

# Christ Church

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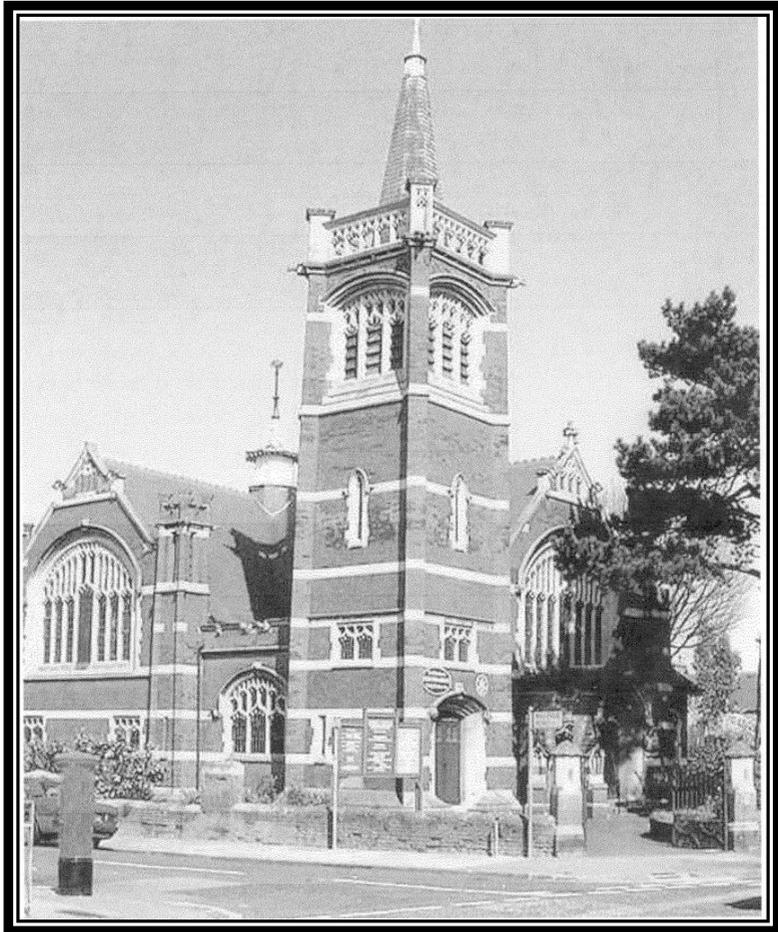
## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

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[www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org)

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## **PASTORAL LETTER**

Dear Friends and Family of Christ Church,

I have been thinking of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians 5(v1-25) when he writes "The Holy Spirit produces.....love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".

These "fruits of The Spirit" have been much in evidence during this deadly pandemic. We have seen the love of families and friends who fortunately, we can talk to on the phone or even see on "Skype", even though we long for a physical hug during this lockdown.

We've all had to exercise patience while we have stayed indoors, sporting long, wild hair. My poor cocker spaniel, George, resembles a black bear with his thick coat and a fringe that almost covers his eyes, while he waits and pants, until he can have a bath and a trim!

We have, mostly, practised self-control and avoided public places. We have had the pleasure of beautiful weather so that we can go out in the fresh air for a walk and see Spring in all its bountifulness.

We've had to put on hold our fete this June when we would have welcomed in our local community. So many events have been cancelled from sports to annual events, weddings and special celebrations.

I must say we loved the way Monty Don and Joe Swift made excellent viewing from their own gardens and producing wonderful footage of past Chelsea Flower Shows with fabulous show gardens over the years. It has been a joy to see that every night during the week on the BBC.

Of course, we have all missed congregating at Church but I am enjoying Ruth's services from home and amazed at the technological skills involved. I love the way we see a huge number of people reading Bible passages, from Kevin, in front of the Church and young Elijah, to name a couple. We can join in the hymns accompanied by John.

We were unable to have our annual street collection for Christian Aid but I loved the way we could view the video from Christian Aid showing that remarkable spirited lady in Kenya and hear her testimony, followed by an excellent sermon from Dr. Rowan Williams, past Archbishop of Canterbury and now president of Christian Aid. Thank you, Ruth, and everyone involved in making this possible.

Returning to the “fruits of the Spirit” we have seen such amazing acts of kindness from volunteers, shopping for those in need or those unable to go out. One of our Church Members has been busy making scrubs and scrub bags for the NHS hospital staff and also hearts for people who are dying of Covid 19 to hold. Such goodness and kindness abound of a sacrificial nature.

From my own perspective I have really appreciated our lovely garden with its privacy and tranquillity. The air is cleaner and it’s so quiet with just the sound of a robin, blackbirds and wood pigeons singing happily. The shrubs perfume the air and are a delight to see. For me this is pure peace and joy. It’s so good for the mind to be able to find a quiet, peaceful place to enjoy the calm felt once outdoors in a pleasant place. Out there I can ponder on how we must try to continue to value and keep on being kind to each other and think how God wants us to be always. The air is not so polluted, not just here in the UK but in China and India, it is so much better. Help us Lord, to be better custodians of this beautiful Earth.

I find calm and peace listening to classical music and reading my two novels, one upstairs and one for the garden! I have seen my little granddaughter Aisling at 4 ½ months growing and changing. It fills me with love and joy to watch bath time. There she is splashing away and playing with a duck or chewing it. To see how gently she is passed from Maeve to Mark. Storytime amused me as she gazed at the pictures and smiled; all this, from far away in Derry, N. Ireland!

Lord, help us to be gentle and to be faithful followers to you who has created all things beautiful.

Hang on to Hope and be positive that this “so too will pass”.

Love to you all.

*Anthea Denham*

## **FAMILY NEWS**

At the beginning of May we received the sad news that Ken Saunders had passed away. We were advised that he had apparently been very ill for some months and had spent time in a number of hospitals in Kent for various operations.

The “Saunders” family were involved here at Christ Church many years ago and Ken was also a member of the 94<sup>th</sup> North London Scout Troop.

We send our condolences to his family and friends at this sad time. Our thoughts and prayers go to everyone who is unwell and we think also of all those in need throughout the world at this time.

When we get back to worship at Church, the “Birthday Box” will be busy. We give thanks for all who have had a Birthday recently, or will be shortly, both young or not so young.

## **WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING OVER RECENT WEEKS?**

The other week in the Online Sunday Service, Ruth, referred to “Reflection”. Out of interest, who spotted the reflection of the photographer in the picture of the Church Notice Board on the cover of our May Newsletter?

As we look back over the past few weeks, we can reflect on what has been different – the majority of children have not been at school and have been at home with their parents, who have not been at work, home schooling. This can’t be easy for anyone.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day were not as planned but some sat in their front gardens, as did their neighbours, having a “street party” with a difference-social distancing!

If you are old enough, I’m sure everyone has a memory or two of what you did on VE Day, although perhaps, for some, your memories are not so clear. We are all so grateful, now as then, for the sacrifice of so many who lost their lives or suffered injury during the years of war and we pray for them all and reflect on this period.

We can similarly reflect on the current period of lockdown and remember all who have suffered or sadly died, but also the many in the NHS or Care Sector and all other Key Workers for whom we pray.

During our Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> May we were able to reflect on the Christian Aid involvement in other parts of the World. We pray for their work. If you can make a donation go to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Are your gardens looking lovely now and did you join the queues when the local Garden Centre reopened recently? Have you exercised more?

Whilst looking back and reflecting on the past, don't forget to look forward to when things improve – There is hope as we go forward.

In response to our request last month, Dorothy Brown tells us what she has been doing and we thank her for sending the following:-

“How lovely to still receive the Christ Church Newsletter.

When Arthur and I moved away in 2003 to be nearer family in Sussex this was a real lifeline and still continues to be so.

“Tell us what you are doing”, you said.

Well, being so ancient now I am truly grateful to have all that I need, and family and friends around.

Lindfield URC into which we were soon absorbed after moving here, is a large Church situated on the High Street amid some mostly small shops, in this large village. A big duckpond and views of cricket on the common, not far away. The Church doors are open to all, with hospitality during every village event - Arts Festivals, Bonfire Night, Christmas, Easter and much more.

Living nearby and in normal times I can push my trusty rollator back and forth. Thankfully, so far, the old brain still functions but I need help with walking.

Nowadays we can listen to virtual services from the Church and news from the Parish and Evangelical Churches nearby.

Necessary duties, TV, radio and crosswords are the order of the day, together with long phone calls to relatives and friends.

Deep concerns for many of course prayers that **THIS TOO WILL PASS** and in Gods good time, **ALL WILL BE WELL.**”

**Do you want to –**

**Learn more about Jesus?**

**Develop your Faith?**

**Get to know people in the Church?**

**Two suggestions:**

**Bible Study and Prayer Triplets**

**Bible study**

I was wondering if anyone would like to join in with me in a Bible Study? I am not sure what people might like to do so I have put together a Doodle poll asking how often and what day and time people would like and then I can see if we can get one or more groups together.

The idea would be to first meet up over Zoom (or another platform, if you prefer) and then move to meeting in person as regulations / guidance / preference allow.

The Doodle poll link is in my weekly email notices, or you can email, text or phone me to let me know your preferences.

**Prayer Triplets / Trios**

The idea is that three people commit to pray together. The reason for 3 is that you are less likely to let down two people than one and that it is small enough to all make the same time.

These have been an idea in the Church for many years and are a way to hold each other accountable for our communal prayer life.

The meetings could be by phone or video calling until we are able to meet up in small groups.

If you are interested there are 2 ways to go about this - phone people yourself using the new “Church Directory”, or you can contact me and I will facilitate groupings.

Thank you.

*Clare Jenkins*  
*Church Secretary*

Please remember that you can view the monthly Newsletters on our Church web site ([www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org)). Just Click on NEWS in the menu bar along the top. To go direct to the Pastoral Letter hover over NEWS and then click on the dropdown.

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How have you been filling your day during these past weeks? – Please let us know what you've been doing.

If you have an article for inclusion in the July/August Newsletter please send (to [arthurtownsend@aol.com](mailto:arthurtownsend@aol.com)) before the 21st June, if possible.

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The Church use a firm of Insurance Brokers who also provide additional information and advice throughout the year. Whilst they remind all Churches to be aware of attacks from Cybercriminals, they also remind individuals that fraudsters and scammers are taking advantage of people at this time. Take extra care when receiving emails particularly from unknown senders and when ordering things online. If in doubt – Do Not Click.

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For Coronavirus information go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
You can find local information on the Council web sites  
([www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) or [www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)).

Remember to keep in touch with others and whilst some are still working from home, some are now travelling back and forth to work.  
Please Stay Alert, Still take care to “Control the Virus” and Save Lives.



## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

None of us can believe the devastation Covid -19 virus has caused so far. The amount of people who have lost their lives and continue to do so is unimaginable. Many people's lives have also been turned upside down with the numerous job losses. We have also been told to expect significant deep and hard recession by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, meaning there will be more suffering in the near future.

It is rather difficult not be swept along by the numerous depressing news around us. However, since we belong to Christ, we are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise - Galatians 3:29. Hence, we have the hope that whatever the future may bring, God remains our anchor, our Rock, which cannot be moved. He will look after us. Let us keep trusting in our Saviour's deep love for us. Hold on firmly to the passage below.

### **Hebrews 6: 17-19 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

<sup>17</sup>In the same way God, in His desire to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His purpose, intervened *and* guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup>so that by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge would have strong encouragement *and* indwelling strength to hold tightly to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup>This hope [this confident assurance] we have as an anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whatever pressure bears upon it]—a safe and steadfast hope that enters within the veil [of the heavenly temple, that most Holy Place in which the very presence of God dwells], <sup>20</sup>where Jesus has entered [in advance] as a forerunner for us, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Ola Lawal*

