

# Christ Church News

## MAY 2019



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## Welcome to Christ Church News

# HAPPY EASTER

We've had a wonderful Eastertide in Christ Church, with so many playing their part in the Holy Week Services of preparation for the festival and in the festival itself.

Thanks to all who supported us, organized, and took part in the various services. The flowers on Easter Sunday were really lovely, as was the singing of our augmented choir. It was great to welcome the Swedish young people on Easter Day and we thank all who provided food and entertainment for them.

As we move into our new season we have had to digest the news that not only will our two ordinands, Gareth and Matt, be leaving us in May and June respectively, but also our assistant priest, Jordan, will be leaving us in July. They have all been most supportive in everything we do here in Christ Church and we will miss them a great deal. In fact they have become a part of the furniture. Jordan will have completed his allotted three years with us, which has gone much too fast. Gareth has written inside a piece about his time with us.

In the weeks leading up to this edition there have been terrible events where many Christians have been killed in Sri Lanka, whilst celebrating the Easter Message of Love and Redemption.



**Our Swedish visitors**

Please pray for the persecuted Christians in our World for whom to celebrate Easter is done not only with Joy, but often with great cost..

Linda Alexander, Editor

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# Rev Trystan's Easter Sermon

**Today is a joyful day – Jesus is risen – Alleluia! His resurrection brings hope and promise in so many ways. Today is a joyful day because of the promise of resurrection in the future – death is not the end. Alleluia! Today is a joyful day because of the hope of new life now – it gives us hope to those suffering in this life – the grieving, the oppressed, the anxious, the ill, the imprisoned. Alleluia! Today is a joyful day because it holds new hope for the whole of creation – there will come a day when creation itself will be renewed and transformed. Today is a joyful day because it brings hope and promise for new life now for God's magnificent creation. Alleluia!**



We are often reminded at our churches about the hope that Easter brings to humankind, both in the future and the present. Rarely, though, do we hear about the hope that Easter brings to the whole of creation. Yet the biblical narrative insists this is the case and our Easter traditions are littered with reminders of this fact. In Jesus's first appearance, he is even mistaken for a gardener, and Christians have long used imagery from nature to remind us of his promise of new life – eggs, lambs, bunnies, and chicks. And that is before we consider the New Testament's insistence that, in Christ, the natural world finds its completion. "Behold I make all things new", as Revelation puts it (21:5). In other words, the most important moment in our faith, the resurrection, speaks directly into the most pressing challenge to our generation — climate change.

It was inspiring this week to see the reaction to the tragedy of the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. In the flames that we all witnessed in our screens, we had a symbol of helplessness, loss and sorrow – a crucifixion, if you like. On the streets of Paris, there were tears and lamentation, with the realisation that

something sacred was about to be lost to future generations. The horror and the disbelief, however, was soon transformed into something very different – a refusal to consign beauty to ashes and a desire to rebuild and give life to the smouldering, sacred ruins. It may take many years, but the cathedral will again become a symbol of hope, new life, and resurrection. Notre Dame will rise again. "Behold, I make all things new!"

But, of course, one majestic Cathedral is not "all things". Many other things are still broken in the world, and many other things are being destroyed



daily, not in accidental fire, but through greed, exploitation, and avarice. These things are being lost at a rate that is staggering and heartbreaking – rainforests, glaciers, whole species of insects, animals, fish, and birds. And the crisis, in changing our world's climate, is now also threatening human life across the world. Sandra, my wife, recounts the words of an RE teacher in her school in Germany: "we say to our grandparents "why didn't you do anything when the holocaust was happening?", but our grandchildren will say to us "why didn't you do anything when the environment was dying?" As in the burning Notre Dame, God's groaning, suffocating creation is another symbol of tragedy, loss, and sadness – another crucifixion. Something sacred is again about to be lost to future generations.

A few days ago, my 5-year-old son, Macsen, came to me and, out of nowhere, said: "when I grow up, daddy, and you die, can I have your grey bath towel?" I'm not sure about my bath towel, but it did get me thinking – what will we leave Macsen and his generation? In the distant future, I would love to be



able to say to them and their children and grandchildren:

“Yes, we rebuilt the wonderful Notre Dame for you, so you can visit to be filled with the grandeur of God’s glory. But we also did much, much more to show you the meaning of Easter Sunday and the resurrection. We fed the hungry, we freed the oppressed, we defeated racism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination and hatred, we brought comfort and hope to those who mourn, we offered peace to those who suffer, we gifted good news to those who feel despairing and hopeless, and we lived out the Easter promise of new life for all creation... and so we left for you clean seas full of fish not plastic, clean air for you to breathe, clean water for you to drink, and green and healthy forests brimming with foliage, animals, insects and birds.”

**“This is the mustard seed principle (Mark 4:39-32) small acts can lead to big change.”**

**I’d love to be able to say to them that our world became a symbol of hope, new life, and resurrection – that our planet has risen again.**

**“Behold, I make all things new!” Will we be able to say this to future generations?**

Today is all about good news, and there is good news here – it is not too late and resurrection is hardwired into nature. Plant a tree and things already start to change and be renewed. Yes, we desperately need wholesale changes by businesses and governments to combat climate change. But we also need to remember that our own little acts make a difference. As Pope Francis put it, in an encyclical on climate change that he presented as a gift to a visiting President Trump: “an integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness”. He then lists some of those little acts that can make a difference, that can help bring new life, hope, and resurrection to the natural world

– using public transport, car-pooling, planting trees, turning off lights, recycling, and so on. As the activist Howard Zinn wrote: “we don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change – small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world”. This is the mustard seed principle (Mark 4:39-32) – small acts can lead to big change. After all, a snowflake never feels responsible for an avalanche, but every snowflake is making a difference.

Today is Easter Day, tomorrow will be Earth Day, as it is every April 22nd. Both days speak of new life and new hope. A BBC News report earlier this week said of Notre Dame: “this gift to all humanity will rise again”. And that is true. Within a decade, that wonderful cathedral’s bells will ring again, worship and praise will again resound from its pews, and its art and architecture will again speak to people of God’s glory. But we are called to ensure that creation, God’s ultimate gift to humanity, will also rise again. That is our mission, that is our challenge. By acting as God’s hands and feet, even in our smallest actions, we can affirm that all things will be made new. As **Eric Liddell, who won gold in the Paris Olympics in 1924, detailed in the Oscar-Winning film Chariots of Fire, wrote: “God is not helpless among the ruins... God’s love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.” Behold God makes all things new. He is risen. Alleluia!**





# PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER DAY



**Palm Sunday Blessing of Palm Crosses**



**Washing our feet**



**EASTER SUNDAY Everyone proclaiming the Resurrected Christ.  
THANK YOU SUE & JANE, TO OUR MUSICIANS AND SUPERB CHORISTERS**



**Messy Church proclaiming "JESUS IS ALIVE"**



(Clockwise)  
**Mia, Lena ,  
Macsen ,  
Sandra  
and Immy**



# Gareth Erlandson's thoughts on being an ordinand with us



**It is with a mixture of emotions that I sit down to write this farewell message to the wonderful community of Christ Church.**

Firstly, happiness and fondness as I think of some of the amazing times I've had with you all over the last 18 months or so. Some of my favourites have included afternoon parties with the Good Companions, Sunday nights with the J Walkers, some fantastic carol services with the choir, Linda's carols and mince pie evenings, and challenging theological discussions in Connexion group and Alpha meetings. And none of that even scratches the surface of the fellowship and guidance I've been given not just by the church leadership, but the whole congregation on a weekly basis. The welcome I've received from the community has been second-to-none.

**"The welcome I've received from the community has been second-to-none."**

And that leads me on to my second emotion – that of sadness. It would be impossible to contemplate leaving such a caring, vibrant and loving group of people without feeling at least a twinge of sorrow (and I must admit to feeling more than a twinge). I will miss so much about this church – the relaxed but reverent approach to worship, the truly diverse range of people, the care everyone shows for each other. I will greatly miss all these things and more.

Of course, time marches on and, for myself and Shavonne, these emotions are blended with a sense of excitement for the next chapter of our lives. But even for that chapter we owe you all a great debt of thanks.

I have learnt so much from you all that has helped prepared me for my new ministry in North Wales and Shavonne has encountered a reassuringly warm welcome from you all that

**"excitement for the next chapter of our lives."**

fills her with hope, because even if she encounters just a fraction of that warmth in our next parish, she will be greatly blessed. We move on having made some friendships that we know will go on beyond our relatively short time with you.



As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, *for everything there is a purpose, and a season for every matter under heaven.*

**On 19<sup>th</sup> May, my season at Christ Church draws to a close, but a new one is about to begin. I really hope lots of you can make one of the services on that Sunday so I can wish you goodbye personally and leave you with my blessings. Gareth**

*We have all really warmed to you both and will be very sad to see you go. We wish you God's best in your new Parish.*



# "...My Father is the Gardener"

John 15:1



**THANK YOU BOB & GAYE FOR  
CARING FOR OUR GARDEN**



You may have noticed that the front garden of Christ Church is always beautifully kept. Two of our congregation, quietly work ceaselessly to keep it in order, they are **Gaye and Bob Hibbert**. They have recently re-sown the grass and planted up the area by the bike stands. The two wonderful containers of tulips by the church steps are their handiwork too. There are many unsung heroes in Christ Church and we want to thank Bob and Gaye for their hard work which enhances our church building so much.

## **EASTER FLOWERS**



**Our thanks go to all who provided the wonderful displays of Easter Flowers. Our church cycle means that after the paucity of Lent with no flowers, we suddenly burst forth with the amazing Easter displays.**

**Thanks to all who provided their time and effort in arranging them so beautifully.**





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**Priest in charge: Rev. Dr Trystan Owain Hughes Tel: 029 20758588**

**Curate: Rev. Dr Jordan Hillebert Tel: 07936 288330**

**Lay Reader   Dominic DeSaulles**

**Parish Secretary Denise Searle: at Parish Office**

**Parish Office/Hall Enquiries Tel: 029 20763151**

**Church Wardens**

**Haydn Hopkins Tel: 029 20621280**

**Colin Francis Tel: 029 20751773**

**PCC Secretary** Judith Hill 029 20758080

**Treasurer**   John Hodgson  029 20764485

**Gift Aid Secretary** Gerald Bradnum 029 20751177

**Electoral Roll Officer** David Alexander 029 20759704

**Sacristan** Len Bowker Tel: 029 20758493  
Roy Dowell 029 2048265

**Flowers:** The Flower Group   Contact Mary   Payne  
07813551152

**IT support**   Richard Hill 02920 758080

**Christ Church News Editor** Linda Alexander 07814759559  
email : linda@familyalexander.co.uk

**Choir and Youth Choir :** Contact Sue Hurrell: 029 20485171

**Music at Christ Church** is coordinated by Sue Hurrell & Jane Roberts [Youth choir and main choir rehearse separately once a month: youth choir on Tuesday evenings and main choir after the 10am Sunday service. We'd be delighted to welcome new musicians and choir members.

**email : hurrell.sue@gmail.com**

**Church Society (Talk & Buffet)**

As advertised, on various Wednesdays in the Hall. Open to all, family and friends.   Contact: Howard Kilvington   02920 317301

**Ladies Keep Fit**   Light exercise. Mondays 7:30pm

Contact: Gill Kilvington 02920 317301

### **CHILDRENS & YOUTH WORK**

**Chatterbox** Parents & Toddlers – every Thursday  
1:30pm – 3:00pm in the hall.

Contact: Ann Francis Tel 029 20751773

**FUNKY Church** age up to 11 meets each Sunday  
during the service except for Family service.

Contact: Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021

Sandra Hughes Tel: 029 20758588

**Messy Church**

Contact: Linda Alexander Tel: 07814759559

**Youth Club J Walkers** age 11– 18

Sandra Hughes  029 20758588

**Child Protection Officer**

Contact: Colin Francis Tel: 02920 751773

### **ConneXion Groups.....**

Meet monthly at various times and in various houses. Contact the Parish office for more information.

**Good Companions** Tuesdays 2:00pm– 4.00pm

Contact: Val Jones, Alison Peters or Julia Matthews

Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021

Alison Peters 029 20761277

Julia Matthews 029 21157213

### **SCOUTS**

**Beavers**

Thursday 5:30pm

**Cubs**

Wednesday 6:15pm **Scouts – 84th Cardiff**

Wednesdays 7:30pm

ALL INFORMATION FROM

Geoff Payne

Telephone: 02920 756577

OR Caryl Roach, 02920 754463

**Rainbows** in the church hall

Tuesdays 5:00pm

Contact: Emma Lane Tel 02920 750675