that, should your lamp go out, you can light it again.

Prayer

Are we ready to meet you, Lord?
Prepared for your coming?

If you walked in upon us today, tomorrow, or the next day,
would our lives measure up to your call,
or would we be embarrassed by your presence,
hastily making excuses to cover our shame
at our false and feeble discipleship?

Remind us that, though you do not want us to fret about end times,
you do want us to be prepared for your coming,
the promise that you will come again shaping everything we think, say and do.

In that knowledge, may we consecrate every moment to you
as though it were our last.

Amen

Sunday's Remembrance Service

You will need: a Candle and lighter, and a poppy or poppy shape and something to write with.

Why a Year of Prayer?

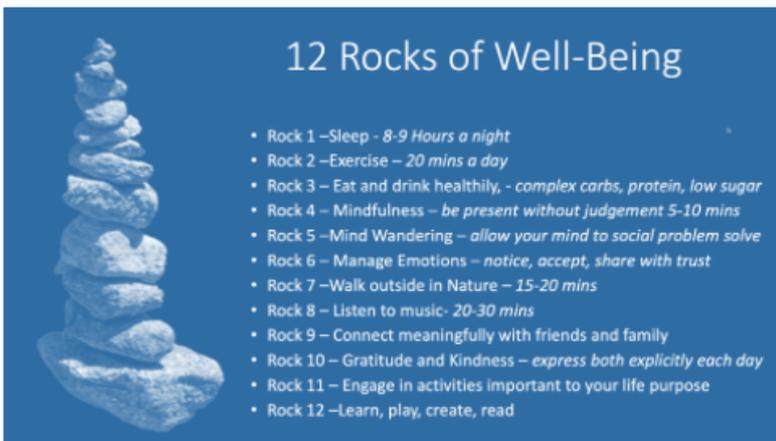
The Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love. Be part of this movement of prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

Weekly Online Prayer Meeting - Tuesdays from 12:45 pm – 1 pm. Register here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/>

Philippa Read: South East District Safeguarding Officer

Wellbeing



Andrew Wright's company Action Your Potential, promotes various strategies that work with what he calls 'the grain of the brain' to help young people reach their potential and promote wellbeing for all. He has developed the '12 Rocks of Wellbeing' concept, which is relevant and beneficial to us all, young, middling and old.

As we approach a second period of lockdown and continuing uncertainty, the '12 Rocks' are a helpful reminder of what we can do to look after ourselves, and those we are in contact with, both physically and emotionally.

'50% of the mind we get each day is down to what we've done in the previous 24 hours.'

12 Rocks of Wellbeing: <https://www.actionyourpotential.org/the-12-rocks-of-wellbeing-1>

Wellbeing is a skill: <https://www.actionyourpotential.org/wellbeing-is-a-skill>

Angels

If anyone has any knitted angels they would like collected, please phone Christina Carter on **01243 776155**

"Versibilia"

... a collection of nearly 40 poems written by Terry Timblich over 30 years, touches on many themes including local landmarks, climate change and a theological "googly". All proceeds for 'Save the Children': £8 or £10 by post. Terry is on **01243 537812** or terrytimblich@gmail.com