



## Christ Church News (9)

Easter 4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

### A strange text for Easter:

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.”

**Matthew 2:12**

We want to get back to normal but wise men and women know that there are times when you can't go back the way you came. So it is for us. Having witnessed in our hearts the resurrection of the Cosmic Christ at Easter, while yearning for a pandemic pass-over, wisdom whispers to us that we can't go back the way we got here. Things will never be the same. So, what track shall we cut to get where we want to be? I am grateful to **Jim Burklo** for this covenant:

*“We covenant with each other, and with God the Ultimate Reality, to continue protecting each other when this pandemic passes. We are one people on one planet.*

*“The coronavirus has proved to us that health is a public good. So we covenant together to assure that all people have access to quality health care, regardless of their ability to pay. An African country which cannot afford health care is a threat to us all.*

*“The epidemic has proved to us that facts matter. So we covenant together to resist demagoguery, to hold politicians to account, to choose our news sources so that we get accurate information and to support the advancement of science with our taxes.*

*“The virus has treated us as equals, bringing suffering and death to all classes and kinds of people. But our response to the virus has exposed glaring, and even deadly, inequalities. So, as equals, we covenant to fight the virus and other threats to our common good – including social and economic structures that pile benefits on the privileged few at the expense of the many.*

*“The pandemic showed us what clean air looks like, as we cut back on transport while sheltering at home. We have dramatically reduced carbon emissions in this crisis. We covenant with each other and with the Earth to keep it that way, reversing global warming and protecting soil and water from pollution. The pandemic has taught us that our fates are inseparable. We covenant to remember what we have learned in this crisis, and to continue in solidarity as one human race on our one precious planet.”*

How would you summarise the way forward? Let's keep the conversation going!

*David Booth*

### Word for Today. John 20. Vv.19-29

Please remember in your prayers all those known and unknown living alone in this time of isolation. If anyone would like a prayer in the Christ Church Newsletter please contact Gilly Hansford (07470 709489) [gillyhansford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillyhansford@hotmail.co.uk)

### Another local good cause worthy of your support

UKHarvest collects surplus food from local stores and, together with gifts from local people, distributes it to vulnerable people in desperate need. They appreciate donations of money and food, (especially tins), and welcome help from volunteers to deliver food where it is most needed. For more information visit [www.ukharvest.org.uk](http://www.ukharvest.org.uk)

## Prayer

Lord we do not always believe as we should.

We try our hardest, but our faith is weak,  
and we lose sight of all you've promised and all you are able to do.

There is so much in life that is a mystery,  
and there are so many things which seem to deny everything we believe about you.

Despite our good intentions, doubt sometimes gets the upper hand  
so that we begin to doubt even those things that are most precious to us.

Yet though we are faithless to you, always you are faithful to us, refusing to let us go.

Come to us now we pray, and help us to glimpse a little more of your glory,  
so that we may confess you again as our Lord and our God  
in this time of worship and in the days ahead.

Amen.

## Poem *from Hugh and Linda Hawker*

OUR England is a garden that is full of stately views,  
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,  
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;  
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,  
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of  
all  
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the  
tanks,  
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the  
planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice  
boys  
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;  
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare  
the birds,  
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,  
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows ;  
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and  
loam,  
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made  
By singing:-" Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade  
While better men than we go out and start their working lives  
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-  
knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,  
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick  
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,  
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further  
orders,  
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;  
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to  
harden,  
You will find yourself a partner In the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees  
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,  
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and  
pray  
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!  
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away !

## Anne Wales

Anne, 80, died in a road accident in February. Married to Derek for 54 years, she was a great support in his URC pastorates. Her faith and concern for children and social justice led her to tireless commitment to causes in and beyond Christ Church - Toddlers, Messy Church, Christian Aid, Global Justice Now, Samaritans and Stonepillow.

**Vic Grigson.** News of Vic Grigson's passing came as we went to press last week. He and Margaret were pillars of our church in days gone by. He was always at worship and helpful and supportive in many ways, notably as church treasurer for a time, and the Grigsons were members and hosts of the Explorers house group. He and Margaret, who pre-deceased him several years ago, are remembered with great affection.