

ChristChurch

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NEWSLETTER

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8th NOVEMBER

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we slowly approach the Christmas season, celebrating the wonderful birth of Baby Jesus and his amazing story, the year 2020 will be remembered as the year where all emotions, positive and negative would have been felt and experienced by everyone in the Church and our community.

Being repeated on all media platforms, the phrase “this is a once in a lifetime event”, constantly reminds us that we are still in this pandemic and the many stories of survival, heartache, separation, celebration, confusion, motivation and patience, repeatedly read out on the news, keeps us in this locked mind-set of fight or flight, fear and worry which then leads to our derailment of faith in God.

I wish there was a way we could turn back the hands of time to the beginning of this year and take on the year in a different manner but we cannot.

During times of difficulty, do not try to get through the struggles of life by your own merit because it will fail you and lead you into deep despair. Moments of discouragement can lead you astray but be strong in the Lord and keep your mind on him.

Pray to the Lord to give you shelter as we walk through this storm as we all, cannot do this without Him.

I want to finish off this short letter with a few words from the Good News Bible to reignite your faith in the Lord, for all to stand firm, have faith and put your trust in Him.

‘You have made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector, and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home.’ Psalm 91: 9 – 10

‘God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.’ Psalms 46: 1

‘Lord, I have come to you for protection, never let me be defeated! Because you are righteous, help me and rescue me. Listen to me and save me! Be my secure shelter and a strong fortress to protect me; you are my refuge and defence.’ Psalm 71: 1 - 3

Robert Mapara

COINCIDENCE?

Back before the original Church, “Christ Church Congregational” was founded here in 1883, we understand people were holding meetings in their own homes in the local roads around our Church.

It’s very strange that recently we became aware of a similar story that took place in the early 1970’s, when a new “Evangelical Church” was inaugurated in Northern, France.

Similarly, people were meeting together holding Bible Study in homes and needing somewhere bigger to meet, they were able to take over an old café premises that became the Church. The Church has continued to grow and needing more room are now entering a redevelopment project over the next couple of years renovating their building and also gaining more room from adjoining property.

We are of course also aware that the New Southgate Baptist Church progressed from their founding by 3 married couples and calling of their first Minister, to subsequently some years later being involved themselves in “Church Planting”.

Isn’t it coincidental therefore that in the Service on the 25th October Ruth mentioned being involved with a Baptist Webinar recently and referred to a suggestion made that we should perhaps be setting up “Micro Churches.”

History has a way of repeating itself!
Plenty of thoughts going forward.

FAMILY NEWS

We think of many of our members and friends at this time.

There are some who are unwell at home and others who are, or have been in hospital. Please remember Peter who is due to have a long-awaited hip operation on the 11th November.

Our prayers are with them all and with those suffering with Covid-19 in these unprecedented times. We pray also for and think especially of all those who are bereaved at this time.

In our service on the 25th October, Ruth announced that the Wedding took place the previous day of Stephanie to Glenn. Our Congratulations and every happiness to them.

Also, Allister and Julie, confirmed that they are moving to Gloucestershire where they will be nearer to family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this stressful time. We wish them well for the future and trust they will keep in touch.

Over the years many friends have of course moved away but it is good to know that some do keep in contact. One such person who left this district some years ago and whom we have heard from recently is Barbara Vian – nee Eastmure.

Barbara keeps in touch with many friends from their time together when they attended this Church when it was still “Congregational”, prior to becoming United Reformed. She remembers friends who were all involved in Church activities in the “3C’s”, Sunday School, Uniformed Groups and Badminton Club.

She has a copy of an old local press cutting from the “Finchley Press” (believed to be from 1954) which quotes names of some 41(of 45) successful candidates from Christ Church Congregational who had entered a Sunday School Union Scripture examination. Prizes and certificates were subsequently presented.

It’s good to know that she and others still keep in contact with each other and with us and we send Barbara and all other past members and friends all good wishes and good health and our prayers.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Royal British Legion commemorations for Remembrance Day will be different this year. There will not be the usual March Past at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. The Government led Service at the Cenotaph will be a closed ceremony.

There will be a socially distanced pre-recorded “Festival of Remembrance” on the BBC on Saturday 7th November.

In partnership with the Royal British Legion, there is a new “Remembrance Glade” which has been created at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.

The Royal British Legion “Poppy Appeal” will also be affected this year – please see their website www.britishlegion.org.uk for ways to support and help raise funds.

Donate and download a Remembrance Poppy Poster to display in your window. Check out the Poppy Shop or perhaps enter the “My Poppy Run”, a virtual event. You can also add your personal tribute to the “Virtual Field of Remembrance” - see website.

All Charities are in need of our help especially as we approach Christmas and we pray for all fundraisers and thank them for their exceptional work.

Don't forget the BBC “Children in Need” on Friday 13th November.

During the service on 25th October Ruth mentioned the Foodbank run by St. Barnabas Church in High Road, North Finchley. Please see their website www.stbarnabas.co.uk and click on the drop-down menu under “What's On” for more information on the Foodbank, including how to make donations.

REMEMBER – “HANDS - FACE - SPACE”

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING OVER RECENT WEEKS?

Since we have been meeting back in Church on Sunday mornings from the beginning of October Ruth has been asking people to provide a “Testimony from Lockdown.”

We have heard from Pennie Bongomin (the “phantom cyclist”!) and now Anthea Denham and no doubt Ruth would be very happy for others to come forward.

The past 7 months have been unusual, different and very strange at times and not to say difficult for many.

Although we are now again seeing increasing numbers of Covid cases and the reintroduction of various measures, they are, if nothing else, becoming somewhat confusing for many in different parts of the country. We pray though that they will have the desired effect and reduce the rising number of cases.

Hopefully you have been able to get out and about for some regular exercise. If we’ve all been getting out in the fresh air, we should be better for it, health wise, and our gardens may be looking the best they’ve ever been.

Perhaps you’ve remained indoors and after the Spring Clean have now been up in the loft to sort out your long-lost forgotten treasures! Or have you found something different to do – have you joined a book club perhaps?

Please let us know what you have been doing. Send us your news and we can report in the December Newsletter – if possible forward to the following email address by Sunday 22nd November - arthurtownsend@aol.com. Thank you.

“Stay close to God, but keep a safe distance from everyone else.”

Keep in touch with each other in these difficult times. Make time to send someone an email, text or letter perhaps, or an old-fashioned phone call. Those on their own would love a chat every now and again.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Brothers and sisters, it seems the uncertain time created by Covid-19 is likely to continue for a while longer. It is natural to wonder if this will ever come to an end. It's also natural to dwell on the inconveniences and devastation it had created this year.

One, as Apostle Peter said in 2 Peter 3:8, '—one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day' KJV.

So, let us be patient, Covid-19, will soon pass.

Two, try not to dwell too much on what you cannot do much about. Let us focus on praising and thanking our Lord God instead for His love, protection and sustenance.

Psalm 95 is a great song of praise that we could all use to lift our spirit as London goes into Tier 2 and its restrictions.

Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7

Come let us praise the Lord!

Let us sing for joy to God who protects us!

For the Lord is a mighty God, a mighty king over all the gods.

Come, let us bow down and worship Him; let us kneel before the Lord our maker!

He is our God, we are the people He cares for, the flock for which he provides.

Ola Lawal

COMMUNION SERVICES

Further to Ruth's announcement on Sunday 25th October it is now intended that we will have Communion on the following dates:

1st November
15th November
29th November
13th December
25th December