



## Sunday 10th May – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Welcome!

Dear friends of Christ Church,

Welcome to this week's bulletin. We hope that you are finding it useful in keeping you in contact with our community in Christ Church in this most difficult time. We welcome contributions from anyone who has a message to give, be it serious or maybe a little humorous. We all need to be able to smile in the face of challenge.

This bulletin will be emailed out to those on our email list. As always, material for inclusion should be emailed by Tuesday evenings to Jude Bishop at [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)

Please forward this bulletin to anyone to whom you think it would be of interest. We will print a few paper copies and post them to those who are not on email.

We're still following government guidelines by not showing on-line services from inside church and hopefully you are managing to join in from your living room. A reminder of how you can do this is [here](#), and for the moment we will do that from the tiny chapel Colin and Lore have created at home. To make it more of a Christ Church community we would love you to send photos of yourself and these can put up in the chapel as a visible sign that we are all worshipping together. They can come by email to Lore, [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or by post to Christ Church.

Also, do please email or post or text prayer requests and we will try to include them week by week. But be aware that the service will be online and so be careful of the confidentiality of friends and loved ones.

The May Link is being prepared during this week and will be ready for next weekend. If you are not on the internet you will receive a copy in the post. The weekly reading are to be found in the Link.

If you have any articles you wish to be included in future copies please email Alex at [alexs@christchurchbath.org](mailto:alexs@christchurchbath.org).

All copies of the Link can be found on the website [here](#).

### Reminder from the Priest-in-charge

**If you are experiencing financial problems**, Christ Church may be able to help in small ways with day to day needs. Contact the Priest-in-charge in confidence.

### Sermon for May 7th

#### Gospel Reading

*"Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me'. I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."*

John 13: 16-20

#### Sermon

'Servants are not greater than their masters,' said Jesus, and just before saying that, had shown what he meant, by removing his outer clothes so that he was dressed as a house slave and insisting, in spite of Peter's protests, on washing the disciples feet. He was acting out his words on servant ministry in a way that was so memorable that even today in churches all over the world, we wash feet on Maundy Thursday. We remind ourselves that servants are not greater than their masters. If he washed his disciples' feet we are to wash one another's feet. He is setting us an example of 'servant ministry' so that we too take on the washing up at the end of the party, putting out the rubbish, doing those irritating and slightly disgusting things that surely we might think we are overqualified for. Why should we do them? Because he did. And why don't we do them? Because we are too proud. Privately there are things we would rather not do and not be seen to do and it is tempting to leave them, in the hope that someone else will do them. But if we take that route, we end up as a church which doesn't proclaim the glory of God but our own glory.

At the moment there are wonderful initiatives going on driven by people who understand servant ministry at its deepest level. People sewing scrubs for hospital workers, delivering supplies, take away meals; packing food boxes

for the Make Lunch initiative; delivering food to those who were already on the edge of an economic cliff and whom the pandemic is tipping over that edge. None of these things are particularly glamorous. But they are where the real work of Christ is happening in our community.

I know there are some who have volunteered, who are waiting to be useful, but the call hasn't yet come. Their sacrifice of freedom and peace of mind is just as valuable as that of those who are on the frontline. There are many who are serving others by staying at home at considerable personal cost and avoiding infection. There may also be in some of us (and I know that I have this!) a tendency to need to be seen to be involved, as a sign of how virtuous we are.

But if we follow Jesus' example of unselfconscious servant ministry based on love then whether we are 'out and about' or sheltering at home we will not be greater than our master, but serving him in our daily interactions with one another.

## **Sunday 10th May – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **Today's service**

**10am**

Genesis 8: 1-19

Psalm: 31: 1-5, 15-16

Acts 7: 55-end

John 14: 1-14

### **Next week**

There will be an online Eucharist at 11am on Thursday

The readings will be:

Acts 1: 1-end

Psalm 15

John 15: 9-17

## **Thoughts from the Priest-in-charge**

Seventy five years ago the war in Europe came to an end. The generation born in its shadow referred to it simply as 'The War' just as our grandparents had referred to the 1914-18 war in the same terms. Our own tragedies loom large in our consciousness. Today, the final significance of the pandemic to our lives and the lives of our loved ones; the careers of our young people; the strength of the economy and the prospect of world peace are all unknown. We celebrated VE day on Friday 8th with a sense of celebrating not just 'victory' in Europe but even more importantly the possibility of a lasting European peace. Although there have been wars in the last 75 years there has also been a concerted worldwide effort to contain those weapons of destruction which have become available since 1945. The national and international responses to the threat of infection from the coronavirus show just how much can be achieved by political consensus. In this country people are co-operating with guide lines, staying at home and we are exercising our great British art of queuing. No one does it better!

Our celebrations for VE day were necessarily limited, but they were heartfelt none the less. As a country we have weathered difficult times in the past and we will get through this too. All ages, from a few months to over 90 came together for the Christ Church Big Picnic - a cup of tea with others and a chance to admire each other's bunting on zoom. We look forward to a lifting of the restrictions on interactions and an end to social distancing, however long it may take. And when they are lifted - that will be a tea party to remember!

### **Too busy NOT to pray?**

If at the moment you have some spare time on your hands, why not make this the time when you give yourself the luxury of a regular prayer life. If, on the other hand you are run off your feet, then you definitely need a regular prayer life. There's help available. It's often easier to pray with others, so some of us in Christ church have begun to say morning prayer together at 8 am. You can join us, either by choosing to say your own prayers at 8 am knowing that you are praying with us in spirit, or for the full virtual experience you can join us on zoom. Saying responses together on zoom is a bit like praying in an echo chamber or a large cathedral but the challenge doesn't diminish the sense of fellowship. As Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered together I am in their midst.' If you would like an invitation to zoom morning prayer let Lore know.

There is also the opportunity to pray for the coming of God's kingdom in these days between Easter and Pentecost. The Bath 24/7 prayer initiative to hold the people of Bath in prayer over these 50 days is going strong. You can sign up to be part of it and to pray for an hour of more. See the link elsewhere in this bulletin.



**Charity of the Month.** This month we are supporting our regular link with USPG and their work in Malawi. The following link [USPG/Malawi](#) will take you to their latest update on what they are achieving there.

If you would like to make a donation you can do that at [Donate](#), or send a gift to USPG, 5 Trinity St, London, SE1 1DB. Tel 0207 921 2200.

If you want to make a regular gift, you can add the name of **Christ Church Bath** to your online form and they will collate all donations and let us know our yearly total.

## **A letter from Bishops Peter and Ruth and the Archdeacons – Ascension Pentecost**

5th May 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers

On Monday, the Bishops' Council met to gain an understanding of how the diocese is responding to the current crisis. We heard stories from parishes across our three Archdeaconries, the responses of our schools and chaplaincies and looked through the lenses of rural life and that of our Magnificat parishes. We were hugely impressed and encouraged by the creative, inspirational and truly remarkable work of all of you and your communities. **Thank you!!**

As we talked, we were aware too of the strain upon resources both locally and across the whole diocese. Within central diocesan resourcing we have furloughed some 31 staff members and we know that some parishes have needed to do so too. The loss of weekly offerings, visitor and rental income has caused some very real financial hardship and we would urge you to seek the help of the diocesan support team if so. Some of you have benefitted too from the information given on our website or through staff members, in looking after your buildings; learning about Zoom and other online platforms; how to give online; and the work of Ministry for Mission and Education Teams are providing encouraging accompaniment as necessary. A wide range of training is now being planned for delivery online.

Many of us were looking forward to celebrating **VE Day** on Friday and **Somerset Day** over this weekend too. Our churches and schools were to have been a focal point of such events. We are unable to do that now however, we are encouraging you to celebrate 'at home' instead. You can find details of the national programme for VE Day, including a service liturgy, on our diocesan website <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ve-day>.

Some of us, including our Cathedral, will be joining in with the national 'Big Picnic for Hope'. We may do this virtually, or by getting to know our neighbours better through holding picnics on our doorsteps within calling distance of each other. It means we can build the relationships forged through Thursday gatherings when we appreciate our key workers, NHS staff, teachers, posties, grocers and so many more who have kept our country on its feet. It reminds us of the spirit of those who gave their lives so generously for the freedoms of their families and friends during the conflicts of the past. As we hold the silence and hear the Queen's message, we shall be giving our own thanks for their sacrifice, recognising the need for our own small sacrifices at this time in staying at home.

During this Easter season we are remembering the hope to be found in the Risen Christ. We can only imagine the bewilderment of the disciples when they found they were so soon to find Him gone into glory at the Ascension. As they waited for the promised Comforter, they reverted to the lockdown their fear had first imposed after Jesus' death. It was on that Pentecost Sunday that the gift of the Holy Spirit brought a freedom they could never have imagined.

During the **Novena from Ascension to Pentecost** we have in recent years joined in with the international and inter-denominational movement of **Thy Kingdom Come**, a commitment to pray daily for the coming of the Kingdom of God. It has been an opportunity for us to pray for specific people to know the freedom of the salvation that the Risen Christ brings. This year we have an added imperative to pray for our nation at this time of lockdown.

Bishops Peter and Ruth have been celebrating a diocesan Eucharist on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am each week through our diocesan website Facebook page. For Ascension we shall be moving this Wednesday Eucharist to the following day, 21 May, Ascension Day itself. Bishop Ruth will be celebrating at 10.30am and Bishop Peter will be speaking at the Cathedral Eucharist on the same day, at 5.15pm. Do join us if you are able.

Following the success of the Zoom 'Renewal of Vows' gatherings held with the clergy, we will be inviting a wider group, including Readers, to join us for some further Zoom gatherings during the Novena as we pray for the world and the coming of the Kingdom of God.

## Progress on the building works a message from the Chair of Trustees



1 - New chancel step

We are now three weeks into work on the East End so we thought that you might be interested in some more photos of the progress being made. *Photo 1* shows the framing of the new chancel step and extended platform, with the anchor points for the new altar rail now fitted; ( a very slow and skilled process). The pulpit sits in its new location with the front pew and kneeler removed from the main aisles; (they have been retained in the side aisles). The upright pipes used to feed the front radiators - the carpenter has to live with them until the plumbers return from furlough! *Photo 2* gives a perspective view of the East End showing the pulpit in its new location while *photo 3* shows a rather spacious West End now that the old choir stalls have been sold.



2 - Pulpit's new position



3 - West End uncluttered

In the meantime, **congratulations** if you have recently joined us for online services or Bible studies! If you still haven't taken the plunge but would like to have a go and need to have your hand held through the process of accessing Facebook or Zoom so that you too can join us online, do phone or write - or even email. New this week is the opportunity to join with others for morning prayer at 8 am every weekday. Email Lore, [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) for a zoom invitation.

## Social action in Bath and Sustainable Food Partnership

As you have probably heard by now, the Compassionate Community Hub is now operational across the whole of B&NES, with large numbers of volunteers who are being asked to provide support to people in need in their local areas.

If anyone needs support with buying food or medicines, and there is no local group that they can turn to, then they should send an email with the subject "Support" to [compassion@3sq.org.uk](mailto:compassion@3sq.org.uk) and the team will pick up your query within 24 hours.

Alternatively, telephone the **Banes Covid/Compassionate Community helpline 0300 247 0050**.

People wanting to register as a volunteer with Compassionate Community Hub should complete the form via this link: <http://bit.ly/communityvolunteersignup>.

3SG & the Sustainable Food Partnership have produced a list of local providers offering food to people across Bath and north east Somerset. You can find a comprehensive list [here](#).



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Please tell your older friends about **DAILY HOPE**. Daily Hope is a response to the nearly 3 million older people living in the UK who cannot access the internet and who now find themselves even more isolated and cut off from those around them. Many are struggling with anxiety and fear. Please tell older people who you know about Daily Hope. It's for people with no access to the internet. It's a FREE phone line so that they can listen to

hymns, prayers, daily reflections, and a choice of church services. When you phone, the call is answered by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Try it now! Thank you.



The Make lunch team is up and running delivering food parcels every Thursday. We still need volunteers to pack and prepare the food parcels. We're also going to need driving volunteers with access to their own car who will be willing to deliver up to 5 food parcels each week. If you would like to help contact:

**The Make Lunch Team ([makelunch@oasisbath.org](mailto:makelunch@oasisbath.org))**

**Bath 24/7 Prayer** - We have done the first half 25 days and are looking to increase the number of people praying! Thank you for those who have joined us on this united journey from many different churches across the city. There has never been a greater need to unite together in pray for our city, nation our world like now. Cover BATH in prayer 24 hours a day FOR 50 DAYS FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST+



Sign up for a slot for virtual 24-7 prayer by clicking here [bit.ly/50DOP](http://bit.ly/50DOP)

We have managed to set up a page for specific things to pray for concerning Bath (e.g. praying for Claverton Ward at the Bath Clinic for staff as they are self-isolating due to being in contact with covid19 and for the reopening of the ward)

So if you have any please email to [jawykes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jawykes@yahoo.co.uk)

## **A message from Genesis and Julian House**

Julian House, B&NES Council and DHI have worked together to house over 40 rough sleepers in accommodation.

Julian House have decamped to Manvers Street Hostel & have moved 10 of the 20 residents out into alternative accommodation which allows for people to isolate. So far symptoms have been low amongst the homeless population.

Staff and volunteers have worked and still are working long hours supporting really vulnerable people. Their work involves:

- Street Outreach continues: Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings.
- Rough Sleeper Drop In: Tuesday & Thursday from 2-4pm at the back of Manvers Street Hostel.
- Food daily at the back of Manvers St Hostel.

Julian House and Curo are also providing at least one meal a day, 7 days a week to their vulnerable residents in hostels and working with the Genesis foodbank to provide meals for people who have a history of sleeping rough.

**All this costs money. Please keep an eye on Julian House Facebook and Twitter for appeals for help and support.**

**Finally, as you clap on Thursday nights, say this prayer:**

### **“FATHER, HEAR THE PRAYER WE OFFER”**

Loving and restorative God,

We hold up to you in prayer those who are on the frontline to protect and care for us in this difficult time.

As the crisis drags on and spirits sag, strengthen them in body, mind and spirit.

As they worry about themselves, their families and their patients give them your peace that passes all understanding.

“Be our strength in hours of weakness

In our wanderings be our Guide

Through endeavour, failure, danger,

Saviour. Be Thou at our side.” Amen