

# CHRIST CHURCH HIGHER BEBINGTON

## NEWS LINK

June/July 2019



### Church Services

#### Sunday:

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:00 am	Parish Communion
10:00 am	Sunday Club
4.00 pm Noisy Church	(1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)
6:30 pm Sung Evensong	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
6:30 pm Alternative Service	(4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)

#### Monday:

9.00am Start the Week with Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday:

6.30pm Pause & Pray

#### Wednesday:

9.00am	Morning Prayer
10:30 am	Holy Communion

#### Thursday:

9:00 am Morning Prayer



<http://www.christchurchbeb.org.uk>

# WHO'S WHO

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Michael Loach</b> Email: mgloach@gmail.com	0151 609 0943
<b>Curate</b>	<b>Rev. Eunice Blackmore</b> Email: euniceblackmore@talktalk.net	0151 648 5343
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## August/September 2019 Magazine

Items for inclusion in the August/September 2019 Magazine should reach the Parish Secretary

(email: parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk) by  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019** who can also be contacted with any queries.

## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope you will forgive me, but for my piece in this edition of the magazine I've included a slightly edited version of a recent sermon – a second chance for you to catch up on some sleep! I do so not because I haven't got anything else to say, but because I feel that its content is particularly important for us at this time. Please do stick with it and I'd be very grateful for your thoughts...

I can often find myself wondering what the first century Jesus would make of the modern world and especially, what he would make of His Church. There are certainly many positive things that He might observe as a faithful reflection of his instructions to His disciples, those who were to form the first church. The Church has spread to every corner of the world and billions of people have been baptised into the faith; it has embraced all nations and many amazing changes have been made possible by those who courageously lived and preached the ways of love that Jesus placed at the heart of His ministry. There is a fulfilment, at least in part, of many of Jesus' commandments, but certainly not all.

One of the things that I think Jesus would and does struggle with the most in his Church is the division that, sadly, we see all too much of. We have tens of thousands of denominations in the world – different branches of the church all formed because there is something that they reject in other churches. Beliefs about the divinity of Jesus, about the Holy Trinity, about what happens at Communion, about what priests should wear, their gender, their lifestyle, about our attitudes to other races, nations, sexualities, faiths...all these things have combined to create barriers and squabbles and even wars.

Now, this is nothing new. The early Church was beset with division from the very start with much disagreement about whether or not to admit gentiles (non-Jews) and whether the laws of the Hebrews should be adopted by new members of the Church – should they be circumcised, should the food laws be observed etc. And in St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we find Christians living just a few years after the resurrection in a state of turmoil - living in ways unacceptable to the teachings of the Church and taking each other to pagan courts over their differences, rather than forgiving and trusting one another. This is a long way from some of the words of departure that Jesus leaves his disciples with in John's gospel - "I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace."

## VICAR'S LETTER (CONTD.)

So why has there been so much division and so little wholeness in a movement that places love for both neighbours and enemies at the heart of its teachings? Well, there's a pretty simple answer to that one and that is "because we're human!" Pride, envy, greed, lust, ambition, arrogance – all these things and more get in the way of unity and too often, present a very unattractive image of the church to the world at large.

Now that's not to say that there haven't been attempts to put aside differences and move closer together. There has been a long history of ecumenism from the attempts of Roman Emperors to get different regional churches to agree, through to the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948. In recent times, the Churches Together movement has had considerable success in bringing together local churches in productive dialogue and we, at Christ Church, have benefitted greatly from working and learning and praying alongside many of our neighbouring churches. There are certainly reasons to be hopeful about unity and yet, there are also far too many examples of Christians creating division and promoting teachings that speak of exclusion, rather than inclusion.

I ought to say at this point, that there is nothing wrong with disagreeing with other Christians. On matters of faith that require us to make some sense of that which is eternal and beyond the limitations of this world, we are, by our very nature, always going to have a limited understanding. And, consequently, we will often arrive at conclusions that differ from other Christians. Yet, rather than asserting the superiority of our favoured positions, I strongly believe that our first instinct should be to listen to others in a spirit of humility.

We are HUMAN. And as a result, what God reveals to us will always be filtered through imperfection. We cannot ever claim to have had the last word on many specific matters of doctrine and must always guard against letting our personal preferences shape our understanding of the truth. Now that isn't to say that there isn't such a thing as truth, but rather that we human beings will never have a complete grasp of it due to our limited and fallen nature.

Of course, this also doesn't mean that there are no Christians who claim to have the truth. In fact, we all have a degree of truth, it's just that some claim to have more than others! As a Christian leader, you'll be relieved to hear that I am very happy to assert that there is a God. And I am also convinced that

## VICAR'S LETTER (CONTD.)

He reveals His nature to us in Jesus, His love for us on the Cross and that there is very real power in the Gospels that can transform lives. I also believe that the Spirit works within us today, right now, making relationship with the God of all eternity and truth possible, even for us limited beings.

But I don't know how He created the Heavens and Earth, I don't know how the mechanisms of good and evil work, I don't know how and why Jesus defeats sin and death or much about the comings and goings of the Spirit. I may have some theories and hunches, but that is all they are. Any attempt to enshrine them in something more substantial is overreaching my limited capacity as a human being.

Of course, there are many who would disagree with such assertions...which, again, is to be encouraged! For them, there is much more to be said and thousands of Bible verses to support the many truth claims that they assert are both self-evident and endorsed by God. Yet, again, to me this conviction fails to acknowledge that there are many different ways to both read the scriptures and to model truth.

I have always said that I want us here at Christ Church to be a questioning community – to be people who love Jesus and are committed to following in His way, but who are keen to keep asking questions of scripture and tradition. Recently, I have had a number of encounters with those who present a different way, often a more closed and exclusive way, and I feel we've reached a point where it is right for us to talk about how we stand in relation to such a position.

So what might we do? Well, one suggestion that has been put forward is for Christ Church to consider joining the Inclusive Church network - a national Christian organisation that clearly encourages openness, questioning and inclusion. Their mission statement is as follows:

"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

This is a statement that seems to hold the unity of all peoples as paramount,

## VICAR'S LETTER (CONTD.)

yet obviously, joining a group that sets itself out as different from others is clearly something that could potentially increase division. And that is something that we must consider very carefully. Nevertheless, there may well be something healthy in adding a different, distinctive voice to regional discussions.

The PCC will be considering such matters as part of this year's away day programme in July and I'd be very grateful for any thoughts that you might have about Christian unity and especially the proposal to join the Inclusive Church network.

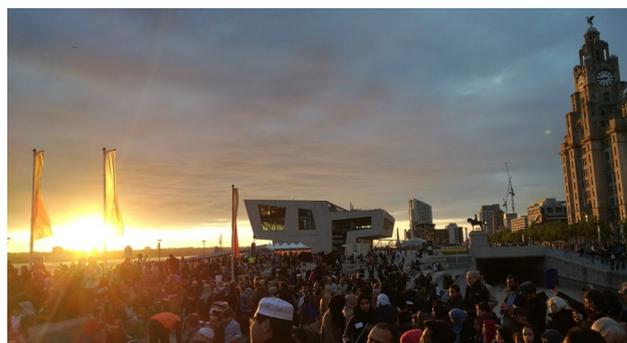
These are not easy considerations and I've been very tested by questions of inclusion and unity of late, but whenever I feel a bit lost, I try to just bring the person of Jesus into the situation and return to that thought of how He would feel about the modern world and its church. I have no doubt that He would be found standing alongside those who feel excluded and marginalised, I have no doubt that He would be encouraging a spirit of humility to grow within His Church and I have no doubt that He calls each one of us to re-examine each day what it means to love our neighbour, such that His people, all His people, might be "well and whole" and live united in God's peace.

With love in Christ,

*Mike*



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, several of us from Christ Church, along with the Bishops of Liverpool and many other Christians from Merseyside churches, accepted the invitation of the Liverpool Mosque Network to "Taste Ramadan". We gathered at the Pier Head in Liverpool to hear speeches and prayers focused on building up communities of hope across traditional divides and then as the sun went down, we shared Iftar (the meal that breaks the fast). Throughout, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming and the generosity of our Muslim brothers and sisters was quite overwhelming. In standing together we again sought to present a clear image of friendship and shared commitment to work for the common good.



# CURATE'S CORNER

Having just returned from a holiday in China I thought I'd share some of my many experiences. So much noise, countless high rise flats, numerous bicycles often with several passengers and laden with goods, great numbers of cars (mainly large, including Porsches) leading to unavoidable traffic jams and of course, hundreds of people. We must have "elbowed" our way through several thousand but what is that within a population of 1.3 billion!



It's hard to say what the highlight was. The scale and detail of the terracotta army was mind blowing. Managing a short climb on the Great Wall with its uneven (or no) steps, few handrails and temperature approaching 37°C without any shade felt a real achievement.

But what I enjoyed most were the quiet moments when I was able to find my own space and just absorb the gorges and mountain ranges during a couple of river cruises. Ralph Waldo Emerson's words quickly came to mind "All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen".



Sadly any acknowledgement of a Creator was missing. Despite travelling several hundreds of miles and 156,738 steps (recorded on a pedometer app!) we only saw 2 churches.

But it really struck me when I entered the Panda Breeding Research Centre in Chengdu. I hadn't expected to see the words of C.F. Alexander's hymn – All things bright and beautiful displayed on a large screen at the entrance - but look what's missing? It's the last line – the Lord God made them all.

The whole point of the hymn is to worship God through enjoying his handiwork. And while there were symbols and illuminations of "love" I'm not convinced that you can really discover the fullness of love when you deliberately leave God out of the equation.

*Eunice*



## THE ORDINAND-ARY LIFE!

"Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it "

So, I am nine months into training for ordained ministry and I am pleased to say that so far things are going as well as can be!

Recently, I received top marks on my pastoral simulations, during which we were thrust into a room full of actors to negotiate complex pastoral issues. I am passing my written papers and I feel that my placement here at CCHB is going well. Again, I thank you for your continued support, though I must confess that, as well as things seem, there are some minor issues on this journey causing me concern.

The first is the history of the universal church, of which some parts are simply unbelievable to say the least. As I dig deeper and go further, I realise that we have a lot to be concerned with because what I see in so many areas of church history is not the love of Christ Jesus, but the division of hate and misunderstanding. I don't mean this from just one specific example, rather many areas through the whole timeline of the church, of which we would be wise to keep reflecting on.

"But hang on George, this is history, just relax" you may say...my reply echoes that of the philosopher George Santayana ..."Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it ".

If we allow misunderstanding and division to be the norm, to be untouched and unchallenged, we run the risk of history repeating itself in various ways.

The second thing that has caused inner conflict, are my own brothers and sisters in Christ. Now please don't read this and think I am aiming this at any individual or congregation in particular, because this is not the case. Rather, my concern is for Christians or groups of Christians who feel they have the answer (or are the answer!) to all of our world's complex problems and issues.

Over the past few months I have witnessed careless words, cross words, words of judgement and "banter" of various kinds. And yet, when people eventually discuss their concerns, barriers are weakened, fellowship flourishes and Jesus happens!

So how have I come to find some sort of peace at my unrest in this journey so far? Well I remind myself that we are a family, and family can sometimes upset us, this is where forgiveness comes in. That there is a message of peace, and within this is the need to keep talking things through. And finally, that our ultimate example of peace can not be found in the books of Deuteronomy, Judges, Revelation or any other for that matter, but rather in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a church here on the Wirral and as a part of the wider body of Christ let us never lose sight of discussing our differences lovingly in the example of Jesus Christ who is the Prince of Peace.

Every blessing, George



## NEWS & EVENTS

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May dawned bright and sunny which encouraged many of our local community to come and partake of bacon or sausage batches or scrambled eggs on toast from our Christian Aid Big Breakfast menu. From 9 am until just after 11 am we had a constant flow of customers who enjoyed their breakfast courtesy of our Christian Aid staff! Bacon, bread and eggs were donated from our local Coop store on Teehey Lane and this made quite a difference to the final total. £811.25 (including Gift Aid) was raised and this will make a huge difference to many new mothers and their babies in Sierra Leone.

We also left Christian Aid envelopes on chairs and pews for the two Sundays and this raised £216.83. As our Community Centre is busy throughout the week we also left envelopes for anyone who attends activities and this is also included in the final amount. We are grateful to everyone who supported our fund raising this year and know that many mothers and babies will survive as a result of our endeavours- a happy outcome for all. The total raised was £1028.08 . Thank you to everyone who donated or supported our activities and a big thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who cooked, served or washed up during our breakfast.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## June 2019

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Boulder's 'Talking through Faith' session
	12 noon	Baptisms
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Ladies in Stitches
	1.15pm	Experience Church
	1.30pm	Eco Church Steering Group (also 7.30pm)
	7.30pm	Men's Group
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
	8.00pm	Holy Land 2020 Pilgrimage Get Together
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
	1.30pm	Experience Church
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Worship for Pentecost
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Film Morning
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Oasis Mental Health Support Group
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Mothers' Union
	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Art Café
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.15pm	4C's Carers Lunch
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## June 2019

### Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am

Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Boulder's Social
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1.45pm	Summer Fair
	7.30pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	All Age Service of the Word
	6.30pm	Alternative Service
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Art Café
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	5.00pm	Induction service for Eunice with Bishop Keith

## July 2019

### Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Eco Church Steering Group
	7.30pm	Men's Group
	7.30pm	Eco Church Steering Group
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	PCC Away Day at St. Paul & St. Luke's
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Boulder's 'Talking through Faith' session
	12 noon	Baptisms
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Film Morning
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Oasis Mental Health Support Group

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## July 2019

**Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Mothers' Union
	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Art Café
		Wirral Schools Band Concert
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Worship & Baptism Welcome followed by Parish Picnic
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.15pm	4C's Carers Lunch
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Boulders Social
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Mediation Group
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Service of the Word
	6.30pm	Fellowship Service
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café

See front cover for regular Sunday and weekday services.

Choir practice every Tuesday 7.00 - 8.00pm in church. New members always welcome. Please speak to Philip Robinson for more information.

Men in Sheds meet every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10am - 1.00pm. All Are welcome.

# MEN IN SHEDS

Beb Shed has continued to flourish and is usually a hive of activity on our days of opening. We are getting more offers of assistance (timber & finance) to help the shed grow and be even more productive. For anyone who has not seen inside, we will be open during the summer fair for people to have a look around. We will also be displaying some of our handiwork and taking orders for planters, bird tables etc. We have no shortage of jobs to undertake but would welcome new members to join us and enjoy the camaraderie and sense of purpose that is evident there.

Our partnership with Tools With A Mission (TWAM) continues and we are collecting a reasonable array of tools that should prove useful to the beneficiaries in Africa.



**Men in Sheds meet every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10am - 1.00pm.**

# NEWS & EVENTS

## **4Cs Carers Group** – ‘Carers, Coffee, Cake (and sandwiches!) and Chat’

The Carers group provides opportunities for carers, and those who have previously been carers, to meet and enjoy friendship and fellowship together. Our programme includes an annual day out and we love Llandudno as a venue.

Consequently a jolly group of 43 trippers boarded a coach at 9:30am on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May and John, our super driver, got us to Llandudno by coffee time.

The weather was lovely and people were free to do their own ‘thing’, most seemed to start with coffee at one of the many hotels or cafes. Walking, shopping and Wetherspoons seemed to be the most popular activities for the rest of the day. The more observant may have seen the vicar’s mother paddling and the vicar’s father eating a very large ice cream!!



We were all delivered safely back in Bebington by 5:30 pm.

We have very enjoyable meetings and activities and welcome any newcomers.

A warm welcome awaits all Carers/Past Carers at our monthly meetings held in the Community Centre at 12.15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month. Do come along and join us for a light lunch, an interesting talk and an opportunity to make new supportive friendships and connections.

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**, when Alan Jackson will be “transporting us to foreign places” with films taken on his travels abroad. In July come and join us for a Summer Barbecue in the garden. There is no meeting in August, but we look forward to meeting together again on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

If you would like information or know of someone who might benefit from a break from caring and in need of friendly support please contact Graham or Rhona.

Graham: [graham.loach@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.loach@btinternet.com) or Rhona: [snelson34@btinternet.com](mailto:snelson34@btinternet.com)



Indoor bowls will take a break until September 13<sup>th</sup> as the Crown Green season has begun.

# NEWS & EVENTS

The ladies of Knit & Natter raised the magnificent sum of £150 by making and selling Easter chicks and rabbits. The money was donated to the organ appeal. If any ladies or men would like to join us, we meet every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Kings Hall from 1.30 - 3.30pm. There is always a warm welcome and we also provide refreshments. We go on occasional trips, recently visiting Boundary Mill.



If you, or someone you know, are affected by mental health issues, you would be most welcome to join us at our Oasis Mental Health Support Group. We meet in the community centre at 1.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Steve Flatt, psychotherapist, plans to join us in our discussions, which are held on an informal basis over a 'cuppa'. Bob Knowles, from Wirral MIND will also be joining us at our July meeting. For further details please see Jill Wright.

We had a good time at our March Tea Dance. A slightly early Easter theme, meant we were able to enjoy lots of delicious chocolate cakes and mini eggs!

Graham led us in some Barn dance steps and we were joined by our friends from Salisbury House. Our May one was a sing-a-long where we were joined by Alex McMillan on the piano and Colin Foden on the drums. We were also treated to star turns by



members of the Clergy!! Please join us at our next one on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** at 2pm.



Jill Wright (Reader Emeritus) wishes to thank Rev Mike, and all at Christ Church, so much, for their kind wishes and beautiful basket of flowers, on the event of her retirement from the Ministry Team at the end on April. Jill will still be involved in conducting funerals, bereavement support, mental health support and organising Pilgrimages! So will still be very much seen about the church. The support of church members is very much appreciated.

# NEWS & EVENTS

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May saw the launch of 'Ladies in Stitches', our new sewing group. Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm and the first Tuesday of the month at 10am we come together to sew, chat and have tea and biscuits! At our first session we started making bunting for the upcoming Summer Fair which we will hopefully complete at our next two sessions, then we are open to new ideas for projects. Please join us if you can and bring your sewing machine along if you'd like to, all are most welcome.



## **Bereavement Support (Befriender's)**

The befrienders lunch held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month is going from strength to strength. We are getting new people attending who are getting involved with church matters, and activities in the community centre. We will continue to have this open house approach and reach out to those bereaved.

There are also trained listeners in the group who can offer one to one support should it be required. You would be made very welcome, just come along on the day or contact the Parish Office.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women Readers.**

The first women Readers, in the Church of England, were licensed 50 years ago on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1969; long before women priests were ordained. Women's voices were then heard, in churches, for the first time preaching, teaching and leading worship. (However, it must be said that temporary licences were granted to some women during the First World War). In Chester diocese, currently, the ratio of women to men Readers is about equal, with all Readers wearing the distinctive blue scarf which is their badge of office. As they all minister together to help the Church bring God's mission to the world, we give thanks to all those men and women who carry the bishop's licence, willingly giving their time and energy as lay ministers in the Church today.



# FRIENDS' WEEKEND AWAY

An intrepid band of some 27 of us set out on the afternoon of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May heading towards Grange over Sands for a weekend of friendship and fun! Most of us travelled in a mini coach and a couple by car.

After a mainly trouble free journey, we all arrived safely at Thornleigh Christian Hotel, situated on the Esplanade, at Grange, overlooking the estuary. Our patient assistant manager, Rob, helped sort out all our luggage and explained the intricacies of their electronic key system. After a wash and



brush up we all convened for an excellent meal – the first of many. (Diet starts on Monday)

Friday evening we enjoyed chatting to friends, old and new, and indulged in a fiendishly difficult game which involved throwing tennis balls into a plastic sieve (yes really!) Then some evening devotions when we remembered our 'Forever Friend' Jesus Christ. Few of us will ever forget Kath Christian singing all the words of Charlie Landsborough's song. Night time drinks of

hot chocolate and the like were on offer before an early bed...

Bright eyed and bushy tailed, a cooked breakfast was enjoyed by all. We also said a prayer in recognition of the Mothers' Union 'Wave of Prayer'. After breakfast some of us strolled down into Grange and the local coffee shop. (And a bit of retail therapy!) Others remained in the hotel and tackled a jigsaw or indulged in some sewing or other crafts.

After another sustaining meal we were off in our trusty coach again, to spend the afternoon visiting Sizergh Castle, house and gardens. We were blessed with dry weather and were bowled over by the beautiful gardens (complete with cat asleep in a flower bed!) and the wonderful furnishings and wooden carvings in the house. As there was a fair amount of walking involved, some of us took advantage of the wheelchairs on offer. Angela Hamilton enjoyed a really 'de lux' motorised version (had to have driving lessons).



## FRIENDS' WEEKEND AWAY

Saturday evening saw us coping with a game of indoor cricket – the rules of which were sometimes unclear! Bob Jones has gamely volunteered to arrange for 'Men in Sheds' to construct a set for Christ Church – so brush up your cricketing skills! Again bedtime devotions – focusing on Mental Health Awareness Week and the need to share experiences and be a friend to others. Night time drinks available again before drifting off to bed.



Sunday morning – our last day! Saw many of us attending the morning communion service at St Paul's Anglican church in the town. The Rector and congregation warmly welcomed us and thanked us for helping to swell their



numbers. We heard a moving testimony from their church warden (who was very nervous). Surprise! Surprise! their church organ is also in the throes of restoration and is in bits over some of the pews. (Home from home!) Back at the hotel we enjoyed a roast dinner before heading back to Bebington in our coach. Jill Wright gave everyone a coaster to keep as a memento with the inscription Christ Church Higher Bebington Friendship Weekend May 2019. We arrived back at church at tea time, to be greeted by our vicar Rev Mike before we all went our separate ways home. Hopefully, the friendship and fun, which we all shared together at the weekend, will stay with us for weeks to come.

# ECO CHURCH

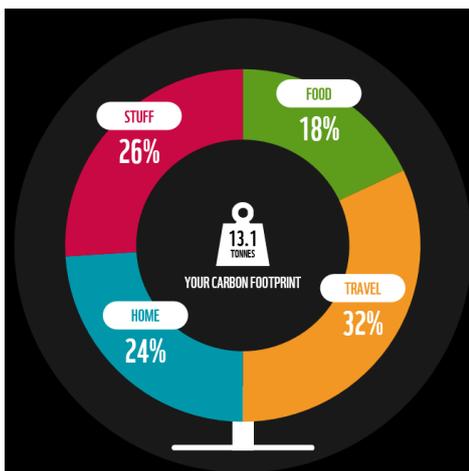
## How big is your footprint?

As part of our Eco Church activities, we have been discussing how we might each take steps to reduce our personal impact on the environment we live in. One way to do this is by looking at our individual carbon footprint – the amount of greenhouse gases produced through our daily activities such as travelling to work, heating our homes and shopping for food.

This might sound like a difficult thing to measure, but there are lots of easy calculators online that help you do this in just a few minutes by answering a few simple questions. Doing this helps you to see how the choices you make every day affect your carbon footprint and what steps you could take to reduce it.

I decided to have a go for myself using the WWF's Footprint Calculator (<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>). The calculator takes you through a series of questions about your diet, travel, home and purchasing habits which took me about 10 minutes to complete. The results were quite an eye-opener and showed that I have plenty of room for improvement! My carbon footprint for the last year was 13.1 tonnes, quite a way over the 10.5 tonne individual target needed to meet UK targets for 2020.

Once you have your results, you can explore the various sections to get tips on what to do to reduce your emissions in each category. I was surprised to see that my largest category was for travel. As a home-worker, I don't spend much time in the car but last year I took a few short-haul flights for work trips and one for our family holiday. It goes to show just how much of an impact flying has on our carbon emissions. Other areas where I could easily make improvements include reducing food waste at home, eating a bit less meat and dairy and keeping the house a couple of degrees cooler in the winter months.



I'm going to challenge myself to make some changes and get my carbon footprint down to 10.5 tonnes per year next time I do the questionnaire. I hope this inspires some of you to join me and have a go too!

By Catherine Price

If you wish to get involved in any way please talk to Alan or Pam Hollinshead.

## ORGAN UPDATE

As you may have noticed, David Wells' team have been at CCHB almost daily and are in the process of reassembling our organ. Everything certainly looks very clean!



Pictured above is the inside of the Swell Organ. You can't normally see this as the shutters obscure the view even when open. The shutters, rather like a venetian blind, can be opened and closed by the organist thereby changing the volume of sound - crescendo and diminuendo.

Once assembled, there will be a period of testing and tuning before the organ can be handed over to us.

At the beginning of 2019, we needed a further £34,300 for the work. So far this year, we have raised over £6,000 so around £28,000 still to go to complete the project.

Our ecumenical trip to The Holy Land inches ever closer. We now have a full complement of 43 Pilgrims (including Jill Wright and Rev Mike) booked to visit the Holy Land in November 2020. Rev Mike and Jill will be hosting a 'Pilgrimage Get Together' in our community centre at 8pm, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**. This will be the first time the Pilgrims (from different churches on the Wirral) will have had a chance to meet each other. Please remember us in your prayers as we prepare for our trip.

# PARISH POET

There are several sides to my life right now - as there are, pretty much, to everyone's life.

In some ways, I'm pushing forward, riding that elusive upward trajectory, making things happen.

In other ways?

Well, in other ways, I'm still struggling with things... sometimes far more than people know.

Life... anxieties, lingering pieces of guilt, still clinging where a heavy shroud has been lifted... fears resurfacing as the world starts to look ridiculously scary again for ridiculous reasons.

For some folks, this means going on marches and demonstrations to save the planet.

For some, it means getting through the week, trying not to be scared by all the stuff you can't handle as it buzzes at you like an angry wasp through your letter box and your phone and the office down the road.

If the Jesus who seduced my heart meant anything, it was because He was the lost and broken Jesus, who didn't fight back... didn't justify Himself... who waits for us in a place where we are scared and hopeless... and gives us a better reason to be human, just when you thought there weren't any left.

It's not victorious. It's not triumphal. He's the Jesus who always ends up hanging on that crucifix, no matter how many times we try to take Him down, polish it up and make it into a sword.

It's got to be that... because if there is a Heaven anywhere here, it has to be one that

understands the shattered souls that nobody else will see, that reeks magnificently of Heavenly failure while the world is busy looking for another Hellish Victory.



# PARISH POET

## **Shadow of your hope**

Waiting  
in the shadow of the cross  
to see the new dawn...  
dance in the new song...  
be right...  
and call others to be saved,  
changed,  
converted  
to that new sparkly cleanness in the sky.

Or perhaps  
simply walking with our fears -  
uncertain,  
just like they were...  
the ones in the story...

lost,  
half-crazy  
in the shadow of your death.  
Lost  
and broken with the echoes of your love.

Because that's the real story:  
standing in a place without happy endings  
and finding the beauty of that place  
before victory is declared,  
and hopeful whispers are forged into battle cries.

Just waiting for you to show up,  
cook breakfast  
and flavour our betrayals with your voice.

Just waiting for you to show up,  
cook breakfast  
and flavour our betrayals with your touch.

Just waiting for you to show up.

*John Hulme*

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE POTTERS



We are the Potter family, that's John, Libby, Sarah 19 and Andrew 16, and we've been coming to Christ Church since 1999. It all started when Sarah was born in June that year and Libby came to baby group and Mums and Tots with her, where they both made friends and began to feel part of the family of Christ Church. Until then John hadn't been a church-goer, while Libby was brought up in a farming family in Coleraine, Northern Ireland attending a Presbyterian church. She left Coleraine when she was 24 and didn't attend church, except for weddings and Christenings, until joining Christ Church 14 years later.

John has lived on the Wirral since 1966, attending Wirral Grammar School and has worked for various banks most of his life and Libby trained as a nurse in Belfast at the height of the "troubles" and came to a hospital in Oxford to continue her training, specialising in orthopaedics. It was while Libby was living in Oxford that we met-on a skiing holiday in Austria in 1992- well actually it was at Manchester airport! We got married in 1997 in Libby's hometown of Coleraine. She moved up from Oxford and got a job at the Countess of Chester Hospital and we moved to the house we live in now on Mount Road before Sarah was born.

So, as Christ Church was a short walk from home and ran a Mums & Tots group, it was a perfect place for a nervous first time Mum! Libby met other

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE POTTERS

mums, made friends and began to feel part of the community. Some of her closest friends now are mums she met at these groups almost 20 years ago. Andrew arrived on Christmas Eve 2002- a few weeks early and rather quickly! Libby vividly remembers standing at the front of church singing carols with Sarah, then aged 3, and the other children during the Nativity Service thinking "I really shouldn't be here, I should be on my way to hospital!" This baby was a little boy who knew his own mind and was not going to miss Santa's arrival that night! Now, aged 16, Andrew is still that young man who knows his own mind, a Liverpool supporter and fan of Marvel comic characters with hopes and dreams for the future just like any other young person.

The children have grown up with the Church being a big part of their lives, by attending Sunday Club and Boulders, going to uniform groups based at Christ Church, Sarah being Rose Queen in 2011 and Andrew being part of many retinues. They also enjoyed summer holiday clubs, performing in the Nativity plays and manning stalls at the summer fairs. Andrew is currently volunteering at Christ Church, as part of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. As Sarah and Andrew both attended the local schools, Town Lane Infants and Higher Bebington Junior School, they also came to Christ Church many times on school trips, for carol services and special events. Andrew is now a student at Bebington High Sports College, while Sarah has moved on and is now in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Nottingham University studying Engineering. She has always been a keen musician and it was our own Paul Goulden who encouraged her to have a go at the trombone, he said it was a really fun instrument. What great advice that was as Sarah has loved it ever since and now plays in a variety of brass bands.

Over the years we have really enjoyed becoming more involved in the life of the Church. This includes supporting Sarah with her year as Rose Queen, organising the Summer Fair, Libby helping at holiday clubs and events and more recently Connect Coffee. Libby is now a Boulders leader and John still runs the monthly film mornings, having managed the Community Centre for six years.

After twenty years of being part of the Christ Church community, it would be hard to imagine life in Higher Bebington without it. It has been there for us through the good and not so good times and we have made many friends. We look forward to what the next twenty years will bring!

# MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

## March 2019

Back for a return visit to one of our favourite eating houses. The Refreshment Rooms in Rock Ferry. We went on a Wednesday and the choices left us with a dilemma. Should we go for the main menu with the attraction of a bottle of wine for £10 or take on the over 60s offer of two courses for £9.95 or three courses for £11.95. With some members under 60 we were offered the option of allowing all to have the over 60s menu. Offer accepted !!! Also a couple of live wires nipped in for a £10 bottle of wine as well. Starters included Thai fishcakes, black pudding and leek bon bons, piri piri chicken, and braised mushrooms with port and stilton. Mains included fish and chips, bangers and mash, lamb tagine, home cooked ham and eggs and fish pie. Puddings offered sticky toffee pudding, Eton mess, or apple lemon and blueberry crumble with custard. Yum yum! Needless to say we all ate well and had the usual happy evening quaffing the wine and good selection of local beers. Great atmosphere, friendly and helpful staff and a farewell message of " We'll be back ".

## April 2019

When passing the Sunlight in Bromborough Road, Lower Bebington I noticed some food offers that were available. Monday evening HALF PRICE !!, Tuesday evening all the Prosecco you can drink and Wednesday evening a budget evening from the grille menu. The decision was Monday. Good varied choice on the menu, including the grille, and a pre-order required. No problem. The atmosphere was relaxed with low background music and attentive staff. Considering the value for money we were surprised that it was not heaving! Good starter choices including calamari, scotch egg with black pudding, duo of soup. BBQ ribs and pate as well as vegetarian choices. mains included lamb rump, local ham egg and chips, veggie bake and a very considerable grille choice. Puddings included the expected sticky toffee pudding, Nicholls ice cream, chocolate and orange brownie and apple crumble.

The service was good, the food hot and tasty and a very good night was had by all. Real value for money with the average for two excellent courses about £10.95. The wines and beers were not overpriced. So we can, yet again, recommend another venue. Give it a try you won't be disappointed.

Best wishes and happy eating. John Theobald.

# COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A warm welcome to the Community Centre news page. This month, the theme is food and eating. There is a saying that 'you don't need a silver fork to eat good food', and the Centre has hosted a few events recently, where sharing food with love is a definite theme. This includes the Maundy Thursday Supper, the Passover Supper, the Christian Aid Breakfast, Rose Queen Afternoon Tea and Carers' Lunch.

If you are interested in learning how to cook or developing your culinary skills in a friendly relaxed environment, the 3L's

Class may be for you. John and Sue Dodd run this class and this month, they have contributed this piece for the Newsletter:

'Tasty Cooking. Friday afternoon

Friday afternoons in the centre are filled with interesting smells and aromas. They hit you from the front door and have tormented the people in the office for a number of years now. The food course is run by 3L's for those over the age of 55. As members of the course put it 'Sue, though having spent a career teaching tends to guide the course rather than lecture to us'. All sorts of people, of a wide range of ages and skill levels, from those claiming to only be able to burn toast, to those who have raised and fed families who want to try different things and extend their skills. It is not just a cookery course, but a chance to meet friends and socialise. The general banter and laughter is not mentioned on the course description but is an important part of the afternoon. There must be something to it as some members have been coming back term after term for over 4 years now and when places become available, they are soon filled. Besides learning new skills and recipes, having a laugh with friends, everyone goes home with a meal and pudding for two at the end of the afternoon.'

## **Bookings**

Do you need a venue for your group to meet? Feel free to contact me by telephone (0151 608 4429), email [centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk) or in person at the Parish Office on Tuesday mornings. Julie Scarsbrook Centre Administrator



# ROSE QUEEN

Hello everyone,

We had our last Rose Queen event recently which was the afternoon tea. It was an amazing event although a little bit stressful. I had an incredible team working in the kitchen to make our beautiful and delicious afternoon tea cake stands.

An odd conclusion we came to is that smoked salmon sandwiches and egg & cress sandwiches are the most popular. Waitressing was lots of fun and I really enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone there. We were blessed with a lovely spring day which combined with the smell of baking scones, felt truly indulgent.



After the event we had lots of sandwich filling left which was shared amongst the retinue families and the leftover cake was sold on the Sunday morning. By the end of the weekend, I was fed up of the sight of sandwiches. I didn't think I would ever say that!

I want to thank everyone for all of the support that I've had over this past year. It is through all of the kind donations and attendance that we can help my charities: Therapy Dogs Nationwide and the Community centre. I can only hope that I've helped, not just the charities, but you lot to get to know each other and myself. It's been an amazing year that I have thoroughly appreciated and I only hope that the next rose queen, Charlotte, has as much fun as me over her reign.

The official end of my year will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at the Summer Fair. I invite you all to come and join me to congratulate Charlotte and wish her well in the coming year. It will be a bitter-sweet day as we will be about to just attend events, the joy from the role in the church will be gone. Also, although the aim of the year was to help other people, it has honestly helped me and I have become a more rounded person because of it. I have become moderately more organised and feel even more comfortable and supported in our community, which I never would have expected or thought possible. Consequently, I would love it if you could support Charlotte like you have supported me and I wish her all the best for her reign.

All my thanks,  
Rachael Price Rose Queen 2018-2019

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Collections: March & April 2019

	Sunday	Planned Giving £	Loose Cash £	Total Giving £
	3 March	50	104	
	10 March	157	123	
	17 March	83	174	
	24 March	81	79	
	31 March	68	128	
	7 April	63	139	
	14 April	62	131	
Easter Day	21 April	109	131	
	28 April	89	68	
Standing Orders & GAYE (direct to bank)		11779		
Misc lump sums - some gift-aided		633		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>13174</b>	<b>1077</b>	<b>14251</b>

**Pledge Envelopes**

<i>Year to date and comparison with previous year</i>	<b>2019</b> £	<i>2018</i> £	<i>Increase</i> %
Standing Orders & GAYE (Give As You Earn)	23213	22246	4
Weekly Envelopes	1712	1600	7
Misc lump sums - some gift-aided	1045	360	190
<b>Total Planned Giving before Gift Aid</b>	<b>25970</b>	<b>24206</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gift Aid from HMRC</b>	<b>5400</b>	<b>5133</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>31370</b>	<b>29339</b>	<b>7</b>
Loose Cash	<b>1922</b>	2135	-10
<b>Total Voluntary Giving</b>	<b>33292</b>	<b>31474</b>	<b>6</b>

*PCC Treasurer, Charles Van Ingen, writes: "Planned Giving during March and April is now running usefully ahead of the same period in 2018 as the effects of our February Thanksgiving Campaign bear fruit.*

*"For the present, expenditure from the General Account is generally in line with expectations".*

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

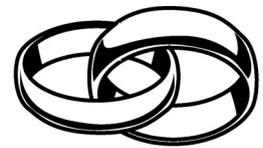
## DEPARTED INTO LIFE

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April** Samuel George Smith  
**22<sup>nd</sup> April** Muriel Evans  
**29<sup>th</sup> April** Eric Middleton Thomason  
**9<sup>th</sup> May** Edith **Margaret** Outram



## WHOM GOD HAS JOINED

- 10<sup>th</sup> April** Alexia Fiorito & Stuart Marc Bright  
**12<sup>th</sup> May** Julia Anne Gainford & Scott John Gray



## BROUGHT WITHIN THE FAMILY

- 7<sup>th</sup> April** James Paolo & Daisy Isabelle Forshaw  
**5<sup>th</sup> May** Millie Frances Phu, Esme Elizabeth Stewart  
& Ivy Lilly Smith  
**26<sup>th</sup> May** Charlotte Nancy Fagan



## REMEMBERING WITH FLOWERS

To all who read this magazine: you can donate money in remembrance of a loved one for altar flowers - just hand it to me (Liz Bird) or to Helen Byrne, or leave it in the Parish Office with the date when you would like your arrangement to be done.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all; so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Ian Millington,  
Partner

*Hello everyone,*

while some of you may recognise me from church you may not know that my day job is to offer legal advice at Hillyer McKeown solicitors.

It strikes me that our population is living longer so it is important to think about our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Below I have put together some practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.

### **Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)**

An LPA is a legal document which allows you to choose one or more people (the attorney(s)) to make decisions for you, or act on your behalf if you cannot deal with matters yourself. Anyone over the age of 18 with the mental capacity to understand the LPA and choose their attorney(s) can make an LPA.

There are two types of LPA:

1. Property or financial affairs - from using your bank account, collecting pensions and benefits, and paying bills, to other matters like selling your home or dealing with your investments.
2. Health and welfare - this covers medical treatment, your daily routine, and where you live. This LPA can only

be used when you lack capacity to make these decisions yourself. You can decide to limit decisions by placing restrictions in the LPA document.

### **Wills and Probate**

Making a will can be a difficult thing to think and talk about, but putting in place well thought out plans can offer peace of mind.

Updating your will or seeking advice about your estate or Trust(s) when things change is also recommended.

If you are worried about the possibility of care home fees you can also protect your assets through a Property Protection Trust Will or a Flexible Life Interest Will to help you plan for your future.

### **What to do next?**

For a free discussion with an expert from our Wills and Probate team in Birkenhead (Hamilton Square office), call 0151 647 600 or email [enquiries@law.uk.com](mailto:enquiries@law.uk.com)

*Thank you, Ian Millington*



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