



Christ Church

Henley-on-Thames

**NEWSLETTER FOR
APRIL and MAY 2020**



Glyn's message



Dear Friends,

In some ways we are very much in the situation of the earliest Christians, operating under cover not from fear of persecution (the situation of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ) but fear of The Virus!

In Philippians 1:12ff Paul writes from prison:

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

How can **our** imprisonment serve to advance the gospel?

1. At home, we can try to live up to our faith by showing all the kindness, patience, and love to our fellow prisoners. Every relationship needs a little space if we are not drive other mad in our confinement, so let's try to respect each other's need for being alone at times.
2. Church - well we can't meet but we should keep in touch. Email is a blessing if you have it, the telephone is even better some times. I am putting up an act of worship each Sunday on the website, sending out bi-weekly emails , hoping to start a Bible study group via video-conferencing, and also to run the necessary elders' and other meetings by the same means. If you can't join in on Sunday morning please do pray with us and sing a good rousing hymn - "Guide me O thou great Jehovah" is my fall-back!
3. Beyond the front door ... many people in Henley have signed up to the Henley Covid19 Mutual Aid Group - they are co-ordinating volunteer efforts to help the isolated in our community. Sign up if you can, pray for them if you can't join in. Do keep an eye out for your neighbours and friends.

4. Above all, keep praying! Keep going back to Romans 8, Psalm 91, John 14, John 20-21. Remember that Jesus is alive, that nothing can separate you from him, that heaven awaits. In that knowledge we can face anything!

With prayers and with all good wishes

Glyn

Mid-week Bible discussion group: Online

Glyn would like to set up a discussion group online, via Zoom. You will need a computer with a microphone and a webcam for this - an Ipad will work too. We will take a Bible passage and talk through some of the issues it raises. If you are interested we can try to find a time which suits everyone. Kindly contact Glyn directly.

11 Reasons to Praise God

(Herewith the final 11....)

A list of praise-worthy truths—to You, God:

61. We are weak, but You are strong (Ps. 147:5).
62. We worship the same God as Abraham, Esther, Deborah, David, Moses, Paul, and John.
63. Nothing stretches or reaches beyond You; we cannot take a step outside of Your sovereignty (Ps. 115:3).
64. All people will bow; Your glory will be fully seen (Phil. 2:10; Rev. 1:7).
65. You give us permission to crave Your quick coming (Rev. 22:21).
66. When we delight in You and want You, You never fail to give us what we want (Ps. 37:4).
67. You are going to dwell with us on a new earth; You Yourself will be with us and be our God (Rev. 21:3).
68. Your Kingdom will know no end (Lk. 1:33).
69. You take no pleasure in the deaths of those who die without repenting (1 Tim. 2:4; Ezek. 18:23).
70. Those who do not know You still have the opportunity to repent and believe (2 Pet. 3:9).
71. “My mouth is filled with Your praise and with Your glory all day long.” Ps. 71:8

News from our Community Worker: Siobhan

Hello!

We would like to take a group to the Wintershall Life of Christ outdoor performance on Saturday 27 June. See www.wintershall.org.uk Hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside, and the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm. Tickets cost £25 for adults, £10 for children or £60 for a family of four (2+2). See poster on accompanying page.

Please speak to myself, or email me on siobhanpratt@yahoo.co.uk or to Heather Clark if you would like to join us on this great day out. We would like to arrange transport for the church group so it would be helpful to know as soon as possible if you will be able to come. Please feel free to bring a picnic too!

Those of us who've been before can testify it is a wonderful experience!

There is also The Passion of Jesus performance on Good Friday 10 April , live in Trafalgar Square, free for anyone who wants to attend.

We will soon be announcing the first Henley Holiday Bible Club for primary school aged children, to be run in August as a joint project between Christ Church and Trinity at Four. Please speak to Siobhan and Glyn if you can **volunteer** some of your time to help during 24-28 August. Its going to be an exciting fun-filled week!

The Community Fair seems far off on Saturday 17 October, but I would like to start getting a committee together to start planning. If you have been involved before, or would like to be involved this year, please come and talk to me too.

Thank you!



WINTERSHALL

Experience the story

The Life of **Christ**

The greatest story of all time

23-27 JUNE 2020

10AM-3.30PM

BOOK NOW at
www.wintershall.org.uk
or by calling 01793 418299

Wintershall, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0LR



If enough people sign up to Zoom,
(it is free!) **we could pray/worship**
together in small to medium-sized
groups via video. Click

https://zoom.us/download#client_4_meeting

to download the Zoom client program and the necessary extension for your browser. It is easy to install but if you have problems then let me know.

Do let Glyn know if you have installed this and would like to join in.



Lockdown: Submitted by Katrina

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.



Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

The deadline for your contributions to our next newsletter is: **14 May** 2020
for the April/May Newsletter.

Please forward to Melinda  07802232207  melinda@melindaswann.com

The Wider Community

Have you come across the Henley Covid19 Mutual Aid Group? They are trying to co-ordinate help for people who are isolated in our community.
www.henleymutualaid.org.uk They are still seeking volunteers.

How to kill a Church: Submitted by Heather Clark

The Rev Mike Shepard, Minister of Lammas Street English Baptist Church, Carmarthern, explains the origins of his poem: "This poem was the outcome of a very vivid dream. I got out of bed and wrote these verses withing the space of 20 minutes. I have often been tempted to polish it up and improve the grammar and phraseology, but to do so would be to destroy its spontaneity. Over the past 26 years I have written verse that is technically better, but people normally ask for copies of this one. Perhaps it strikes a chord."

*I almost went to Church last night,
But couldn't find the time;
So much to do about the house,
To leave it would be a crime!
So I brushed and sewed and polished
And went wearily to bed.
But I made a resolution
To go next week instead.*

*I almost went to Church last night,
But then an old friend came;
And to have closed the door on him
Would have been a shame;
So we talked and chatted and
gossiped
Until the goodbyes were said.
But I made a resolution
To go next week instead.*

*I almost went to Church last night,
But something made me late;
And unpunctuality
Is a sin I really hate!
So I didn't go and stayed at home
And to my conscience said:
I'll make a resolution
To next week instead.*

*I almost went to Church last night,
But the air was chill and cold;
To venture out on such a night
Would be foolish I'd been told.*

*So I sat by the fire,
Took up a book and read.
But I made a resolution
To go next week instead.*

*I almost went to Church last night,
But a certain preacher was there;
And for that type of preaching
I really didn't care.
So rather than go to Church
And come home with a heavy head,
I made a resolution
To go next week instead.*

*I almost went to Church last night,
But my favourite programme was on;
And by the time it ended
The time for Church had gone.
So I stayed before the telly
Until the set was dead.
I'll make a resolution
To go next week instead.*

*I actually went to Church last night,
But I went too late!
The Church was locked and silent,
'For Sale' was on the gate.
Oh the remorse that then I felt,
For that little cause was dead:
And I 'twas I who killed it
By going next week instead.'*

Henley Food Bank



How often do you reckon you walk past this table in a normal (non-Covid-19!) week?

Do you even notice the food bank box – or has it just become part of the fixtures and fittings? Unforgivably really, it has for me – and at the Elders meeting last week we thought it'd be good to draw some attention to it. The food bank provides a lifeline to many in our community, so it'd be great to remember to donate to it more often.

The NOMAD Food Bank is based at d:two Centre in Henley and is run with the help of volunteers from the local community – here are two of them in their amazing store cupboard!



The number of people in need is staggering. In 2019 they delivered 614 bags of food in 248 emergency food parcels. This directly benefitted 312 adults, 159 children and 33 homeless people. They also delivered 298 bags of food in 117 Christmas parcels. All clients are referred to the food bank through recognised agencies.

Understandably many of you will be reading this magazine whilst self-isolating at home, so this is one to file away for when you're next back at Christ Church! If you have access to the internet, and are interested in finding out more about the Henley Food Bank, along with NOMAD's youth and community work - they have a good website - <http://www.nomadhenley.co.uk/programme>.

The Power of Amen

Submitted by Debbie Byrne



WORLD WATCH LIST

#1 North Korea

The power of Amen!

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

What do you imagine is happening when you pray? North Korean Christian, Timothy*, has firm views.

"Each time a Christian in our world says 'Amen', I think that has authority. When we say 'Amen', there is a certain, invisible, spiritual power in there - that makes a huge change."

Coming from North Korea, Timothy has first-hand experience of persecution - and prayer. "This country is not happy with Christians, not happy with the cross."

Most North Koreans are also extremely poor. "People constantly fight for survival. When Open Doors is in contact with them and provides physical support, it's like receiving help from an angel. When you're in difficult circumstances and someone comes to give you warm bread - you feel like you've


met someone from heaven." The risks facing such workers necessitate prayer. "Our prayers give them the visions and wisdom to see how they can avoid that risk."

"Each time you say 'Amen', that authorises spiritual power, making step-by-step progress. And there has been change happening in North Korea - it's just that we don't see the physical event yet. But change will happen. The darkness always tries to cover us, but the final victory is always in the hands of God."

Our Father in heaven, Your kingdom come in North Korea. Your will be done. Give your children their daily bread and deliver them from evil, for Your glory. Amen!

> You can hear Timothy talking about North Korea at www.opendoorsuk.org/prayernews

*name changed for security reasons

 **Open Doors**

Open Doors, PO Box 4, Wilt...

In hope, I have included a list of planned services, Rota's and Regular Church Groups. Naturally, all these are on hold until we are informed otherwise.

Easter Sunday

Decorating the Church for Easter will be done on Thursday 9th April in the morning. Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables, also tinned goods would be appreciated. If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of the flowers, veg fruit etc Audrey Richardson, Sandy Porter and the Office would be delighted to receive it.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your help.

<u>Regular Church Groups</u>			
Busy Bees Craft Group	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday every month	2pm	Hilda
Henley Bible School	Every Sunday	6.30pm	Glyn
Monday Home Group	Every Monday	10.30am	Katrina Judge
Tuesday Home Group	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday every month	10.30am	Pam Richardson
Christ Church Bereavement Group	1st & 3rd Monday every month	1.30pm	Sue Kendrick
Memory Cafe	Every Wednesday	10.30-12.00	Siobhan
Messy Church	2 nd Friday each month	4pm	Siobhan

April 2020 SERVICES

Please join us for tea/coffee after the morning worship

Fri 3 rd	4pm	Messy Church
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship with The Lord's Supper
Sun 9 th	8.30pm	Tenebrae Service in the Pither Hall
Sun 12 th	6.30am 10.30am	Easter Morning Sunrise Service in Mill Meadows Easter Morning Worship with The Lord's Supper, preacher Scott Wheeler
Sun 19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Don Drennan
Sun 26 th	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Jones

May 2020 SERVICES

Please join us for tea/coffee after the morning worship

Fri 1 st	4pm	Messy Church
Sun 3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with The Lord's Supper
Sun 10 th	10.30pm	Morning Worship
Sun 17 th	10.30am	All Age Service
Sun 24 th	10.30am	Morning Service led by Linda Jackson
Sun 31 st	10.30am	Morning Worship

Rotas

STEWARDS ROTA

05/04	Bob Farquhar	Suzanne Farquhar
12/04	Jennifer George	Jan & Gordon Hewitt
19/04	Tom Carberry	Maureen Carberry
26/04	Nick Fryer	Fiona Chapman
03/05	Dilys Smith	Jan & Gordon Hewitt
10/05	Jeanne Stone	Jenny Britton
17/05	Jeni Wood	Maureen McLaughlin
24/05	Kudi Pocock	Lynn Sayer
31/05	Nick Fryer	Fiona Chapman

COFFEE

05/04	June & Derek Buckley	
12/04	Ann & John Powell	
19/04	Sue & Brian Kendrick	
26/04	Elaine Lester	Jeni Wood
03/05	Lynn Sayer	Kudi Pocock
10/05	Sara Davies	Wendy Plant
17/05	Sue & Brian Kendrick	
24/05	Maureen & Tom Carberry	
31/05	Belinda & Jean Potts	

COUNTING

Apr Leader:	Brian Kendrick
05/04	Dennis McCoy
12/04	Judith Chenery
19/04	Dilys Smith
26/04	Jan Hewitt
May Leader:	Aurora Acone
03/05	Fiona Chapman
10/05	Derek Buckley
17/05	Mike Potts
24/05	Caroline Fairbrother
31/05	Hanne Pullar

BIBLE READERS

05/04	Fiona Chapman
12/04	Siobhan Pratt
19/04	Tom Carberry
26/04	Katrina Judge
03/05	Reka Millington
10/05	Caroline Pocock
17/05	Marjorie
24/05	Lyn Sayer
31/05	David Church

ELDERS ROTA

05/04	Tom Carberry	Jeanne Stone
12/04	Heather Clark	Audrey Richardson
19/04	Sue Kendrick	Lynn Sayer
26/04	Katrina Judge	Audrey Richardson
03/05	Muriel Quinsac	Sandy
10/05	Tom Carberry	Jeanne Stone
17/05	Judith Chenery	Joanne Freeman
24/05	Heather Clark	Lynn Sayer
31/05	Sue Kendrick	Audrey Richardson

SANCTUARY AND CLEANING

03/04	Audrey	Sandy
10/04	Good Friday	
17/04	Marjorie	Marion
24/04	Heather/Tony	Pam
01/05	Hilary	Jan
08/05	Judith	Lyn
15/05	Caroline	Maureen Mc
22/05	Maureen C	Jeanne
29/05	Audrey	Sandy

*This Newsletter is produced for everyone to read. **Please share it with other family members and friends***

Minister

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