



Christ Church

Henley-on-Thames

**NEWSLETTER FOR
OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2020**



Glyn's message



Dear Friends,

The end of an era!

The Christ Church Centre is about hospitality - extending God's welcome. Food is very much a part of that and from the opening of the Centre, Doug Richards and his team have played a vital part in that, aided and abetted by Ann. Doug has decided to step back from regular catering at Christ Church - truly the end of an era. He may return to the kitchen occasionally (eg for Messy Church) but from here on not for the regular weekly meals.

We want to thank Doug for all the wonderful occasions which he has supported over many years - who can forget the incendiary and contagious delight with which he set fire to the Christmas pudding over the years? Hopefully we can celebrate all that properly when meeting again at the Centre becomes possible. Meanwhile the Centre managers are working out how to move forward. More on that very soon!

October 11th, Harvest Festival and Gift Day

We ARE going to hold our Harvest Festival this year - despite all the horrors of Covid19 we still want to celebrate God's goodness and his provision for us. October 11th at 10.30am. We are asking for tins packets which we can send to the Food Bank rather than fresh produce - as the furlough scheme ends and the job situation worsens that need can only grow.

The Elders would also like to hold our annual Gift Day on that Sunday - Heather will write to you separately about that, this is just to flag it up. The work of church and centre goes on despite the virus and this is an opportunity to support it financially.

Christmas and shoeboxes

For some years now we have supported the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal. The Elders want to suggest a different approach this year - namely that we try to support the Reading Family Aid "toys for teens" appeal. You can find details on-line: <https://www.readingfamilyaid.org/toysteensappeal.html> More details of how we will handle this to follow.

Memory Cafe re-launch

Siobhan and Marjorie have re-launched the Memory cafe! Meeting in the concourse, socially distanced of course, it has been great to see old friends returning. Tea, cake, quizzes, chat - just like old times though with no singing. One more sign of returning life.

Pan oedd Iesu dan yr hoelion

Several people asked about the Welsh hymn I played in church a couple of weeks ago. In English it looks like this:

Jesus on the cross was suffering,
In the throes of bitter pain,
All the hopes of his disciples
In the unwelcoming earth was laid!
Christ is risen!
Night of sorrow turns to day.

In the holy light of daybreak,
Women gather at the grave,
In their footsteps grief is echoed
In their faces sadness speaks,
Christ is risen!
Sounds of anguish turn to song.

Zion weeps in grim despondence
As the enemies gather force;
In their thousands men retire
To the altars of false gods;
Christ is risen
Truth enthroned we now shall see.
Hallelujah!

With prayers and all good wishes

Glyn

The deadline for your contributions to our next newsletter is: **19 November**
2020 for the December 2020/January 2021 Newsletter.

Please forward to Melinda 07802232207 melinda@melindaswann.com

Gift Day on 11th October

Dear Friends,

This has been a most extraordinary year so far - I don't need to expatiate on that, in that none of our lives has been untouched by Covid19, directly or indirectly.

As a church we have managed to sustain worship either on-line, up till August, or now in church and online. The Centre is now open and the community groups we support are returning, albeit slowly. Most are on a special rate as their situation is as delicate and difficult as ours. Memory Cafe returned (thank you especially Siobhan and Marjorie) and is a great relief to those who attend and their carers. Bluebells are on the way though the detail has to be worked through. AA were almost the first group to return and several children's groups are up and running including the Village pre-school.

There are projects we would like to continue or commence over the next year. We employ our part-time Community worker and Centre staff. We hope to refurbish the Pither Hall floor in 2021, which is a matter of safety as well as aesthetics. The current floor has been there since 1908 - that's real value for money! - and the blocks need to be taken up, cleaned and re-sealed, hopefully then being good for another 112 years.

So I'm writing on behalf of the Elders to ask if you would be prepared to make a special gift to support this work through what looks likely to be another challenging and uncertain year? Whatever happens, people need to hear the good news, and to find a hope that is greater than Covid19 or anything else life can throw at us! Our Gift Day will coincide with our later-than-usual Harvest Festival on October 11th, and it would be great to receive your gifts there, to give thanks and commit ourselves to moving forward together. Please include this matter in your prayers. And please pray for us all, elders and members alike, as we renew our commitment to serving God here in Henley.



With all good wishes, Heather Clark

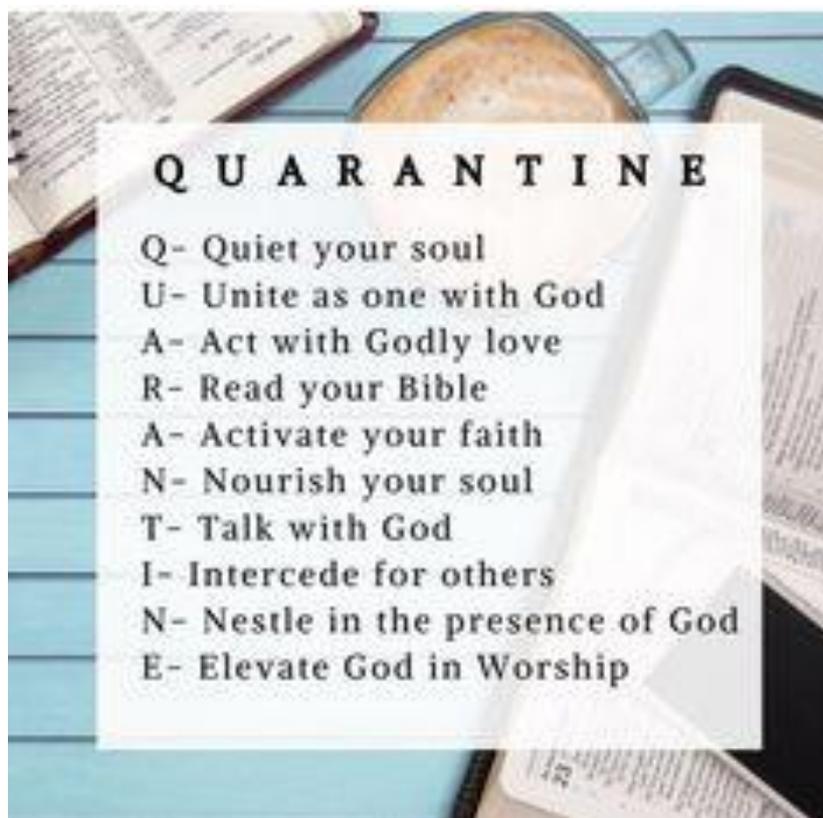
Harvest Festival on 11th October



In view of the situation this year Audrey and I felt that rather than fresh vegetables, as it can't be used afterwards in the kitchen, we would ask for lots of items suitable to forward on to the food bank. Items like bags of vegetables and fruit etc., plus tinned goods and other items on the list of suitable suggestions.

We shall decorate on Friday the 9th in the morning, but goods can be left at the Centre before then.

Thank you in anticipation of your offerings, Sandy and Audrey



Christmas Cakes

As there is no Autumn Fair I am prepared to make Christmas Cakes for Church Funds again. In view of Covid I need to know if anyone is willing to have one. They will be £14. Many thanks, Ann RICHARDS

COVID-19 by Helen Ricketts

No school
No pasta
No toilet roll
No Tesco's delivery
No church
No clubs or sports
No birthday guests
Use hand sanitiser!
When can I hug my grandparents again?

Stay safe
Stay at home
Stay two meters apart
Stay in the car
Stay away for twelve weeks
Use hand sanitiser!
When can I hug my grandparents again?

New tears
New walking routes
New bike rides
New skills
New recipes
New words: Bubble, Zoom, Furlough
New working routines
New ways to give thanks
Use hand sanitiser!
When can I hug my grandparents again?

When do I wear a mask?
When can I go back to school?
When can I see my friends?
When will there be a vaccine?
When can I go shopping?
When will life go back to normal?
Use hand sanitiser!
When can I hug my grandparents again?

On-Line Bible Study

Heaven and Earth – online Bible Study

What's the point of Christianity? It's about heaven and earth, about how the life of heaven impinges on the life of earth, changing it, changing us, in the end transforming everything because as John tells us there will be a new heaven and new earth. So what is the destiny of our planet and how do we relate to that? What happens to us and those we love when we die?

Why not join us for our on-line Bible Study which will begin on Thursday 8th October at 7.30pm and continue on Thursdays thereafter. There is a really useful workbook which you will need for the series which can be downloaded here:

<http://christchurchhenley.org.uk/Downloads/>

It's free! The Zoom details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542050771?pwd=cVBWQTN6N3ZNR2ZQUEhQZEY3cTgrZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4205 0771

Passcode: 711727

Message from Siobhan Pratt

We have been looking forward to reopening the Memory Cafe, and have now had two Wednesday morning meetings, welcoming back old friends and meeting new people too. It is wonderful to share great conversation and home-baked cake again!

Memory Cafe is on Wednesday mornings 10:30–12. If you know of anyone who would like to attend please email or call the church.



We are also planning our first return to Messy Church for October. As we celebrate the harvest season with bread baking and autumnal crafts I know we will be reminded to count our blessings for all the Lord has provided. It will be so good to enjoy fellowship and fun with all the Messy Church families again!

Taken from a letter in the Times

A five year old working with great intense concentration announced that she was drawing God. When the teacher pointed out that no one knew what God looked like, she replied without hesitation "Well they do now!"

Message from Henley Quakers

Dear Friends,

Like all places of worship Henley Quakers have had to curtail most of our activities this year. However every autumn we have a bit of a drive on promoting White Poppies for Peace.



We wear them to remember all of those across the world who suffered or are suffering now as a result of war, wherever they may be. White Poppies honour them by supporting work for peace, through education and mediation.

Obviously due to Covid-19 we are unable to host a stall giving away white poppies to anyone who wants one. Likewise for health reasons we cannot ask premises in the town to display the poppies for people to help themselves. So we have come up with the idea of making wreaths with the White Poppies and asking churches* and

other places in the town, if we could place a wreath at their premises with perhaps a small poster explaining their significance. We thought of doing this from 11th October (which is when we would have had our stall) for a week or two so there is no confusion with the British Legion red poppy the following month.

* Christ Church will be displaying a White Poppy Wreath in the large front window of the concourse

A message from our Church Centre

The Centre has been quiet throughout the summer holidays since reopening in July, with just a few children's holiday workshops running, as well as Pilates classes, AA and Al-Anon groups.



Since the start of September it has been lovely to see increasing numbers of familiar faces through the doors. We hosted a much smaller but very successful Meccano event at the start of the month across the Centre with representation from local groups. It was not the usual meeting where it is worldwide, but only included the local groups.

We are very pleased to see children's activities such as Playball, gymnastics and dancing returning to our two main halls. The first socially distanced Memory Café was run by Siobhan on Wednesday, 9th September; there was cake of course! This will continue to run every Wednesday from 10.30am – 12.00pm in the main concourse. We are very much looking forward to seeing Donna and our dedicated team of volunteers back for the first lunch club on Thursday, 15th October.



A quotation from J.I. Packer

I do not intend to spend any time at all proving to you the general truth that God is sovereign in his world. There is no need; for I know that, if you are a Christian, you believe this already. How do I know that? Because I know that, if you are a Christian, you pray; and the recognition of God's sovereignty is the basis of your prayers.

In prayer, you ask for things and give thanks for things. Why? Because you recognize that God is the author and source of all the good that you have had already, and all the good that you hope for in the future. This is the fundamental philosophy of Christian prayer. The prayer of a Christian is not an attempt to force God's hand, but a humble acknowledgment of helplessness and dependence. When we are on our knees, we know that it is not we who control the world; it is not in our power, therefore, to supply our needs by our own independent efforts; every good thing that we desire for ourselves and for others must be sought from God, and will come, if it comes at all, as a gift from his hands.



October 2020 SERVICES

Sun 4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 11 th	10.30am	Harvest Festival and Gift Day
Sun 18 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 25 th	10.30am	Morning Worship

November 2020 SERVICES

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Remembrance Sunday
Sun 15 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (Minister TBC)
Sun 29 th	10.30am	Morning Worship

The church services will be at the usual time, 10.30am and the online services www.christchurchhenley.org.uk will be live from 10.00am probably until Christmas.

Rotas

ELDERS ROTA

04/10	Muriel Quinsac and Diana Lazarro
11/10	Tom Carberry and Ann Richards
18/10	Heather Clark and Jeanne Stone
25/10	Sue Kendrick and Audrey Richardson
01/11	Judith Chenery and Marjorie Court
08/11	Muriel Quinsac and Sandy Porter
15/11	Tome Carberry and Joanne Freeman
22/11	Heather Clark and Lyn Sayer
29/11	Judith Chenery and Ann Richards

All other rotas suspended until further notice

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

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