



# *CHRIST CHURCH* *in* *May 2022*

*VOLUME 6 ISSUE 5 - MAY 2022*



## **Worship in May at Christ Church**



- 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion**  
with The Revd Roger Walker
- 6pm BCP Evensong**  
with The Revd Nancy Ford
- 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer** with Derek Hansen
- 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am BCP Holy Communion**  
with The Revd Nancy Ford
- 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion**  
with The Revered Maurice Slattery
- 6pm BCP Evensong**  
with The Revd George Butterworth
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer**  
**for Christian Aid week**  
with The Revd Nancy Ford
- 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am BCP Holy Communion**  
with The Revd Nancy Ford
- 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion celebrating the**  
**Ascension** with The Revd Yvonne Murphy

Contact us....

**Church Wardens:**

*Kenneth Hobbs*

email: [christchurchfinance@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurchfinance@btinternet.com)

*Steve Davis*

email: [christchurchvolunteers@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurchvolunteers@btinternet.com)

**Parish Administrator & Editor** *Janine Hobbs*

email: [christchurchadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurchadmin@btinternet.com)

**Parish Office** 01903 215343

**Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday 10.30 – 12 noon  
Thursday 2.30 – 4pm

***A Joyous Easter 2022  
at Christ Church!***

We welcomed Bishop Ruth to our  
Christ Church family on Easter day



# *Sermon of the Month*

*by kind permission of the family of  
Revd. Greville [Alex] Grubb*

In February 2018, we gave thanks for the life of Billy Graham, a man who helped to breathe new life into many churches, including the Church of England.

I remember his story about a Christian from Texas who liked to party. One day, he imbibed too much, so his friends decided to teach him a lesson. They took his unconscious body to a nearby cemetery, lowered him into an open grave and left him to sleep it off. Next morning the man stood up, looked around him and jumped for joy. 'Alleluia' he shouted. 'It's resurrection morning and a Texan's the first one up!'.

Doubtful if any 'one' word can adequately describe our faith; but there is a word that comes very near to doing so. That word is 'Resurrection'. Other religions and creeds use words that we use: words such as hope, love, salvation, revelation. But Christianity alone stakes its all on this one word 'Resurrection'.

Here's what St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15: If Christ has not been raised from death then we have nothing to preach, and you have nothing to believe'.

Bismarck, the German Chancellor, put it like this 'Without the hope of eternal life, this life is not worth the effort of getting dressed in the morning'. It's as important as that. The 'good news' of Jesus (his incarnation, life and death) is of little worth without the fact of Resurrection.

Some of you may remember the story about St. Paul's Cathedral being destroyed by the Great Fire of London in

1666. Eight years later Sir Christopher Wren went to the site to supervise the re-building. Needing a piece of stone to mark a certain spot on the plan of the building, he sent a labourer to find one. The man searched around and found part of a damaged tombstone. On it was the Latin word 'Resurgam' - 'I shall rise again'. Wren was thrilled with the find and had the stone laid aside. The message on it gripped and inspired him. From such ruin, he vowed to himself that a new and more magnificent St. Paul's would arise. He would build a place in which people's hearts would again be lifted to God, a fit place in which they could worship and pray and make their vows. And he did!

On Good Friday, when Jesus was put to death, it seemed to his friends like the end of everything. For them, it was the end of all their hopes. Their expectations were in ruin and ashes.

But then came the glad Easter morning when the disciples made a great discovery. Going to the tomb where Jesus was buried, it gradually dawned on them that it was not the end. God the Father had stamped on Jesus' life the word 'Resurgam'.

And so, the Resurrection is the foundation of our faith. Everything else stands or falls upon it. And without it, I for one, would not be a Christian because I wouldn't want to worship a 'dead' god.

Back in 68AD after evil Emperor Nero died, a rumour started that he had come back to life and was going to lead an army into battle. People were very scared for a time, but of course it wasn't true. Nero was as dead as ever, he never came back to life. Dead people don't come alive again!

But 30 years before this, someone did come back to life. The Bible tells us again and again that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, and that is the message, not just of Easter Day, not just of every Sunday, but of every moment of every day. Jesus is alive!

So, I hope that something of the joy of Easter thrilled every fibre of your being, just as it did for those two disciples we read about in St. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24, verses 13-35. Those two people, a man named Cleopas and his companion were walking into the setting sun along a dusty track from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were full of doubt and sorrow after Jesus' death, when a stranger joined them. The story is a familiar one – they failed to recognize the stranger. Well, they wouldn't would they! He was the last person on earth they expected to see. Dead men don't come back to life. As they walked, the stranger had a go at them for their lack of faith and treated them to an Old Testament bible study. Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

They invited him home, and as the three sat at supper, Jesus would say a Jewish grace. He then took bread, gave thanks broke it and gave it to them. And they recognized him, no longer dead but alive; and we read in Luke 24, verse 32 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

Despite the late hour, they legged the seven miles back to Jerusalem and burst in upon a scene of bewilderment mingled with joy. (In Luke 24, verse 34, 'The Lord had also appeared to Simon Peter' they were told.)

This brings us to the very heart of the Christian message. It tells us that we can know that there is life after death. For Jesus came to show us that he has overcome the last enemy and has enabled us to follow in his footsteps.

Back to Luke 24, where the Gospel writer makes two essential points. St. Luke stresses the physical reality of the resurrection. The risen Jesus was no phantom or ghost or hallucination. He was a real person who could eat and be touched. Secondly, St. Luke stresses the necessity of the Gospel message in verse 47, 'Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in Jesus' name to all nations'.

Christianity began with those eleven disciples telling others about Jesus. That is the way the church grew. That is the reason why this church came into being – no eleven disciples, no Christ Church, Worthing.

It was an English Theologian, T. W. Manson who said: 'For those first Christians, the Gospel wasn't the Sermon on the Mount, but the Christ on a hill; and the message which thrilled the Early Church (which burned itself into them) wasn't 'Love your enemies' (important), but 'He is risen'!

That was the message of those early Christians and they bubbled over with it. It was 'good news' that had to be passed on by every believer – it wasn't an optional extra. They gossiped Jesus in the home, ship, street, marketplace, prison, synagogue – wherever they went. 'Jesus is alive' was the message.

Today, it is up to us to tell others about Jesus' love and forgiveness. It is up to us to gossip the Gospel, just as those first disciples did.

One more thing as we draw to a close. Jesus who died once-for-all, who was raised from death, meets us in a very special way. As we receive the bread and wine in the Holy Communion service, the tokens of his death, we can be aware of his Living presence.

The Lord is risen! Hallelujah!

**We're already in the presence of God.**

**What's absent is Awareness.**



**A wounded healer is someone who can listen to a person in pain without having to speak about his or her own wounds.**


**(Henri Nouwen)**

A large purple heart outline containing a prayer.

**Help me, O God to live this day  
quietly, hopefully;  
to lean on your strength.  
trustfully, restfully,  
to wait for the unfolding of your will,  
patiently, serenely;  
to face every task  
confidently, courageously;  
In the name of  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

# Poet's Corner

## The Laugh!



For many it comes naturally,  
As though to it were born;  
The slightest incongruity  
Evokes a loud guffaw.  
Even a stifled sneeze is known  
To bringing on the titters,  
Or when a hapless nose is blown,  
There follows instant sniggers.  
'Tis hard to keep a straight-laced face,  
When gigglers are around,  
Glum and gloomy feel disgraced,  
There's plenty to be found.  
An empty life, if there's no time  
The funny side to see;  
A poorer life no more sublime,  
If that is all there is to be.

© (*Elliott Allison.*)

\*\*

## No Rain !

Hungry bellies scream  
Crying to be filled with food;  
In the starving land.

© (*Elliott Allison.*)

\*\*





## EVERY MOMENT

Make the most of every moment,  
Be true to who you are,  
Appreciate your talents,  
Aim for the highest star.

Life goes by so quickly,  
Don't waste it in regret!  
Stay confident, determined,  
Your sights steadfastly set.

There will be times you falter  
When the way ahead's unclear,  
It may take longer than you think,  
But always persevere ...

For there are things in this life  
That only you can do  
To make the world a better place  
Simply by being you!

***Marian Cleworth***



# An Alzheimer's Poem

Do not ask me to remember,  
Don't try to make me understand.



Let me rest and know you're with me,  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your concept,

I am sad and sick and lost.

All I know is that I need you to be  
With me at all costs.

Do not lose your patience with me,  
Do not scold or curse or cry.



I can't help the way I'm acting,

Can't be different, though I try.

Just remember that I need you,

That the best of me is gone.

Please don't fail to stand beside me,

Love me 'til my life is done.



*With thanks to Connie Apps who sent this to us*

# ***Ascension and Pentecost.***

***Luke 24:29***

***“Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high”***

There is a very old tradition - very helpful at this time of the Church's year - which will have had the Paschal Candle being extinguished immediately after the reading of the Gospel, on Ascension Day. (Thursday, 26th May, this year.) The point behind the tradition was to underline the physical separation of the Risen Christ and His elevation to the right hand of the Father.. In other words, by extinguishing the Easter Candle at this juncture we are reminded, visibly, of the point in time when Our Lord took his leave of his followers.

From all the reports handed down, his followers could not accept that Jesus was to leave them 'for good'; as yet, they neither knew, nor understood that they would be experiencing the Risen Lord, permanently, in a different way. For a short while, though, after they would have to wait patiently for that totally new experience of the Risen Christ. Hence, the words of Jesus, "I am sending to you what the Father - God – has promised (The Spirit of God/Holy Spirit) Stay in the city then; don't disperse; stay together and wait patiently and prayerfully until you are clothed with the power from on High"

These words of Jesus gave rise to another tradition in the Church; a tradition which is especially kept and diligently practised by certain parts of the 'Free' or 'Reformed' Churches.

For the ten days beginning on Ascension Day, special Meetings of Prayer are held every evening.. A sort of waiting for the Holy Spirit. The devout prepare themselves through prayer, bible study and meditation - and even 'fasting' - in readiness for the celebration of Pentecost/Whitsun.

There is absolutely NO reason why all of us should not pay heed to the words of Jesus... Stay in the City. Someone once pointed out that the 'City' here may well be seen as the Fellowship of the Faithful.. In other words, the praying/worshipping Gathering of the Faithful.. The Church, for that is what the CHURCH properly is, the 'ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITHFUL'.

So! Here is a challenge to all of us –

***Reflect upon these two old traditions:***

***The visible separation of Our Lord from His followers, demonstrated by the extinguishing of the Paschal Candle on Ascension Day AND spending the next ten days, setting aside some time for special reading of scripture, meditation and personal prayer,*** all as a means of preparing ourselves for the Celebration of Pentecost, when we give thanks to God for the Gift of His Holy Spirit.

It can be a time when we rightly reflect on the elevation of The Risen Lord to his place of Glory.. The Glorification of Jesus the Christ, once born of woman, fully human and sharing in all that is human; then being transformed through His passion and death into the Risen Christ...

If there be some among the Faithful who still struggle to grasp fully God's work in and through the person of Christ, we are in good company; those first disciples were in the

same position.. They were promised the Comforter; they were assured of the Power from on High.. They were told to “Stay in the city until they were empowered..”

Thus, we, too are reminded to “Stay in the City until we, too, are empowered from on High....”

EA

### **Archaeology/History Walks in Worthing for 2022**

I am running a series of archaeology/history walks for Christ Church in Worthing once a month between May and July. These will take place in the morning on the second Tuesday of the month. If Tuesday is rained out, we will do it on the Wednesday. We start at **9.30am** and end up at Christ Church for the Coffee Morning. The walks for this year are listed below.

#### **May 10**

***Roman farmstead and road.*** Meet outside Worthing Museum

#### **June 14**

***Lost churches in Worthing.***

Meet outside Boots in Montague Street.

#### **July 12**

***A fishing history of Worthing.***

Meet outside coastguard office on the seafront.

Any enquiries, my telephone number is 07753 282714 or email [alexecclipsing@gmail.com](mailto:alexecclipsing@gmail.com)

**Alex Vincent**

**We're often so hard on ourselves.  
But remember, everybody has a chapter  
they don't read out loud. Take a moment.  
Sit back. Marvel at your life; at the  
mistakes that gave you wisdom, at the  
suffering that gave you strength. Despite  
everything, you still move forward, be  
proud of this. Continue to endure.  
Continue to persevere. And remember,  
no matter how dark it gets,  
the sun will rise again.**

## **English!**

English is the only language where you drive in parkways and park in driveways.

It's also the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital.

The word **queue** is just a **q** followed by four silent letters.

**Jail** and **prison** are synonyms, but **jailer** and **prisoner** are antonyms.

Your fingers have fingertips, but your toes don't have toetips. Yet you can tiptoe but not tipfinger.

When you transport something by car, it's called a **shipment** but when you transport something by ship it's called **cargo**.

**This year's Christian Aid service will be held in Christ Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.30am, and will be led by Revd Nancy Ford, the chair of the Worthing Christian Aid group. Please do join us!**



Drought starves. It robs women like Jessica of the power to farm and grow food for their families. Christian Aid Week is an annual event across the United Kingdom.

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters.

Alongside this, Christian Aid also help with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the aim to encourage public awareness, this led to the Charity adopting the name Christian Aid in 1964. Its aim in the 1960s was to make people aware of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine.

This year Christian Aid Week focuses on Zimbabwe, which used to be the breadbasket of Africa, but is now suffering through the combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought which have robbed people of the power to provide for their children.

Also, the people of the Ukraine desperately need our help. Christian Aid is, of course, a member of the DEC and works with other charities to deliver practical help as and when it is needed.

Here is a link to the DEC site:

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Please consider helping with an individual donation, either at the Christian Aid service, or directly to Christian Aid via their website, or via the DEC web page and can include Gift Aid.

***“Open our senses to all we encounter and be with us that we may walk in safety. Awaken us to our true nature, to live in peace with you, each other and all creation. By restoring harmony and balance we too will be restored to wholeness. Amen.”***

**I have seen better days, but I've also seen worse. I don't have everything I want, but I do have all I need. I woke up with some aches and pains, but I woke up. My life may not be perfect, but I am blessed.**

Have you, like me, ever wondered why the tax year starts on 6<sup>th</sup> April each year? Well, I had a look to see, and this is what I found... fascinating!

Until 1752, the new year in England didn't begin in the middle of Winter on the first day of January. The calendar year was aligned to the seasons meaning it began on the Spring Equinox, also known as lady day, as part of the then Julian calendar. Lady day commemorates the archangel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would give birth to Christ. The Spring Equinox is 25 March when the length of day and night are the same.

The Equinox was one of the four quarter days when rents were paid, accounts were due, and school terms commenced. It fell between ploughing and harvesting for farmers meaning this was the date for starting long term contacts between farmers and landowners. For this very reason it was also the beginning of the new year and, the tax year.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar which used a solar dating system, in place of the

Julian calendar. The reason for this was the Julian calendar calculated the year at 365 and a quarter days with a leap day every 4 years. This resulted in an inaccuracy in the measurement. The solar year actually took 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45.25 seconds. This error meant the calendar dates of the seasons regressed by one day per century.

The Gregorian calendar addressed this imbalance as no century year can be a leap year unless it is divisible by 400, and later 4,000. Within a year, some of Europe had adopted it, as did Scotland in 1600, which at that time was independent of England.

Protestant England refused what was considered at the time to be a Catholic concept. The result was this led to the complexity of people having to use both calendars when trading with Scotland and the continent.

By 1751, Parliament had recognised these issues and the need to harmonise with Scotland (which had become part of the United Kingdom in 1707), and the rest of Europe. The Calendar Act followed switching the UK from the Julian, to the Gregorian calendar. Consequently, the new year now began on 1 January.

The tax issues that arose from switching to the Gregorian calendar

The switch meant 1751 became a short year, running from March to December. Furthermore 11 days had to be corrected to align the calendars. Wednesday 2 September was to be followed by Thursday 14 September 1752 meaning the 11 days in between were lost.

However, taxes and rents were still due on the equinox and were expected to be paid in full! People had lost 11 days and felt hard done by this.

The solution therefore was to delay the start of the tax year by 11 days to 6 April. It still stands to this day!

*Chris Thompson of Wellers Accountants*

When a torch grows dim or stops working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries.

When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside?

Of course not, you help them change their batteries!

Some need AA .. attention and affection;  
some need AAA .. attention, affection and acceptance;  
some need C .. compassion; some need D .. direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine ...

simply sit with them quietly and share your light.





# CHRIST CHURCH WORTHING

## Services and Events...



**Wednesday 1st June 12.30pm – 1.30pm**

Yoko Ono Concert Pianist

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

Paul Gregory Classical guitarist/Cellist

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 11am**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Ralph V Waters, Organist at Christ Church for over 52 years, followed by the opening of our Hall space at the west end of the church

**Sea Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Morning Prayer with Derek Hansen

Donations for Mission to Seafarers

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

Richard Bowen Classical and Jazz Guitarist

**Christ Church Jubilee Market-**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** *more details to follow!*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

John Collins' Organ Recital as part of the celebrations for Christ Church's 179<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

A Barbershop Quartet

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am**

A service of Holy Communion with the start of the Christmas Tree festival - **Let there be light!**

# **Christ Church Reordering-**

## **Our new 'Hall' space!**

The PCC of Christ church have been planning for many years to create a space at the west end of our beautiful church for us to open up to the community even more, to have space for our church family to enjoy time together, while still spending time in our beautiful building. This has now finally been possible, with a lot of hard work, a partnership with our architect, some wonderful builders and craftsmen and a team from the church family.

Ralph Waters, who died last year was one of the initial instigators of this project, and we will honour his contribution at 11am on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with a special memorial service and grand 'opening' of the hall for all to enjoy.

For now, we thought you would be interested to see the progress in pictures from when the work started initially in 2014 to create a small space where we have enjoyed welcoming the community and our church family for coffee and social gatherings, and then from 26<sup>th</sup> November last year, when we started the final phase of this project. The work should be completed by the end of June, so come and see the finished result then!



The original west end of the church, as you enter from the Grafton Road steps in 2014, prior to the temporary changes



The space is cleared, ready for carpet to create space for social gatherings, and coffee after services for the church family and throughout the week for the community as well.



Ralph Waters  
[left] and Ken  
Hobbs,  
churchwardens  
in 2014 at  
'Coffee time'



November 2021 and the temporary screens are erected  
ahead of the works starting!



2022 starts with removing floorboards and uncovering hidden foundations with columns that once supported the West Gallery in the 1800s!







Work continues with replacing floor joists , installing wiring and pipework and the start of the new flooring!



Insulated floor panels with underfloor heating ducts being installed to link in with the new boilers we introduced in 2016!



Then, the beautiful oak flooring is installed throughout the space, ready for the oak fronted cupboards and servery to come soon!



The cupboards along the south and west walls are introduced, to house all the clutter from church and community groups that use the church regularly, all to be finished with a solid oak top.

Note also the centre aisle, with old heating ducts removed, and cemented over, ready for the parquet flooring to be re-laid down the length of the church, and polished to blend in with the surrounding wood flooring.

The floor is covered for protection, as the work enters its final stage.

Now, it's just the servery to be installed in the same wood, so watch this space for the final reveal!



Finally, we thought you may also be interested to know that we have buried a 'time capsule' beneath the new floor, so that when in the future, more work is undertaken, they will have a slice of life from 2022! All the booklets and current documentation from the church's life are in the box, along with a copy of a local journal, a daily newspaper, a wrapper from some iconic biscuits etc, and where we have constructed the foundation 'footings' to re-install the west gallery to extend from the tower room over the newly created hall space, we have left laminated instructions as to what they are, for fabric teams of the future!

*This was found when the floors were taken up this year!  
A souvenir left by a builder of the 50's perhaps?!*



**A Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life and work  
of Ralph V Waters – Churchwarden, and Organist at  
Christ Church for over 52 years  
is to be held at Christ Church  
on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 at 11am.  
Please keep the date free!**



**We are to be joined by Ralph's family and friends.  
The service, led by Revd Nancy Ford will be followed  
by a buffet lunch and an official dedication of the  
newly created Hall Space in the west end, a project  
that was initiated by Ralph and members of the PCC.**

Never forget  
who ignored you  
when you needed  
them and who  
helped you before  
you even had  
to ask.

I find it really  
beautiful when  
someone prays for you  
without you knowing.  
I don't think there's  
any form of deeper  
and purer love.

## Why not join us through the week?


Were open for coffee and a chat every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10.30 till noon.

*All donations for coffee go to our missions*

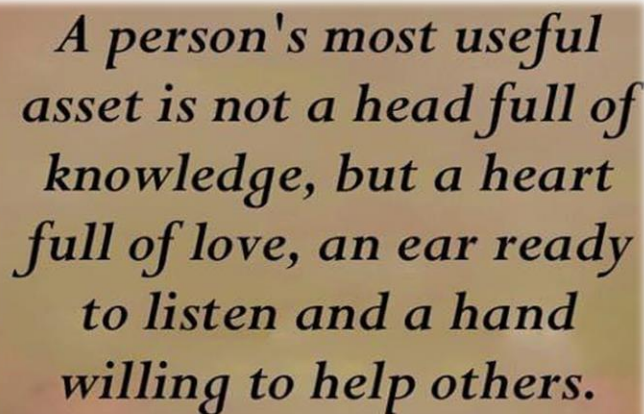
And on Thursday afternoons between 2.30 and 4pm, we open for "The Crafty Club's" coffee and natter sessions, when you can bring anything you love doing, knitting, crochet, sewing, drawing, colouring... anything, and enjoy chatting over a cuppa.

Or you can just pop in to talk with friends old and new, have a tea or coffee and biscuits and catch up.

Maybe you would just appreciate sitting in the church in quiet reflection... whatever you like, you are always welcome!



I'm thankful for all  
the people who came  
into my life, and  
stayed.



*A person's most useful  
asset is not a head full of  
knowledge, but a heart  
full of love, an ear ready  
to listen and a hand  
willing to help others.*