

# CHRIST CHURCH HIGHER BEBINGTON

NEWS LINK

August/September 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>Associate Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Eunice Blackmore</b> Email: euniceblackmore@talktalk.net	0151 648 5343
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ted Jones</b> <b>Pam Hollinshead</b>	0151 645 0617 07957 880 687
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	<b>Jill Wright</b>	0151 792 3668
<b>Pastoral Worker</b>	<b>June Fogg</b>	0151 608 5693
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Gary Shaw</b> <b>Ian Murray</b>	0151 608 4927 0151 608 5998
<b>Hon. Secretary to Church Council</b>	<b>Jane Dalziel</b>	0151 608 4429
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<b>Community Centre Administrator</b>	<b>Julie Scarsbrook</b> Email: centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk	07473 028 991
<b>Community Centre Supervisor</b>	<b>Sarah Loach</b>	
<b>Parish Secretary (Parish Office)</b>	<b>Victoria Gleave</b> Email: parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk	0151 608 4429

## October/November 2019 Magazine

Items for inclusion in the October/November 2019 Magazine should reach the Parish Secretary

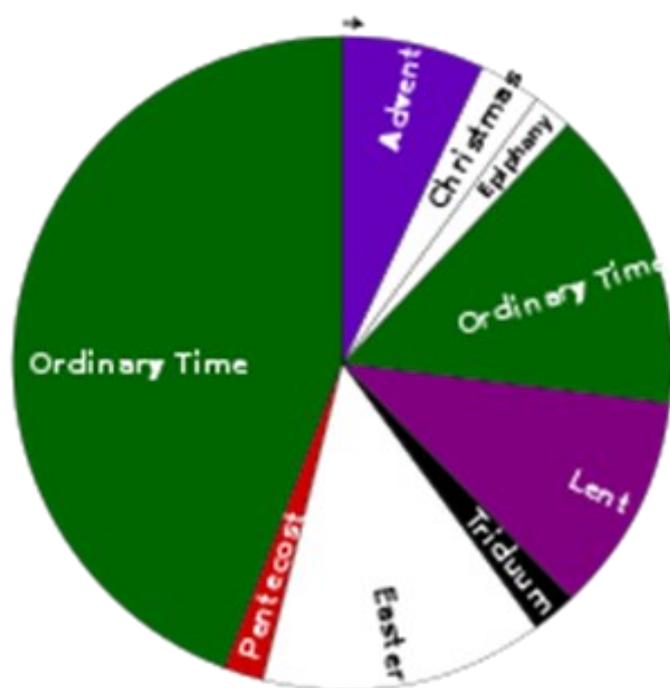
(email: parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk) by **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019** who can also be contacted with any queries.

# VICAR'S LETTER

## ***A life more ordinary...***

August can be an uninspiring month. We perhaps still harbour childhood memories of balmy summer days, playing out late in the holidays and trips to the seaside that were always glorious, only to then be disappointed by the inevitable August downpours! August 1<sup>st</sup> is also, apparently(!), the date when schoolchildren start to realise that weeks of holiday time is not as exciting as they had first thought, as boredom sets in and the need to find things to do becomes more pressing (not necessarily a bad thing!). And the liturgical calendar followed by the church doesn't do much to make August any more exciting or attractive, with it falling in the middle of "Ordinary Time" and not containing any especially notable feast days.

Now, the idea of being immersed in the "ordinary" might not sound particularly attractive alongside a cultural backdrop that emphasises the need for 24/7 excitement and stimulation, but I think there is some important wisdom to be found in the use of the term and in its origins.



*Ordinary Time* runs from the end of Epiphany until Lent and then for a longer period, from Pentecost until Advent, and refers to those periods which are neither set for feasting (such as Christmas & Easter) nor for preparation (such as Advent or Lent). The correct application of the word "ordinary" is most likely found in its Latin stem "ordo", from which we take the English word "order", rather than from an understanding that would translate as "unremarkable" or "commonplace". It refers to the time of year when we attempt to find the right order for our lives – working out

priorities and seeking to find a rhythm that places God before all else.

I have to confess that I often find myself in need of such "ordering time" as busyness interferes with Godliness and leads to a disjointed, often chaotic, approach to life. The struggle to say no to requests, to resist the urge to fill every gap in time with activity and stuff every bit of stillness with stimulation

## VICAR'S LETTER (CONTD.)

is everywhere and the importance of a time to reassert the things that really matter is something that none of us should ignore.

I hope to use August not just as a time to step back from regular commitments, but also as a time to begin a better ordering of my time that can be carried into a new term and beyond. And I would encourage everyone to try to do something similar, no matter what their stage in life. We all need to ask where we are finding the opportunities to notice the world and the people around us, where we have the time to enjoy the changing seasons



and acknowledge our place in nature, where we might take those moments to rest and simply appreciate the experience of life's many blessings and, most significantly, where we will be still for long enough to allow God to rest in us and we in God.

With love and every blessing,

*Mike*



Lord teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Lighten, if it is your will, the pressures of this world's cares.

Above all, reconcile us to your will, and give us a peace which the world cannot take away;

Through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)*

## AN ASSOCIATE'S MUSINGS

I want to start with a very big thank you to you all for making my licensing service on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> so special. It was really heartening to see not just my church family but many others who had supported and encouraged me from previous churches; relatives, friends, ex work colleagues, neighbours and representatives from the local community and local churches. I was also very much aware of the thoughts and prayers of those who for various reasons couldn't make it.



It's hard to say when my journey to become a minister started. It could have been the result of several years of voluntary hospital chaplaincy or the decision to become an Anglican or was it even before I was born as Psalm 139, which we read, hinted at? All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. It definitely wasn't a straightforward journey especially being interrupted with cancer treatment – but now I've got there; I've arrived – or have I? In reality it's more like the opening of a new phase, with much more to learn and experience; to share, support and encourage.

The licensing service was inspirational – but that wasn't down to me – it was a collective effort! So many people, including Bishop Keith, commented on the atmosphere within the church as they walked in. It did look amazing with the Pentecost symbols and particularly the banner "Fill us with your Spirit Lord". Many thanks John and Barbara Champion. The singing throughout the service was so uplifting and what a bonus to hear the newly restored organ (thank you Thomas). It was great hearing Olivia, Grace, Harry and the Millington family doing the readings and Sam keeping everything under control on the sound desk (even more thanks to my church family). I loved sharing communion with so many who had been part of my journey. But there was hardly a dry eye when young Hugo Robinson ended the service by singing "The Lord bless you and keep you" (thank you Hugo – and Krista).



# AN ASSOCIATE'S MUSINGS

I was somewhat overwhelmed by the messages of welcome and support received from so many across the churches, even the mosque and the local community, especially as Gary so rightly said, that you don't normally welcome someone who's already been there 3 years!

And if that wasn't enough the service was followed by delicious food and even Prosecco and wine which so many of you helped to put together and tidy up afterwards. Another example of the love shared within our church family.

Now the big question I'm being asked continually is, what difference does it make being an associate minister rather than a curate? On one level I've



completed the apprenticeship and am staying around for longer. I quite like this definition of an associate - "a person who does a similar job to someone else but does not have all the responsibilities of the main position"! But what resonates even more is that of "co-worker". Yes I'm a co-worker, with Mike, but most of all we're both co-workers with God. And that's what I must never lose sight of. It's so easy for me to let the busyness of activities overtake my life but as our gospel reading of Mary and Martha reminded us - we need to find time for and prioritise those "Mary moments" of being still before God and learning from him. It's only then that we can be effective co-worker and after all it's not all about me but all about God....

We will be running an Alpha course for all who would like to discover, discuss and debate what the Christian faith is all about starting on THURSDAY September 19<sup>th</sup> for 10 weeks.

Each session will include a meal at 7 pm followed by a video and the opportunity to discuss in small groups, concluding by 9.15 pm. Do join us. Please let Rev Mike or Eunice know if you are interested and/or if you are willing to help with food etc.

**Alpha - Explore More Life. Faith. Meaning**



## THE ORDINAND-ARY LIFE!

So, day by day and little by little I gain more experience, study further and learn more on this road towards ordained ministry. This is a road with many twists and turns, many ups and downs and many people spoken with as relationships are forged upon this spiritual journey.

One of the twisting roads I have had to navigate this month has been the passing of a dear friend and colleague, which saw me taking her funeral on the 31<sup>st</sup> July along with Mike.

Sam and I worked together on the emergency ambulances of the Wirral for a couple of years, off and on, between our regular partners. During our time together, Sam and I got to know each other pretty well and I learnt that she had been fighting a battle with cancer for some time. When I left the service to begin training for ministry, and Sam's health took a turn for the worse, it seemed only natural to Sam that I should be the one who would take her funeral. The next few months saw many ups and downs for Sam, but eventually the fight was lost and, as promised, along with her family, I sat by her bed and prayed with her until the end.

We often look for the Lord in the anointing and prayers, in the planning of funerals, and sometimes in the words we navigate. Though the Lord can be found there - of course he can! - he is perhaps more likely to be found in the lady who holds the cup for the sick person to drink from, or in the old man scrubbing the hospital floor in order to try and prevent fatal germs spreading. Indeed, it is the smaller things that count.

We all have a part to play in this spiritual road we walk, no matter how big or small we may feel within the grand scheme of things because it is through us and by our hands that the Lord can really make a difference - "Christ has no hands on the earth but yours" – (Teresa of Avila).

We, here at Christ Church, are really are blessed with such amazing support in exploring our walk with Jesus. Some navigate the more obvious roads towards reader ministry, some ordained, some exploring prayer ministry etc., but it is the ministry of just being there and listening, or making a cup of tea that can really make a difference.

The person of Jesus so often fascinates me with his ministry, yes, he was a preacher and teacher but he also spent a lot of time just doing the small things. And this leads me to ask "how are we impacting with the smaller things?" Are we willing to clean the floors to help take the weight off the Centre staff, or make the coffee, or just sit and listen? We are all called to live out this servant ministry.

Every blessing, George

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## **August 2019      Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptisms
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Eco Church Steering Group (also 7.30pm)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Meditation Group
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.15pm	4C's Carers Lunch
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptisms
	6.30pm	Alternative Service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</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.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## **September 2019 Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Boulder's 'Talking through Faith' session
	12 noon	Baptisms
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Ladies in Stitches
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Rose Queen Beetle Drive
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Communion with Bishop John to include Dedication of Church organ
	1.00pm	Baptism
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Film Morning
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Oasis Mental Health Support Group
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Mothers' Union
	8.00pm	Baptism Preparation
	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Indoor Bowls
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Service of the Word
	12 noon	Baptism
	4.00pm	Meditation Group
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.30pm	Carer's Lunch
	6.00pm	Preparation for Pre-confirmation Communion

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## September 2019 **Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Boulder's Social
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	Teddy Bear's Picnic
	6.30pm	Fellowship Service
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Preparation for Pre-confirmation Communion
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	2.00pm	Tea Dance
	7.45pm	Pilgrimage Get Together
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Weekend Away
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptisms

## **Dates for your diary**

More information to follow.

- **5<sup>th</sup> October** Harvest Supper in Kings Hall.
- **6<sup>th</sup> October** All Age Service for Harvest
- **20<sup>th</sup> October** All Age Communion Service to celebrate our  
160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- **2<sup>nd</sup> November** Community Bonfire

## NEWS & EVENTS

# Teddy bear's picnic



An opportunity to get to know other families with pre-school aged children and enjoy time together.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 3 pm**

If sunny - Christ Church vicarage lawn - otherwise in the community centre.

All teddy bears warmly invited but must be accompanied by their owners! Picnic provided.

# EXPERIENCE CHURCH

For many children Church can be a daunting old building and they have very little idea of what goes on inside it. So on Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Year 1 from Town Lane Infants and Year 3 from Bebington Juniors to ***Experience Church***.

Several colourful and interactive stations were set up around the church so that they could discover more in small groups. At the font they discovered that *the church welcomes*; through the history they learnt that *the church remembers* and the stained glass windows provided many examples of how *the church serves*. A visit to the vestry showed them how *the church prepares* leading to how *the church celebrates* with an introduction to communion. At the lectern they heard about how *the church teaches* and in the prayer corner they wrote their own prayers and tied them to the prayer tree. As church is so much more than a building they were also able to investigate how *the church cares and shares*.

With the timing coinciding with the global initiative of "Thy Kingdom Come" which anticipates the birth of the Church at Pentecost the church was decorated with flames, doves and balloons! We also sang together one of Krista's songs - The wind blew, blew, blew; the flames burned, burned, burned; the friends knew, knew, knew that the Holy Spirit was here! And we prayed that they would discover that too.

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way.



# SUMMER FAIR



Thank you to the fantastic team of volunteers and to the wonderful Rose Queen families who all worked so hard to make our Summer Fair such a happy and inclusive occasion. The sun shone, burgers sizzled, dancers danced, the band played and over £2800 was raised for community and charity work. A great effort all round!

Thank you once again to our fantastic retiring Rose Queen, Rachael, to her family and her retinue for all their efforts over the past year. Over £4800 was raised for Therapy Dogs Nationwide and our Community Centre and, perhaps of even greater significance, the Rose Queen again enabled a wonderful sense of community through her fantastic events. We are very blessed!



# NEWS & EVENTS

## Pentecost 2019

- see how the congregation was on fire with the Holy Spirit!



## Annual All Age Outdoor Communion.



At least once a year, we try to hold a Communion service in our beautiful grounds. This gives us an opportunity to remember that the "church" is its members and not the building and also makes it very easy to sing God's praises for the beauty of the earth! Our 2019

service took place on July 14<sup>th</sup> and was followed by our "Parish Picnic", including a bouncy castle, very kindly provided by Billy (the Bounce!) Thanks to all who helped put together another great celebration of God's love.

# MEN IN SHEDS

Beb Shed continues to provide an opportunity for people to get together to carry out craft activities and socialise. We usually spend our time doing woodworking, painting etc but always with a coffee break thrown in! Some new members have joined and we are happy to welcome anyone else that wants to come along, whether on a regular or periodic basis. So, if you know anyone who may be interested, please tell them to drop in anytime we are open - Tue, Wed & Fri, from 10 am to 1 pm, on each occasion.

Our backlog of orders for planters, bird tables etc, increased hugely, thanks to the summer fair attendees and our ability to showcase what we can produce. We just ask for patience whilst we work through these!

We have received some additional one-off funding and are in the process of looking to submit a grant application to allow another shed to be purchased, though that will be primarily for Arts & Crafts type activities, rather than woodworking.

Our relationship with Tools With A Mission (TWAM) continues to flourish and we are ready for them to come and collect

another load of donated tools (and sewing machines!) that we currently have

stored. There doesn't seem to be a week go past without us going to pick-up tools from someone's house or have them dropped off for us – many thanks to all who have donated in this way.



# NEWS & EVENTS

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

The 4Cs continues to grow and provides opportunities for carers, and those who have previously been carers, to meet and enjoy friendship and fellowship together.

The July meeting saw over 40 of us basking in sunshine and parting of glorious barbeque food. Thank you to our chefs Gary Shaw and Dave Gibson, wine waiter John Roberts and all who baked cakes or provided delicious desserts.



We have a break in August but return in September.

Forthcoming speakers are:-

- 17 September Sophia Bennett – Wired Carer Services
- 15 October Lisa Cummings – Age UK Dementia Support
- 19 November Lucy Taylor – Scam Awareness
- 17 December Christmas Meeting

All are most welcome at our lunchtime meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month apart from August. We meet at 12:15 in the Community Centre.

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

# NEWS & EVENTS

Hi everyone,

Here are most of our Knit and Natter ladies. On the front row is Dorothy, one of our founder members. We are busy making all sorts of things for use in hospitals, care homes and to sell in our summer fair and Christmas coffee morning. We recently raised about £200 for local good causes. We welcome new members of all ages and can assist in teaching knitting and crocheting skills. Alternatively you can join us for a cup of tea and a chat. We meet every first and third Wednesday of the month at 1.30 to 3.30pm. Hope to see you soon, Grace (Knit and Natter Group).



Our Oasis mental health support group continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month – except for August when we take a break! We are a small, informal, self-help group who aim to support anyone with mental health issues. Our next meeting will be 11<sup>th</sup> September starting at 1.30pm in the Troughton room of the Community Centre. Our Ordinand, George Roach, has very kindly agreed to share his experiences as a former paramedic with the group. (Jill Wright will be away). Please do come to the group if you feel that you may benefit. You would be very welcome!

## Donations

Jill Wright is collecting spare backpacks – medium size – to be donated to the charity Mary's Meals.

# NEWS & EVENTS

A warm welcome awaits you at the Happy Reading Group which meets in the Troughton Room at the Church Centre every second and fourth Monday of the month, 2.15pm – 3.45pm, except for Bank Holidays.

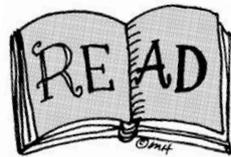
The next dates are as follows:-

22<sup>nd</sup> July,

12<sup>th</sup> August,

9<sup>th</sup> September,

23<sup>rd</sup> September



Currently we are reading a chapter each time from Jill Wright's book "Sweet Scented Manuscript of Youth" – her childhood memories of Higher Bebington 1945-1957. We are enjoying going down memory lane, exchanging our childhood experiences, over tea, coffee and biscuits! We also read a poem, about which we exchange views. We have some lively discussions.

## Tea Dance

Our July Tea Dance was very well attended and we were all delighted to be entertained by live musicians, Tony, Jean and Honora who sang for us and encouraged us to take to the floor! We even finished off with the Okey Cokey.

Please join us for our next one on Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> for music, dancing, tea and cakes, all are most welcome.

## Ladies in Stitches

At the Summer Fair the Ladies in Stitches were able to decorate the Church, Centre and garden with their fabric bunting. It has also been rented out and borrowed on a couple of occasions since then. A new project has now begun in line with our efforts to become more eco friendly. The group are now

making fabric bags to give out to the local shops so they can hand them out to their customers to use for their shopping instead of plastic bags.

The next meeting of Ladies in Stitches is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August if you'd like to join us. We meet on the **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm.**



# NEWS & EVENTS



Mothers' Union has had some interesting meetings this year, so far, with talks from Rev. Eunice, Alan Jackson, Graham Loach, Mary Hambly and Rev. Mike, as well as an outing to the Gladstone Theatre and a lovely Afternoon Tea at the Red Fox in Thornton Hough. There will be no meeting in August and we will be getting together again on 12<sup>th</sup> September for a talk by John Theobald.

As we have done over the past few years, our October meeting will be based around bringing gifts for the "Shoe Box" appeal.

Following last Sunday's (28<sup>th</sup> July) talk by Dave Cook about the Teams4U, you can find out more from the leaflets in the Centre foyer. Please feel free to contribute and come to the meeting, which starts at 7.45pm in the Kings Hall. Wishing you all a super summer.

Liz Bird

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

Our Service of the Word, 10am on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, will be celebrating 50 years of women in Reader ministry. We will be giving thanks for the ministry of all our Readers and tracing back the history of Reader ministry at Christ Church. We will also be looking to the future. Do come and help us celebrate!



## Friends' Weekend Away

In response to popular demand, Jill Wright is arranging another Friends' Weekend at Thornleigh Hotel, Grange over Sands, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 (an extra day this time) The cost is £185 per person (this does not include the coach fare and entry to a stately home) There are still places available. Please see Jill Wright for further details – a deposit of £50 per person is required to secure a place.

## Holy Land Pilgrimage

Rev Mike and Jill Wright will be leading another group of pilgrims to the Holy land on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. They are delighted to be joined, this time, by George Roach, our Ordinand, who will be sharing leadership duties! We now have a grand total of 45 of us going on the pilgrimage; our maximum number. However, there is a waiting list in operation, so if interested please see Jill Wright. A 'Get Together' is planned, for our 2020 pilgrims, taking place in the community centre, on the evening of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

# ECO CHURCH



Our Ecochurch stall made it's first appearance at Christ Church Summer Fair A team effort from all those interested in recycling, reusing, and reducing. The Ladies in Stitches group did sterling work on producing the most colourful bunting for each stall while the green board was attractively covered in recycling information! We were also able to offer local honey from Debbie Moulding a member of Soroptimist International of Bebington. We are Hoping to source and raise funds for our own bee hive – watch this space!

The Beebombs seedballs were very



popular so look out for masses of wild flowers around Bebington next spring. Jill Loach was very eco minded when she produced small packets of wild flower seeds made from recycled cereal inners –

there is really very little we cannot re-use, we simply need to think outside of the box.....

More fruit trees have been planted in the memorial orchard, thank you Duncan!

If you wish to plant a fruit tree in memory

of your loved ones, please contact the church office (0151 608 4429)

An enormous amount of work has been done in our church garden especially by the Boulders under the guidance of George our ordinand; it is well worth a stroll through the marked paths, look out for the chapel in the trees!

As we look towards the end of summer and approach of autumn we will be having some gardening tidy ups on Saturdays dates will be in the news sheet please join us. In all of the fun and hard work of the garden let us we remember that God is our gardener. It is good to grow slow (Isaiah 61:11).



# PARISH POET

## The tingle

I took a trip into the Highlands, rode some trains, walked some footpaths,  
and lost myself in some moments of breathlessness.

It does something to a soul when the mountains appear, heaving themselves  
roughly but beautifully from the bright Highland carpet. Walls of stone,  
towering over the wetlands. Rich, mottled textures, splashing over train  
windows, vibrant with the colour of ripped-up earth.

A place of cascading waterways and torn peat rugs, whose loose threads  
would occasionally erupt into tangled tree limbs and lush, mossy woodland;  
wild streams, racing rocks and raindrops and tree roots through the cracks.

Who could doubt God's love of broken things out here?

"This," He whispered, "is what I look like."

And there He was, weeping surreal shades of red and brown over the  
mountainsides -my sad lost God,

terrified by the merciless beauty of His humanity.

"I can't leave this place," I thought. "I can't leave this place, where the stars  
themselves are melting, just to lean closer."

My sad lost God was leaning too,  
stroking my shoulder with his gentle, bloodied hand.

"Just keep walking," He whispered. "Even when your shoes and your heart  
are sodden beyond repair, just keep walking."

My stomach was tingling with the fear of all the places I didn't want to be -  
tingling like the tears of my sad lost God, rolling down through the gullies.

And that tingle was the key.

It mattered not in the least what the source was. Perhaps it was the tingle of  
euphoria as I soaked in the stunning textures all around me...

or perhaps it was the shredding claws of fear and guilt and self-loathing,  
poured into me from the echoes of harsh, accusatory voices.

To this spirit, to this voice, they all spoke the same message -  
my need to be held.

My need to share the plumes of exultation as they burst forth from my  
imagination... My need to be comforted in a time of desperation...

My need to be loved in those cold, scary places that only twisted hearts can  
read...My need to be held -tingling inside me, no matter what.

So I let the fear take me. I let it claw me...and I waited, breathless, in the  
rainy mountains, as the sacred voice dived into my churning pit  
of terrors and wove its tingle there.

*John Hulme*

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE HULBERTS

I am Ann Hulbert. My family story began in Carey Avenue Higher Bebington, I was born at number 2 to my parents Pam and Mike Smyth. My birth family were well known at Christ Church, my parents both served faithfully in the parish throughout their lives. Like my mother, I was taught in Sunday School by the redoubtable Miss Shirley Roberts. As a teenager I gave my life to the Lord by the high altar at CCHB during a service of Holy Communion. I was married at Christ Church to John Hulbert who I met through church youth club and guides and scouts. John grew up on Teehey Lane.

After school I trained as a Chartered Physiotherapist at United Liverpool Hospitals School of Physiotherapy and it has been a life of continuous learning including a doctorate from University of Manchester. Following marriage at CCHB by Rev Cyril Mann a very rewarding career began in Lancashire while living at Wrightington Hospital. John had trained as a Chartered Surveyor at Liverpool College of Building and was by then working in Wigan. Later he designed the Safari Park at Knowsley finding in the grounds the first wild animal--- a tortoise! The deer ran away when the lions arrived!

Later in his career, he became the Surveyor to the Fabric Liverpool Cathedral and a very interesting and close association with the life of the cathedral began. Some adventurous moments followed. I remember walking round the outside of the cathedral on the pavements high above the ground -- no rails-- at a dizzying height while we introduced a new Dean to the building. Stepping round the mullions in the East window structure brought me terrifyingly near the edge as did standing on the chapter house roof ! Another occasion in midsummer late in the evening when darkness was falling a very pregnant me along with John and the Dean and City Engineer stood on the cathedral main roof considering the placement of spot lights to illuminate the tower at night. This also illuminated some mist which had developed around the roof and tower alarming the neighbours who thought the cathedral was on fire and sent for the fire brigade! I was in the cathedral for some notable visits by the Pope and several royals and for the Maundy Service when the cathedral was at its glorious best with processions and music and colour and the very imposing Yeomen of the Guard. Together John and I moved into Parbold and began a family of four children.



## MEET THE FAMILY - THE HULBERTS

Our elder son Jeremy arrived followed by Oliver and then our elder daughter Rebecca and then Joanna. As a Christian family we attended our parish church and filled one pew. Jeremy grew up to become a professional bassoonist and met his wife Victoria an oboist at the Royal Academy of Music. After qualifying they married and moved to Hong Kong to play with Hong Kong Philharmonia , broadcast for Hong Kong radio and write programme notes to accompany performances. Jeremy soon tired of orchestral life and came home to train as a pilot. He now flies as a training and examining commander with DHL and really enjoys the life. Together they have Isabella and Will. They live in Droitwich.

Oliver trained in 3D Design at University of Northumbria and works partly as a jeweller with his wife Heather and also works as an editor making television programmes in Media City. They have two children Florence and Michael and live in Parbold.

Becca is the most artistically talented of all of them and trained for an HND at Birmingham Institute in jewellery and precious metal, learning her skills and then studied for a jewellery degree with Central St Martins School of Art. She is a well known international jewellery designer. She and Stuart have a very sporty son Elmore. They live in Kent.

Joanna has not pursued any of the talents of her siblings. She had no great wish to study despite having an excess of academic ability and did a modern apprenticeship followed by training at Preston Business School as a Chartered Accountant. She and Simon have two boys Ethan and Henry. They live in Parbold.

Through all of this, somehow my Christian life grew and more and more I came to know and love the Lord and followed his lead despite some setbacks. Working in the health service during the Thatcher recession was horrendous, added to which, John had serious difficulties with work as there was simply none to be had-- the building trade and associate professions collapsed with the cutbacks, particularly in Liverpool and Merseyside. We struggled with a growing family. Unfortunately everything overcame John's reasoning and despite counselling our marriage failed with his breakdown. He has since remarried. I can only be thankful to the Lord whose sustaining love has kept and guided me throughout. I was able to buy my home and stay put and pay off the mortgage. The Lord has enabled me to stay in work and has caused me to follow his lead through the changing NHS and I am now employed by a company with a NHS contract to provide physiotherapy to outpatients in Chorley.

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE HULBERTS

After my Mother died, my sister and I kept 2 Carey Avenue and during my time back in Bebington I renewed my association with CCHB and was delighted to find old associates, people who knew my family and a lively sincere and welcoming congregation. I joined the choir, captured, robed and encouraged by Paul. I plagued Rev Anne with questions as The Holy Spirit swept me off my feet and I lived in the overwhelming love of the Lord, wondering what it was all about and how I was to serve. Initially I served as a hospital chaplain and in the City centre with *Mission in the Economy*. Having written to Bishop James Jones, I was sent to see the DDO but could not be ordained to the Chaplaincy without serving in a parish. However, the Lord does not forget and, having been called to Chaplaincy, I now work for the Diocese of Liverpool as a Lay Chaplain and I know this is God's will for me. My inner journey with the sisterhood and the Northumbria Community, along with daily prayer and reading have equipped me to provide spiritual input to the care of residents released from prison to Adelaide House, a hostel owned by the Diocese and funded by the Ministry of Justice I continue to pray for my family, as God's promise is to us and our children, and trust that the knowledge of the living God they had in their early years will be re affirmed. I can only have a grateful heart for them all and the joy we have as a family, with easy and happy family occasions and celebrations. It is an enormous blessing when people dwell in peace together.

Reflecting on my life, I understand how the Lord has led me from my early years, has prepared me and continues to do so for Christian service. Although He gives the bread and water of adversity at times, He is there with us in our past, in our present and will be in our future as the rock on which we can depend. He has plans for us, to prosper us and not to harm us. Thanks be to God.

Many thanks to all who contributed to make the recent afternoon tea and concert such a resounding success. We were blown away by the quality of musicianship provided by Bella, Will, Victoria, Adrian and Judith and the quality of cream teas provided by our kitchen team! And on top of all that, over £1100 was raised for our organ fund - a great achievement.



# MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

May 2019. The Ship, Parkgate

Yet again another new venue for the crew to enjoy. Situated on the front at Parkgate; several of the supper club hadn't eaten there before although we had all enjoyed Nicholls ice cream, situated next door. Good parking in a private car park was a real plus as we have all had problems parking in Parkgate. We all had to pre-order so all had a good look at the menu. The starters included breaded goat's cheese, wild mushrooms and truffles on toast, black pudding scotch egg, potted shrimps and calamari. Something for all tastes. Mains included fish and chips (to be expected), braised shin of beef, lamb rump, game pie, pan fried chicken breast and steak and ale pie and burger. Also, there were vegetarian choices. We were sat at a large table which suited us well and we enjoyed a good choice of real ales, lager and wines. The food was good and the service prompt and friendly. Some enjoyed a choice of very calorie laden sweets. Mmmm. Overall a very well received night enjoyed by all. A busy venue and best to book in advance.

June 2019. The Galley at Ellesmere Port Boat Museum

This restaurant had been open a while and on my visit, I spoke to people coming out and they all said it was good. Recommendation is always best!! I was met by the proprietors Tom and Jack and they were keen to have the club visit. Again, a pre-order was required and we got a chance to study the menu in detail. Starters included tandoori chicken, soup, pate, prawns and the mains gammon steak, fish and chips, sea bass, steakburger, Mexican 5 bean chilli and rump steak.

The puddings were yummy and can be recommended for those with a sweet tooth and no regard for the waistline!! Good parking, easy to find and a light and airy setting next to the river leading into the Mersey. We had a good evening and friendly service. The food was good and tasty with good beer and wine. Overall a good relaxing evening enjoyed by all. Tel 0151 355 1163.



# COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A warm welcome to the Community Centre news page. Whilst it is always good news to welcome new groups and classes to the Centre, it is also sad to say goodbye or 'au revoir', when, for whatever reasons, people move on. So Yogabellies held their last class here in June and have moved to different premises. For the past couple of years, Mike Whitehead has been running the Art Class. He has shown wonderful leadership and has been a real blessing to many. Many thanks to Mike for all his hard work. We'd love to be able to continue the class and would welcome anyone who is willing to help organise the group after the Summer holidays. Bebington Townswomen's Guild has been running activities at the Centre for a number of years now and have been a valuable contribution to the community. However, due to diminishing membership, they have decided not to continue at the Centre after November. Thanks to the T.W.G. for their support.

In line with the Centre's drive to become more eco-friendly, and moving towards our Silver 'Eco-Church' award, we are making a number of changes which we hope will limit our environmental impact. We already have milk delivered in recyclable glass bottles. We are going to start buying 'greener' cleaning products, composting suitable bio-degradable materials (think of all those tea bags!) and using the Council's grey bin collection service. If you have any other ideas as to how we can increase our 'green' credentials, please contact the office.

## **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 everybody, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Charlotte Millington and I am honoured to have been asked to be the upcoming years Rose Queen.

I am taking over from Rachael Price who had a wonderful year as Rose Queen and will be a tough act to follow.

I would like to thank my parents and family for being so supportive over the past couple of months on the lead up to being crowned Rose Queen at the summer fair. I would particularly like to thank my best friend and wonderful brother Daniel who has been so patient and understanding throughout everything.

One of the privileges of being Rose Queen is having the opportunity to fundraise for charity. My chosen charities for this year are Alder Hey Children's Charity and the Christ Church Community Centre. The community centre means a lot to me as I remember it being built. I have been attending this church since I was born and feel at home here. The community centre was such an exciting new facility and it has been the setting for many memorable moments. I was confirmed here, have had multiple boulders sessions with my friends, along with barn dances and much more. The centre will also be the venue for most of my fundraising events throughout the coming year.

In April of 2017 I fell ill and was rushed into Alder Hey Children's hospital for major surgery on my bowel. The operation resulted in me living with a stoma. Three months later, I had the reversal surgery.

Thanks to the incredible surgeons, staff and volunteers at Alder Hey I am here today. When I found out I was going to be Rose Queen I knew immediately that Alder Hey would be one of my charities.

That time in my life was one of the hardest times I have experienced but I am so glad it happened. I would not be the person I am today without it. I have several exciting events planned over the coming year and with the support of my family, my retinue and their families and you I hope it will be a very successful year.

My first event will be a **Beetle Drive on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September** to be held in the Community Centre. Doors will open at 5.30pm and tickets will be available to buy soon.

All are very welcome. I hope to see you there!

*Charlotte*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Collections: May & June 2019

	Sunday	Planned Giving £	Loose Cash £	Total Giving £
	5 May	158	129	
	12 May	98	64	
	19 May	61	71	
	26 May	131	84	
	2 June	64	110	
	9 June	65	121	
	16 June	57	119	
	23 June	99	110	
	30 June	153	97	
Standing Orders & GAYE (direct to bank)		12583		
Misc lump sums - some gift-aided		30		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>13499</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>14404</b>

**Pledge Envelopes**

<i>Year to date and comparison with previous year</i>	2019 £	2018 £	Increase %
Standing Orders & GAYE (Give As You Earn)	35857	35947	0
Weekly Envelopes	2597	2405	8
Misc lump sums - some gift-aided	1075	600	79
<b>Total Planned Giving before Gift Aid</b>	<b>39529</b>	<b>38952</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Gift Aid from HMRC</b>	<b>8255</b>	<b>8210</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>47784</b>	<b>47162</b>	<b>1</b>
Loose Cash	<b>2798</b>	3005	-7
<b>Total Voluntary Giving</b>	<b>50582</b>	<b>50167</b>	<b>1</b>

*PCC Treasurer, Charles Van Ingen, writes: "Overall Planned Giving and other income for the General Account has run to plan during the first half of 2019.*

*"For the present, expenditure from the General Account is generally in line with expectations though we have had two one-off special costs to install more external noticeboards and to equip the Woodhey Room as a 'Quiet Office' for Victoria Gleave and others".*

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## DEPARTED INTO LIFE

21 <sup>st</sup> May	Patricia <b>Wendy</b> Edwards
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Mavis Hetty Dodd
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Kevin Victor Rees
14 <sup>th</sup> July	William Edge
17 <sup>th</sup> July	James ' <b>Jim</b> ' William Cowley
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Samantha Smith
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Eunice Annie Pass



## WHOM GOD HAS JOINED

29 <sup>th</sup> June	Chelsea Dora Reeves & Anthony James Stott
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Holly Rebecca Foster & David John Jackson



## BROUGHT WITHIN THE FAMILY

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Myles James Murphy, Violet Rose Stewart & Penelope Rose Young
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Ethan John Jenkins, Oscar Charles Richards & Isabella Kate Robertson
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Mia Blue Maria Sivori



## 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.

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.  
Amen.

*Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971*





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.

### **Wills**

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, knowing your wishes will be carried out in the way you want them to be.

My advice is to not wait until things change, but to plan ahead. Welcoming a grandchild, downsizing your home or thinking about care home fees are life events that can typically remind people to update or make a Will. We also help people through difficult moments in their lives, following the death of a loved one.

### **Trust and Estate Planning**

We regularly support people who are

seeking advice about inheritance and succession planning, or who are unsure what to do if a family member has become ill or can no longer make their own decisions. You might also want to consider a Lasting Power of Attorney legal document. An LPA allows you to choose one or more people to make decisions for you, or act on your behalf if you cannot deal with matters yourself.

### **Business Wills**

Does your current Will protect both your personal and business assets? If you (or a family member) own a business our unique Business Will service can set out detailed plans for you and your business. Speak to us about protecting yourself and your loved ones in the future.

## **What to do next?**

For a free, no obligation discussion to arrange a meeting with a member of our Wills and Probate team in Birkenhead (No. 1 Hamilton Square) or if you prefer, in your own home, call 0151 647 600 or email [enquiries@law.uk.com](mailto:enquiries@law.uk.com)

*Thank you, Ian*



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The Besom in Wirral is a Christian charity. It is run by a core team of volunteers who manage the contact with the givers and those in need. Besom collects and delivers donated items using its own van.

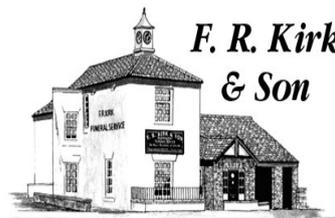
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