

2020

*JANUARY
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CHRIST CHURCH

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2020 – Don't Panic!

When I wrote this in time for January publication, the General Election campaign was in full swing. Whatever the predictions I might have had about the vote in December, I'm pretty sure that they will, no doubt, now prove to be wrong!

Whenever we look forward into the unknown, that is the future, we have a potent sense of uncertainty, hope and aspiration.

At the beginning of a New Year we might look back and reflect on what has been. 2019, without doubt, has given us all plenty to look back on! We also look forward and usually resolve that whatever the future holds we somehow want to be better.

It's not only the start of a new year that provokes us to reflect and review our lives in this way. So many of us spend time in our professional lives reflecting and reviewing, setting aspirational targets for a better and more successful future. Even if we don't have to do that, we all live with the tyranny of the diary, constantly looking ahead, planning and preparing for the future.

The unexpected joy of being asked to write this article at a time when I can't look back on an event that hasn't yet happened, or predict with any confidence where we might be now or what future is unfolding, is that I am compelled to simply be where I am.

The gift of the present moment, trusting that I am where God has called me to be now, and that He loves me in this place at this time, and that He is in all time and eternity, redeeming that which has been and going before us -Alpha and Omega- the beginning and the end; this is the gift of peace.

At the beginning of this New Year may we know that peace of God which passes all understanding; the peace that is the gift of the Risen Lord who has gone before us. He tells us not to be anxious or afraid.

The worst that can happen has happened; we have killed the Son of God. But, God raised him from the dead and gave him glory, that our faith and hope might be in Him. The perfect love of the Risen and Ascended Lord drives out fear.



Whilst I can't predict the events of recent weeks, I do know that amidst whatever confusion and uncertainty the ongoing drama of our national life throws at us, the drama of our salvation revealed in the Birth, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus continues as He works the good purposes of his perfect will. His grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in our weakness.

The invitation is to grow in our love for Him, and to joyfully trust in his promises, for He is faithful. Or, in other words, "thy kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven." Happy New Year!

The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel, Archdeacon of Chichester

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***"This is the confidence we have in
approaching God: that if we ask anything
according to his will, he hears us."***

1 John 5:14

Come along to our new monthly Prayer Focus every second Saturday in the month from 10.45 am – 11.15 am. We meet in the organ vestry and spend time praying for our Church, Community and Country as we seek the heart of God and His will in these matters. Everyone is welcome!

For further details please speak to Ken or Miles





Worship in January at Christ Church

- 5th 10.30am Holy Communion for the Feast of the Epiphany**
with The Revd David Renshaw
6pm BCP Evensong with The Revd David Renshaw
- 9th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion** with The Revd Alex Grubb
- 12th 10.30am Morning Prayer**
with The Revd David Renshaw and Canon Muriel Pargeter
- 19th 10.30am Holy Communion** with The Revd Roger Walker
6pm BCP Evensong with The Revd Roger Walker
- 23rd 10.30am BCP Holy Communion** with The Revd David Renshaw
- 26th 10.30am Morning Prayer** with Derek Hanson



Come and join in with our regular events in Christ Church

Tuesdays 10.30 am to 12 noon:

Open church with refreshments



Wednesdays 10.30 am to 12 noon,

Open church with refreshments - donations accepted in aid of missions. Hand-made greetings cards for sale.

Thursdays 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm: come and enjoy a chat over a cuppa – if you are so inclined, why not join in the “Knit & Natter” group, bring your knitting, crochet or crafts or... simply come and enjoy fellowship with friends!



Every 2nd Thursday – Mayor Hazel Thorpe is sometimes available to listen and give advice

Every Third Thursday at 2.30pm

The Rainbow Poetry Group meets in the church



Coffee on the 2nd and 4th Saturday
of each month - 10.30 am to noon

The new Monthly Prayer Focus meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10.45 am – 11.15 am. We meet in the organ vestry, everyone welcome!

Dates for your diary!

Concerts...

Tuesday 21st January 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Paul Gregory [Cello], Marielle Way [Flute] and Yoko Ono [piano]

Tuesday 21st April 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Martin Smith [Euphonium] and Chris Coote [piano]

Tuesday 5th May 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Yoko Ono Piano recital

Tuesday 2nd June 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

John Rattenbury, Guitar and Ivana, Cello

Tuesday 16th June 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

John Collins Organ recital

Tuesday 22nd September 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Richard Bowen classical guitar recital

Tuesday 13th October 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

We welcome back Rob Campkin, violinist and James Buckham, pianist



Talk...

Tuesday 4th February 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm A talk on the work of the
Police Community Support Officers

Poet's Corner

Into The New!

How little time within each gifted day,
Distracted by seductive transient thought,
We find a word of gratitude to say
For unearned blessings freely life has brought;
Pre-occupied with matters that decay,
Fixated on pursuit of worldly wares,
Surprisingly, we stop in sheer dismay,
When over-burdened with unasked-for cares;
Mere mortals would themselves disquiet save,
Were they upon true values to reflect,
And such, that must desert them at the grave,
With hope-inspired confidence reject;
More wholesome be a dose of daily thanks,
Than dividend and interest from the banks.

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Patience!

*Patience raised her head and smiled,
Light twinkled in her eyes;
She softly whispered words so mild,
Let not concern arise -
Father Time is wise!*

©Elliott Allison



Family Corner

Karen and Steve

"We first met Sylvia in August 2018 and over the following weeks we learned that she was very much involved with Christ Church. Coincidentally Karen's father often spoke of Christ Church as being the place of worship of the Churcher family, Karen's maiden name. He also talked of the Memorials within the church where his forefathers were remembered for having lost their lives while serving our country.

Thankfully, Sylvia invited us to Christ Church and we duly came along to a coffee morning and were warmly welcomed by everyone. This welcome made us feel at ease, so we came to more coffee mornings. Our first visit for a service was in December 2018 for 'Christmas Carols by Candlelight'.

As 2019 progressed we attended more coffee mornings and Sunday services too, as and when we were able to. The warmth we experienced from the family of Christ Church made us feel comfortable here, and it's heart-warming to think of the Churchers of the past, fishermen and builders, who have similarly attended this church across the decades.

Karen's father, Colin Alfred Frederick Walter Churcher, was born in 1935 and passed away in April 2019. Karen was born less than 100 yards from Christ Church in a basement flat in Grafton Road in 1959.

Recently we have discovered records of some of the Churchers of the Parish who Karen's father, Colin Alfred Frederick Walter, was named after.

Karen's grandfather Alfred was christened in the church on 13 November 1898. Great grandfather Frederick was christened here on 24 December 1868. (Frederick is pictured mending his fishing nets while sitting on a fish box on Worthing beach, and he is also seen in a picture from a local

newspaper of the day). Great, great uncle Walter, was married in Christ Church on 7 June 1896, to Agnes Covey of Wisborough Green.



We feel lucky now, to be part of the Christ Church family.

Our thanks to Karen and Steve, for sharing this with us!

A SMILE- *from one of John C's Brazilian friends*

A smile doesn't cost anything
And produces much.
It enriches the person who receives it
Without impoverishing the one who gives it.
No one is so rich
That they don't need one
And no one is so poor
That they cannot offer one.
A smile
Gives rest to the tired
And to the despondent
Renews courage and is a consolation in sadness
No one needs a smile more
Than someone who does not know how to smile.





Be more eagle and less parrot.
The parrot speaks a lot and flies low,
the eagle is silent but is capable of reaching the clouds

What I learn does not make me better than anyone else...

What I learn makes me better than I was.

*Both pieces translated from Brazilian Portuguese by John Collins –
many thanks!*

What am I?

I have 30 men but the women have more powers,
sometimes they all sit and fight for hours

ANS: chess set



I jump when I run, I sit when I stand

ANS: a kangaroo

Thanks to Barbara for these teasers!

Men's Group Update



Following the hiatus caused by unavoidable absences, holidays, Lent, Advent, New Year and a shortage of Saturdays this year it is planned to hold the inaugural get together of anyone interested (or just curious) on Saturday 1 Feb 2020.

It is likely this will just be a round table session to share a cup of tea and bacon roll and a chat. More details closer to the time.
Any queries to me - John H



Derek Hansen recently joined us to lead a service, here are his words from that Sunday; our thanks to him for enabling us to share this with you.

Asked what he had learned at Sunday School, the ten-year old began, "Well, our teacher told us about when God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. When they came to the sea, Moses called for the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. After they had all crossed, they looked back and saw the Egyptians coming. Quick as a flash, Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge and saved the Israelites."

"Bobby!" exclaimed his startled mother, "is that really the way your Sunday School Teacher told that story?" Well, no," said Bobby, "but if I told it her way, you would never believe it."

People struggle with our first reading from Isaiah. *[Isaiah 11: 1-10]*. This image of a peaceable kingdom. An image that some may believe is a fairy tale, a far-fetched romantic notion, captured by Edward Hicks in his painting called "The Peaceable Kingdom"

Isaiah was speaking to the people of Israel when their political situation was in disarray; when things appeared hopeless and the future looked bleak. The promises are astounding and perhaps unbelievable: A time of harmony between people and creation. This vision is peace, justice, and the integrity of creation. What we think of as natural enemies now eat and play together – wolves and sheep, cows and bears, children and poisonous snakes.

It's a vision that keeps the human race going – the hope that somewhere, somehow, we can get it together. But change is necessary because we've become aware that our actions are out of step with God's deep desire for peace and equity for all God's people and – taking Isaiah's vivid imagery in the second reading seriously – for the whole of creation.

In the days that lead up to Christmas we can experience a time of gentleness and kindness which we may not experience at any other time of year, even if it often feels that by December 26th all those good feelings and tidings are gone. Walking into the future in hope is not a particularly easy task for many people during Advent – we can approach Christmas feeling a bit tired, perhaps disillusioned, maybe grieving the loss of a loved one or a family difficulty. But, in Christ and with Christ we can walk into the future in hope.

Hope in Christ tells us that God will work God's will. And God invites us to dream to be part of his dream about a different world where there is no predator or prey, no fear or hatred. It's not a goal to be achieved, but a dream by which to set a course. We ask God, by his spirit, in a worship song, to "fall afresh" on each one of us to enable us to be part of His vision. Hope is not about knowing the answer. When a couple marry, they launch into their future with hope, not knowing what the future will hold.

Julian of Norwich said that 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well – I suspect that any couple marrying might be a bit more specific than that! In a reading from Corinthians, Paul reminds us that Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Hopes all things. Hope that is not just for someday but for today - hope that has breath and a beating heart; hope that will not keep quiet and be polite; hope that knows how to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed. Hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause; hope that amazes us when it breaks through the darkness with a shaft of God's light and love.

That's what we prepared for in Advent, but we need to make room - to wait and watch – to prepare ourselves for the experience of a fresh encounter with the living God. The God who surprises us each and every year.



'Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future'.

John F Kennedy 1963

Our thanks to John B for sending in this extraordinary picture of First World War soldiers and others in a tribute to the donkeys who worked and lost their lives in the war.



MEDITATION

*How is it Lord,
That I, who am so wise
And knowing ...
Gifted in the ways of language
And perception ...
So understanding ...
Alert to every nuance and suggestion,
And deeply read as well,.....
Should fail with such regularity?
Amen*



I know that you believe you understand what you think I said
I am not sure you realise that
what you heard is not what I meant
Nixon

TEAMWORK?

There were four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY. There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was asked to do it. EVERYBODY was sure SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought that ANYBODY could do it but NOBODY realised that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.



English is so **hard**....!

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
Then one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese,
You may find a lone mouse or a whole nest of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But a bow if repeated is never called bine,
And the plural of vow is vows, never vine.

If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,
And I give you a boot would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth, and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss ever be nicknamed keese?
Then one may be that and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren,
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim,

So the English, I think, you all will agree,
Is the queerest language you ever did see.

Anon [with thanks to John B for sending this to us.]

An Acrostic!

Two Little Words so oft remiss,
Have Blessedness writ large,
A precious gift of mere kindness,
No one should not discharge;
Know that ingratitude's abyss
Yields like a sinking barge,
Own to first Letters of each line,
Unleash a World that's fine!

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thank
you

