



CHRIST CHURCH IN MARCH

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2020

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Worship in March at Christ Church



1st 10.30am Holy Communion with The Revd David Renshaw
and The Revd Roger Walker

6pm BCP Evensong with The Revd Roger Walker

8th 10.30am Morning Prayer with Canon Muriel Pargeter
and The Revd David Renshaw

12th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion
with The Revd David Renshaw

15th 10.30am Holy Communion with The Revd David Renshaw
and Canon Muriel Pargeter

6pm BCP Evensong with The Revd Nancy Ford

22nd 10.30am Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday
with The Revd David Renshaw

26th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion with The Revd Alex Grubb

29th 10.30am Holy Communion with The Revd David Renshaw

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 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!

Welcome

Men's Group Update



The introductory meeting of the Men's Group was held in Church on Saturday 1 Feb with about a dozen of us sharing fellowship over bacon rolls and coffee. This first meeting was arranged to understand what the group was about and to agree the way ahead. There was unanimous agreement that this should be an informal gathering thus not requiring committees and the agreed aim of the group was neatly summarised by Miles as "Food, Fellowship and Faith".

The group intend meeting at approximately 2-monthly intervals, currently aiming for 0930 on the first Saturday of alternate months and, whenever possible, with a speaker who may be from outside the church community or within the group. Dates and timings may be amended to avoid clashes with related events or to suit the availability of specific speakers.

The next meeting is planned for 0930 on 4 April when we hope to have David White speak to us on "The position of poor people in the developing world". Watch the magazine for further information or speak to me.

Also, if you have a particular story to tell then please let me know and earn yourself a free breakfast!

John H

*Books, minds and umbrellas
are useful only when we open them*



and Mark Twain once said:

“ An open mind leaves a chance for someone to drop a worthwhile thought in it!”



Dates for your diary!

Concerts...

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



From Barbara H - with thanks!

"Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts" *Charles Dickens*

"There is nothing in their world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour" *Charles Dickens*

"Always laugh when you can.... It is cheap medicine " *Lord Byron (1788-1824)*

Poet's Corner

All Shall Be Well!

Let not vile thoughts of failure spawn despair,
Nor vision of a better life impair,
Let Faith your cause impel,
Disabling Doubt excel,
Sustaining efforts all with humble prayer!
Too often do we waver on our way,
Preferring Faith's assurance to gainsay,
Perchance a hapless past,
Our confidence recast,
Yet Grace shall all anxieties allay!
As Father Time observes each passing year
Opining that we are but guested here,
He beams a caring smile,
Our fears to reconcile,
For to Divine Creator we are dear!

© *Elliott Allison*

In Training....

The discipline of self-denial
Espoused by folk of Faith
Prepare them for disabling trials,
Their hearts in hope to bathe -
Disquiet morph to wraith!

©*Elliott Allison*

Many thanks Barbara for the following also

1886 March 29th

"An Esteemed brain tonic and Intellectual Beverage" was introduced to the public in Atlanta, USA. It's name? Coca-Cola.

1974 March 20th

Princess Anne escapes a kidnap attempt. The car in which she was travelling was ambushed very near to Buckingham Palace.

1988 March 10th

Prince Charles, while on holiday in the Swiss Alps, narrowly avoids an avalanche which kills Major Hugh Lindsay, a royal household member.

1981 March 30th

Ronald Regan survives an assassination attempt. He later admitted to his wife 'Honey, I forgot to duck'!

1985 March 11th

Mikhail Gorbachev (54) became the youngest ever General Secretary of the USSR. The new leader, it was hoped, would bring youth and fresh ideas to that vast country.

.....

What am I?

What is entirely your own but mostly used by others?

ANS: your name

I'm not alive but am eager to grow and spread, I don't have lungs but always need air

ANS: fire

You put me in dry and I come out wet, the longer you leave me the darker I get

ANS: teabag

CHRIST CHURCH

Coffee and tea and a warm welcome for all,
Hard pews, but an abundance of soft cushions!
Room to grow in faith and understanding
In this place, there is love, joy and laughter,
Songs of worship, hymns of praise,
Time to listen, to reflect and to pray,
Cakes to savour and birthdays to celebrate
Hands that join with peace to share,
Up the tower for the beauty of sea and sky,
Reaching out to those from our community,
Concerts at lunchtime to delight the ears and the soul,
Help and support when days are dark and spirits are low.

Thank you Dorothy for this acrostic

***“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 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



Our thanks to Christopher Ward for this article, which sadly just missed the February edition. The Editor felt it was too good a piece to lose, so it is included here, and it links nicely to our preparations for Lent... thank you Christopher!

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS



I have to admit that I am not a great fan of the current fashion amongst big retailers for ‘Christmas’ commercials. However, last year’s offering from John Lewis and Partners was, for me, very much an exception.

For those of you who may have missed it, the advert is set at a snowy Christmas in a mythical medieval village. It features the misadventures of Edgar, an excitable young dragon who lives in the village, and his long-suffering human friend, Ava. We first encounter him picking up a carrot to make a nose for a snowman the village boys are building. However, Edgar cannot contain his excitement, fire streams from his nostrils, and the snowman is ruined. Then he sees people skating on a frozen pond. He rushes to join them but, once again, excitement overcomes him and his fiery breath melts a hole in the ice, with disastrous consequences. Edgar’s final indignity is to destroy the village’s Christmas decorations with another fiery blast.

So, what is it that so struck me about this advertisement? Was it the combination of a cute animated and accident-prone dragon and a photogenic child? Attractive

as the characters and their presentation are, it was in fact the storyline that caught my imagination. For, at its heart, this is a tale of Repentance and Redemption. It is clear from the outset that Edgar wants very much to be part of village life, but has a real problem controlling his fiery breath, which in turn damages his relationship with the villagers. Edgar recognises this, and we see him trying so hard in the third incident to change his behaviour: he has tied his nose up but, to no avail, his excitement is so great that the fire streams out of his ears instead! Dejected, he trudges off to his home, and slams the door shut.

But Ava does not give up on her friend. She looks for a way to help him and takes him a gift. We next see Edgar entering that hall to a fanfare from Ava on Christmas Day, bearing the Christmas pudding for the village feast. Panic sets in as Edgar turns to breathe on the pudding, but this rapidly turns to applause as, with impeccable control, Edgar sets fire to the pudding perfectly. Edgar is redeemed in the eyes of the village, and Ava's faith in him rewarded.

I see a clear parallel in this story with our own relationship with God. Through our own actions, this is too frequently a broken one. But God does not give up on us, any more than Ava gave up on Edgar. If we recognise our brokenness and open ourselves to God, He in turn will reach out to us, through the Holy Spirit, offering the prospect of redemption.

The experiences of Edgar are thus not simply an entertaining Christmas diversion. They are also an inspiration for us as we embark on our Lenten journeys.

Christopher Ward



Why not have a look at our Window on the Pier. It sits below the one dedicated to our dear friend David Virgo, much loved, never forgotten....

The editors would like to thank John C for the many contributions he makes to our magazines each month, he translates them from articles sent by his Brazilian friends, and they are gratefully received!

Originally by the Argentine psychologist Mirta Medici, sent by Mariane Tocantins and translated from the Brazilian Portuguese by John Collins

I do not wish you a marvellous year in which everything is fine. This is a magic thought, infantile and utopian.

I wish that you may be encouraged to look at yourself and love yourself as you are.

Have enough self-love to engage in many battles, and humility in knowing that there are battles which are impossible to win for those who think it's not worth the effort to struggle.

I wish that you accept that there are realities which cannot be changed and there are others that, if you run from the place of the complaint, you will be able to change the "I cannot" and recognise the "I do not want to".

I wish that you listen to your truth, and tell it, fully aware that it is only your truth and not another's.

That you confront what you fear since this is the only way of overcoming the fear.

That you learn to tolerate the "black spots" of the other, since you also have your own, and this cancels the possibility of claims.

Don't condemn yourself for being wrong, you are not all-powerful.

Grow, where and when you want to.

Do not wish that 2020 brings happiness.

I wish that you **are** happy, whatever may be the reality you have to experience."

Let happiness be the path and not the goal....

Sunflowers: 🌻🌻🌻

In a lecture on motivation and leadership, the nature of sunflowers was discussed. As its name tells us, they turn in accordance with the sun's inclination, in other words they "follow the light".



You probably knew this but there is something that perhaps you do not! Have you already considered this question? On cloudy and rainy days when the sun is totally covered by clouds, what happens?

An interesting question, isn't it? Perhaps you thought that the flower of the sunflower withers and turns downwards. Am I right? In which case, you are wrong! Do you know what happens? They turn towards each other and share their energy between themselves.

We all want this light, we look for it in various ways: in the family, in friends, in religion, in work, and so on. But there are always cloudy days, days of sadness with no way of escaping these. At this time, the majority of people remain upset, with heads bowed and when they are more fragile, they even become depressed. What has this got to do with the beautiful sunflowers? Look at the sunflowers! Look to the side and notice that there are people just like you, experiencing the same challenges, perhaps in a different way. Share light, feelings and thoughts! May you today become fascinated and delighted by the perfect beauty of nature which, in its simplicity, gives us a true lesson of how to live better and more harmoniously. And independent of time, keep your head up looking towards the greater LIGHT, which is GOD. He always illuminates us even on cloudy days! Let us all be sunflowers, may we be able to transmit light to one another when everything seems cloud covered.



CHURCHWARDENS

1. For centuries, churchwardens have had an important place in the workings of the Church of England. Until the development of elected local councils at town and parish levels, the churchwardens and the vestry of the parish had responsibilities in local government as well as in respect of the affairs of the church.

2. Within the church, the churchwardens had responsibilities in respect of the financial affairs of the church and the maintenance of the church and churchyard. The Canons of 1571 set out their duties in these matters (see Canon 5, *Aeditui ecclesiarum et alii selecti viri* (Churchwardens and sidesmen)) but also give to the churchwardens what would now be described as a pastoral leadership role. They were, in the case of wickedness of life on the part of parishioners, to “warn them brotherly and friendly to amend”; and they were also to “search diligently and inquire if any of the parishioners either come not at all to church, or come later or slower at the times appointed by the laws”.

3. Many of the powers, duties and liabilities of the churchwardens and of the vestry in respect of church matters were transferred to parochial church councils on 1 July 1921 (see now the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, s.4), but churchwardens continue to play an important part in the life of a parish. They are “to be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent” (Canon E1, para.4) and in practice meet frequently with the incumbent to deal with parish matters and play a leading role in the church community and in the work of the parochial church council. Where there is no incumbent or where the incumbent, having responsibility for several parishes, lives elsewhere, the churchwardens are seen even more clearly as the leaders of the local church.

4. Parochial church councils have a key role in the governance of parishes. It is the duty of the minister and the council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, and the council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, s.2(1),(2)(a)).

A Book Review.....

'Blessings' by Mary Craig

Mary died in January 2020 at the age of 91. She had written over a dozen books. 'Blessings' was translated into over a dozen languages and is probably her most successful book. Worthing Library has a copy on their shelves.

Originally published in 1997 it is just 165 pages in length and covers the years from the mid 1950's to 1990's. It is full of difficult, honest memories and very challenging stories, many reflecting attitudes held in the 50's & 60's. Entitled 'Blessings' you might be forgiven in thinking that it has more than its fair share of positive, cosy stories of an easy, carefree life. That is not the case.

The honesty begins when her second son is born with Hurler's Syndrome (previously named gargoylism). He dies at the age of 10. Her first and third sons had no medical problems but when the fourth was born in 1965 with mild Down's syndrome Mary rages against God with 'Why?.... Why?.... Why me?' and turns her back on a God in whom she no longer professes to believe.

Mary searches for a meaning to life and volunteers for, and with, Sue Ryder who was busy setting up support and homes with her husband, Leonard Cheshire. It was interesting to discover many things which that partnership achieved. Sue Ryder set up a charity shop in 1963 (then called a second-hand shop) when it was almost an unknown concept. The far-reaching scope of the care for victims of wars and atrocities of the early part of the 20th Century was truly amazing. This was especially true of their care and support of Holocaust survivors.

The book tackles perception of suffering and faith. Mary offered, in her honesty, no easy answers but counted the many blessings she and her family experienced through knowing, loving, caring for and sharing the lives of the sons with their individual needs. She was alongside many who had experienced dreadful events but had come through with a zest for life. One of the truly heart-warming stories concerns a couple who, after being separated by war and thirty years, found each other, married and spent the last years of their lives happily together.

A memorable, challenging book, definitely worth a few hours of your time.

WELCOME TO THE BISHOP OF OXFORD - 1950's Amersham Rectory memories

Both my Sister and I needed no reminders to be on our best behaviour for the arrival of the Bishop of Oxford. My father, I recall was somewhat subdued anticipating the 'grand welcome'.

My wonderful Mother made sure we were on parade and well-rehearsed for these all-important social calendar events.

These were the days when children did not talk unless they were spoken to, and sat still in the company of an adult.

"Have you got ants in your pants boy!" would cry out from my Grandfather who joined us on such prestigious occasions.

Not unlike Downton Abbey there we were awaiting the Grand Arrival of The Bishop. Mother would be rushing around making sure every last attention to detail had been attended to.



In preparation a special roast had been carefully selected and prepared well in advance as these were days of rationing and Mum had to use all her powers of persuasion to get receipt of such a magnificent piece of meat. (No Vegans in those days!!!).

So, there we were all sitting to attention and awaiting lunch to be served when my anxious Mother ushered my Father into the kitchen in order for him to witness the dog (Tika) tucking into the Bishops lunch!! It was quite a fight I recall as Tika would not give up even though it had just come out of the oven and was somewhat hotter than her usual diet.

Mum being Mum bought a sense of calm to the situation and having rescued what was left of the joint, merely washed it down and served it up as if nothing had happened.

My sister and I did however rather cheekily enjoy witnessing the Bishop eagerly tucking into his lunch clearly oblivious to the fun and games in the kitchen. It's a good thing that dogs cannot talk, that said her licking her lips for some considerable time was of some concern!



With our grateful thanks to Richard South



Vegetable and Bean chilli

This can include any vegetables you have in your fridge, so you can make it to suit your taste.

Amounts depend on how hungry you are, and how many you are feeding, but it does keep and mature beautifully in a sealed container in the fridge for a few days, or the freezer for longer.

Start by heating a pan with a teaspoon of oil, or a few sprays of low-calorie oil to coat the bottom of the pan. Add a chopped onion and 2 – 3 cloves of garlic, according to taste. Cook for a few minutes until the onion is soft. Add a selection of vegetables, suggestions include sliced mushrooms, chopped peppers, roasted cauliflower florets, sliced carrots, chopped courgettes, chopped celery, peas; really anything you have to hand that takes your fancy. Pour in a tin of mixed beans in chilli sauce, stir well, bringing the mixture to the boil. Then put a lid on the pan and simmer until the vegetables are just turning soft [they are best with a little bite to them]. Then depending on how hot you like your chilli, you can add up to half a teaspoon of cayenne pepper to taste, season with salt and pepper and serve with boiled Basmati or Jasmine rice, and if you like, a sprinkling of grated cheese. YUM!

Handy hints!

Crispy toppings:

Any dish that you would normally place in the oven with a grated cheese topping is so much tastier and crispier if you add the same amount of fresh breadcrumbs to the cheese before browning off in the oven.

Breadcrumbs are best made with the crusts that you might discard from a loaf, then the breadcrumbs can be kept in the freezer in a sealed pot for use straight from the freezer, whenever required! That way, there's no waste, and you always have them to hand.



“What is love?” - a five-year-old girl asked her older brother. Smiling, he replied: “Love is when I know that every day you pinch the chocolate from my school bag, yet I still keep it in the same place!”

From Marcia sent to us by John C

LENT COURSE

David will be leading a Lent Course to be held from **3rd to 31st March on Tuesdays from 11am for an hour in the organ vestry.**



Based on the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Colossians, “*A Letter for Lent* “ is an easy to follow Bible study course. Hung on a framework of letter writing, the author examines topics such as encouraging each other in our faith, getting to know God better, taking on God’s family likeness, and qualities which we should aspire to.

All are welcome, no matter where you are in your journey of faith.

ECHO

A man and his son were walking in the forest. Suddenly the boy tripped up and feeling some pain he shouted "AHHHH!" Surprised, he heard a voice coming from the mountain, "AHHHH!" Full of curiosity he shouted, "Who are you?" But the only reply he got was "Who are you?" This left him feeling angry, so he shouted, "You are a coward!" and the voice replied, "You are a coward!" He looked at his father and asked "Dad, what's happening?" "Son," replied his father, "pay attention". Then he shouted, "I admire you!". The voice replied, "I admire you!" The father shouted, "You are marvellous!" and the voice replied, "You are marvellous". The boy was surprised but he still didn't manage to understand what was happening. The father explained "People call this an ECHO, but in reality, it is LIFE. Life always returns what you give. Life is a mirror of your actions. If you want more love, give more love. If you want more kindness, be kinder. If you want to be understood and respected, then be understanding and respectful. If you want people to be patient with you, then be patient with them. This rule of nature can be applied to every aspect of our lives. Life always gives back what you give... Your life is not a coincidence, it is a mirror of your own actions".

A few more of those notices that made us chuckle!



Notice in a health food shop:
"Closed due to illness"

Spotted in a Safari Park: [I sure hope so!]
"Elephants please stay in your car"

Seen during a conference:
**"For anyone who has children and doesn't know it,
there is day care on the 1st Floor"**

In an office:
**"Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday
please bring it back or further steps will be taken"**

**"After tea break, staff should empty the
teapot and stand upside down on the
draining board!"**



If you would like to talk to the Vicar in confidence,
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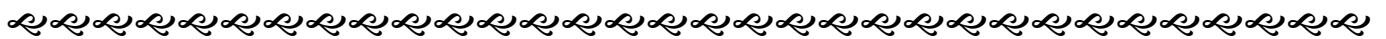
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Or.... If you would just like to know more about CHRIST CHURCH,
or would just like to be informed about events, concerts, recitals or our
regular talks, with interesting speakers on a
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Please forward us your email address
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Christ Church Administrator,

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