

CHRIST CHURCH *in* *January* 2023



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2023

Registered Charity no: 1152846

Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church

Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk

Worship in January at Christ Church

- 1st 10.30am Morning Prayer with Derek Hansen
- 8th 10.30am Holy Communion for Epiphany
with The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel
- 12th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion
with The Revd Yvonne Murphy
- 15th 10.30am Holy Communion
with The Revd Roger Walker
- 6pm Evensong
with The Revd George Butterworth
- 22nd 10.30am Morning Prayer with Derek Hansen
- 26th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion
with The Revd Maurice Slattery
- 29th 10.30am Holy Communion for Candlemas
with The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel

Contact us....

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Parish Office 01903 215343

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

Sermon of the Month,

With grateful thanks to Revd Nancy Ford

On Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40

Imagine being instructed to travel on foot over a thousand miles across semi-desert countryside to a place you have never seen before. I expect before you set out you would pack a map and a compass or, if you could get a signal, a sat nav.

Abraham was 75 years old and had never left home before, when he was told to travel, on foot, with his entire family and dependants. He would, no doubt, also have taken his herds, and a few donkeys to carry their belongings, from Ur on the Persian Gulf to find the Promised Land. Travellers at this time, about 1900 BC, had to rely on rough observations of the sun and the stars to assess where they were, and seldom travelled out of sight of human habitation. Abraham didn't have a compass because they weren't invented until almost 800 years later, but he was guided by faith, and trusted that God would show him the way to go. Abraham's faith was expressed in his obedience to God's command.

God gave him a vision of what he sought and this vision enabled Abraham to remain faithful to the unseen God who called him. Such vision later enabled him to live as a resident alien in the new land, and to see with fresh eyes

the goals, values, and relationships of the society he encountered in that new land.

By faith, Abraham and his wife, Sarah, though seemingly unable to have a child, were promised by God that their descendants would be as numerous as grains of sand on the seashore. Even though Sarah, at first didn't believe she would become a mother and even laughed at the idea, she did become pregnant, and she and Abraham became the forebears of a nation. The faith of Abraham and Sarah was more than right thinking; it also involved doing the right thing. It involved not just their minds, but their whole beings.

The letter to the Hebrews tells us that faith is the assurance that God will give us the things we hope for and the certainty that the things we can't yet see really do exist.

At the Feast of the Transfiguration, we remember that three of the disciples, Peter, James and John, witnessed a vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah. Now imagine being on a mountaintop when the mist comes down, so you can't see which way to go. You would probably be frightened and amazed and wonder what to do. When this happened to Peter, James and John, they were terrified, and also awestruck, particularly because they had been brought up to believe that such a cloud was a sign of the presence of God.

There are a number of instances in Scripture of God's presence signified by a cloud: e.g. As the Israelites

travelled through the wilderness, with their leader, Moses, they were led by a pillar of cloud by day, and the glory of God was in the cloud; The cloud came down on Mount Sinai when God gave the Ten Commandments, and God was in the cloud. So, at the Transfiguration, the three disciples knew that God was present in the cloud, and that the voice they heard was truly authoritative when it said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.'

This was a transformative experience for Peter, James and John - they saw their friend and Master transfigured before them; they heard the voice of God and the declaration that Jesus was His Son, His Chosen One. This vision must have changed their lives and given them the faith to persevere when times were tough, even to the extent that they were willing to lose their own lives for the sake of their Lord.

Faith in God and a vision of the future has inspired so many over the years: the faith of Francis, a wealthy young man, who gave up security to follow God's plan for him; the faith of Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest, who gave up his life in Auschwitz to save the life of a young man who had a family, but trusted in Christ and his resurrection; the faith of Martin Luther King in standing up for his brothers and sisters when they were treated as second class citizens. The list is long and impressive.

The word Faith, as used by the author of Hebrews, is much more than belief that there is a God. It is trust that

God rewards those who seek God. Faith is full of hope and looks beyond the immediate to God's future and our part in it. Faith is tenacious and enduring, and is able to accept promises deferred, in the conviction that even death does not cancel out God's promises. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Faith is future-oriented, trusting that God will keep His promises. Finally, faith, hope and trust go together, and they are inspired by vision, whether personal or communal, and they lead us and guide us on our earthly pilgrimage.

Poet's Corner

What Shall It Be.....

Between the now and what is yet to be
Abides within all speculative thought,
Petition for the possibility
That innermost desire shall be wrought.
Yet, few there are who shall to such admit,
Preferring not with future to contend,
To providential outcome to submit,
Or else on mere conjecture to depend.
To wit, whatever shall or shall not be,
Lies not within the ambit of our ken,
Transcendent Being future oversee,
The what, and how, and where and when.
Treasure of hope ensconced within the heart,
Acceptance of the morrow shall impart.

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Icy Amble!

Trundling through the snow,
Shod in green welly warmers,
Joy braces the air;

Buttoned to the top,
Gloved hands, fur-capped head,
Old man beams rude health.

Where the pebbles were,
White velvet decks the shoreline;
Winter has called!

© *(Elliott Allison)*

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CHRISTCHURCH FOODBANK

If you are able, please would you donate **anything from the list by the collection baskets in church** so the volunteers can assemble identical packages. Also please check everything is “in date”. Baskets are either side of the cross aisle in the middle of the church.

THANK YOU!

Why not join us through the week?

We're open for coffee and a chat every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 10.30 till 1pm

Please note, we are having a rest from serving coffee during the week over Christmas, open again on the 3rd January!

All donations for coffee are divided equally between all our missions

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.

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.

Councillor Hazel Thorpe holds a residents' surgery and is available from 3pm until 4pm on the second Thursday in every month.

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

See you soon in "Waters' Hall !!

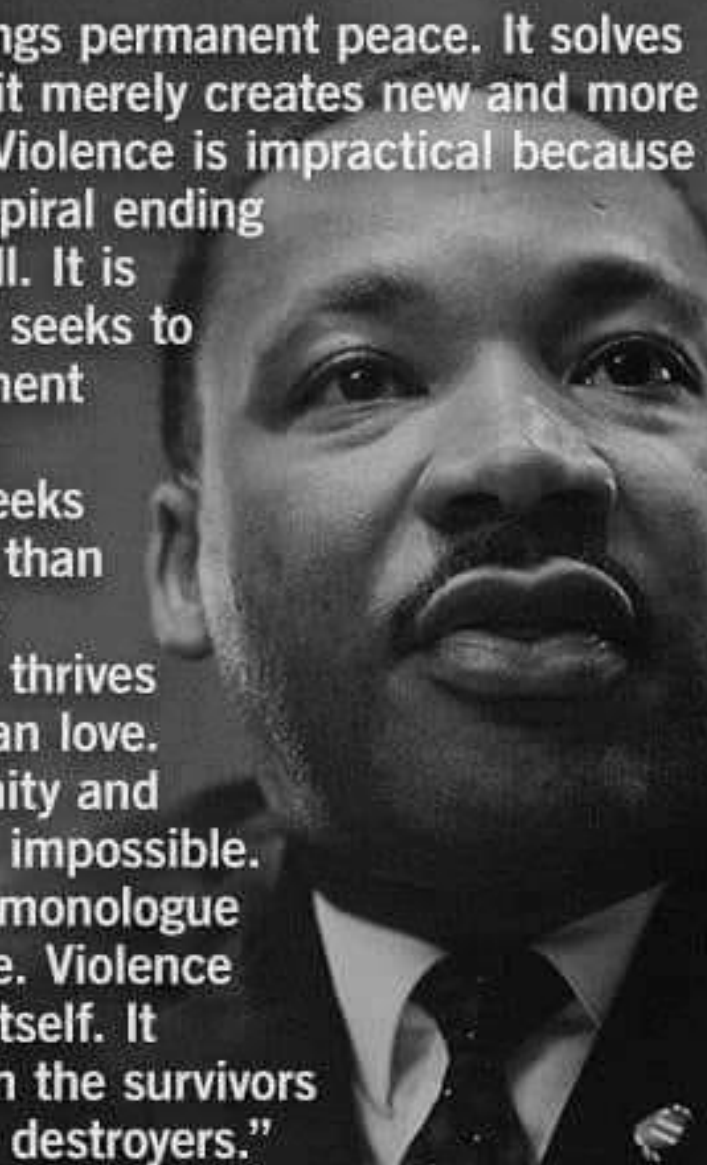
Rainbow Poetry at Christ Church

**Meetings in Christ Church, every
3rd Thursday of the month,
at 2.30pm in the West Entrance Vestibule**

**Bring any poem of your own,
if you care to.**

Admission Free





“Violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problem: it merely creates new and more complicated ones. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding: it seeks to annihilate rather than convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

What's blue and smells like red paint? *Blue paint*

Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? *Because they are so good at it*

What's orange and sounds like a parrot? *A carrot*

What colour socks do bears wear? *They don't wear socks, because they have bear feet*

Yesterdays are taken. Today is mine to take.

The Moment – by Jaspreet Kaur

The moment that you realise that true contentment can be found when we serve others...all other desires will seem so small.

And the moment that you see joy in another being's eyes because of your own selfless actions, life starts to make a lot more sense.

And the moment that you begin to act as the reflection of the visions that you have for a better world, things will begin to change.

And the moment that you recognise your own responsibility for the betterment of others, you'll see such beauty in life.

And the moment that you recognise that you'll make more of an impact by being righteous rather than always being right, rewards will come and fall into your lap.

And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to love than to be loved, positive emotions of oceanic depths will engulf you.

And the moment that you are more concerned about understanding others than to always be understood, that's when your mind will truly begin to learn.

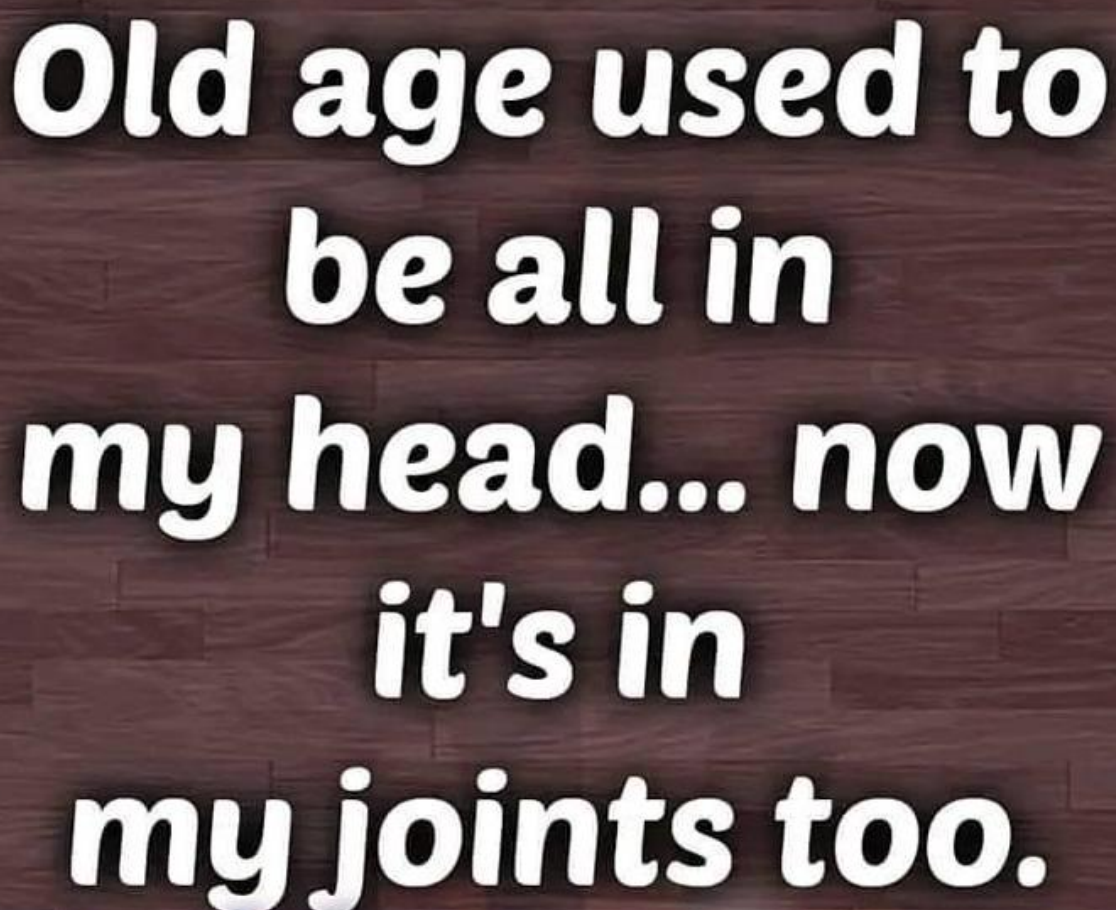
And the moment that we realise that our enemies are not physical flesh and blood, yet they are our own thoughts, peace will begin to conquer.

And the moment that we overcome those inner enemies rather than deflecting them onto others, merriment will come and find you.

And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to listen rather than to always be heard, you'll hear languages that you thought your mind could never fathom.

The moment that you realise that life will always be about mastering and relearning, conquering and climbing, your journey will begin to feel so smooth.

And the moment that we all believe that we can change this world for the better, we will do it, because life is but these moments where we learn, change, grow and give
So..... go live your moments



**Old age used to
be all in
my head... now
it's in
my joints too.**



Picture from December 1964

(Funny how the man outside the St Paul's Vicarage has cleared just enough snow for him to stand in the picture!)



If you are cold,
tea will
warm you;



If you are too heated,
it will
cool you;



If you are depressed,
it will
cheer you;



If you are excited,
it will calm you



William Ewart Gladstone



I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur, and handed me her iPhone.

So the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken, and my daughter is furious!!

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me

This girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

We are going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

Broken pencils are pointless.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

Ever wondered why?

... the width of our railway tracks is 4 feet 8 ½ inches?

This is one of those topics which has all sorts of answers circulating, but most of them just seem to be stories rather than anything based on fact.

The gauge of a railway is the distance between the inside surfaces of the rails. Standard gauge is 4 feet, 8½ inches. This is the gauge with which steam railways began, and it became the common gauge of Britain, North America, and Western Europe except for Spain, Portugal, and Ireland.

What we definitely know is that when George Stephenson designed the Stockton & Darlington Railway in the north of England in 1825, he used a gauge of 4 feet, 8 inches simply because he had been familiar with it on a mine tramway called the Willington Way on the Tyne River below Newcastle. In turn, the Willington Way had been built to this gauge because it was common on roads in the area. The Liverpool & Manchester, was the world's first railway between major cities.

When he was appointed engineer for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, Stephenson continued to use this gauge, as did other early promoters. This was doubtless influenced by the fact that locomotives were provided either by Robert Stephenson & Co of Newcastle, or by other concerns in the Leeds area. However, as locomotives grew larger and required six wheels there were problems on curves and it proved easier to push the rails out the extra half-inch than to adjust the wheels.

There are all sorts of other suggestions as to why Stephenson chose this measurement. One was that he measured the axle width of 100 farm wagons and took the average, the result being 4ft 8 in. Did he intend to allow local people to use the track to convey goods with their own wagons?

Another common idea is that this is the width of ruts left by Roman chariot wheels. This measurement as proved by archaeologists in Pompeii is that the width was about 4 feet 9 inches which would have accommodated 2 horses. Which means that Stephenson just picked a sensible sort of width, which would have been used for hundreds of years.

Or maybe, it is the distance between the neck and ankles of a 'damsel in distress' as seen in many a black and white movie!!

In the early days of railways there were quite a few different gauges being used and Brunel originally used a 7-foot gauge on the Great Western Railway. As the railways became more popular and more lines were proposed, there was a gauge war. Since new rail lines were authorised by the government, a Royal Commission was set up and in 1846 the Railway Regulation Gauge Act was passed. This stated that the Standard Gauge would be 4 feet 8 ½ inches in Great Britain and 5 feet 3 inches in Ireland.

However, the act did not force existing lines to change the gauge, but as the differences caused problems with moving freight since everything had to be transferred from one set of wagons to another (transloading), many lines moved to the standard gauge.

Brunel's wide gauge continued until 1892, when the rail lines in the Southwest had become quite isolated from the rest of the network.



SOME MURPHY'S LAWS:

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. Nothing is fool proof to a sufficiently talented fool.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
- 13 . God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
14. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Events in 2023 in Christ Church



Christ Church Lent lunches will be held on the first and last Saturday of Lent:

25th February and 1st April 2023

from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

Proceeds will be given to the Christ Church 'Mission Fund' so all missions that the church supports will benefit.

Yoko Ono concert pianist will perform on **Wednesday 14th June 2023** from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Paul Gregory – classical guitarist will play on **Wednesday 12th July 2023**, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, hopefully with a friend – keep looking in the next issues of the magazine for more details!

Richard Bowen – Classical and Jazz Guitarist will play on **Wednesday 9th August 2023** 12.30pm to 1.30pm

John Collins – Christ Church resident organist will give a recital on **Wednesday 20th September 2023**, to mark the church's 180th anniversary.

Keep your eyes peeled in future magazines for more events yet to be confirmed!!