

# Christ Church News

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## ALPHA ONLINE

We are really excited to be running an Alpha Online course starting on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

What is Alpha? Alpha is the place to ask life's big questions and explore the Christian faith. Questions such as:

- What is my purpose? What happens when I die? Why is there suffering? Who is Jesus?

Who is it for? Alpha is for everyone. Whatever your age. It is the place to go whether you have no faith at all right now, or whether you are asking questions about life and faith, or even whether you are already a Christian but want to explore some of these big questions more.

What happens? Alpha is a fun, no-pressure environment to ask these questions and explore the Christian faith. Each session starts with a short film followed by a discussion where you can chat through your thoughts and questions with a small group of people. As it's an online Alpha course, we'll be doing it over Zoom.

When is it happening? It will be running on each Thursday from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> May except for 1<sup>st</sup> April (Easter), plus one Saturday session on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The sessions will start at 19.30 and will finish by 21.00 latest.

How do you sign up? Registration couldn't be simpler. Just go onto the Christ Church website, click the Alpha button and fill in your contact details. You'll then receive a Zoom link for joining. ([OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#))

What can I do now? Alpha works best by personal invitation. So, please think and pray about who you could invite – family members, neighbours, friends, work or school / university colleagues.

And finally. We've run Alpha before as physical in-church courses. But all the feedback from Alpha is that this alternative online version works really well. It's easier and less pressured for people to come and participate in and so do please think about who you might invite, and let's see what the Lord will do. If you have any questions, then do please get in touch – [terence.russoff@cccw.ora.uk](mailto:terence.russoff@cccw.ora.uk)

# CHRIST CHURCH CHORLEYWOOD

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> Feb 9.30am

Joel 2 v 24-29

Join us at 9.30am on Wednesday on line for our traditional Ash Wednesday service marking the start of Lent. A short (approx. 30 min) contemplative service of prayer and a talk led by Graham Naylor-Smith.

Find the service over on You Tube [our You Tube channel \(click here\)](#)

## MORNING SERMON TOPICS

21<sup>st</sup> February: The Faith of the Centurion  
Matthew 8 v 5-13

28<sup>th</sup> February: The Healing of many  
Matthew 8 v14-17

Services can be accessed via our [You Tube channel \(click here\)](#) and also on Facebook

Points for discussion (for personal or home group use) are available on the website <https://cccw.org.uk/question-for-home-group-use/> and published in this newsletter afterwards – see back pages.

## ALL STAR KIDS RADIO – THIS WEEK!

Our lovely ministry trainees are involved in this fantastic initiative – a kid's radio station online, broadcasting all week for half term from 7.30am.

Find the station on your Alexa, or on [All star kids website](#) with music, challenges, competitions and fun – and at 12 noon each day you can hear the Big Lunch Show with our very own Alistair, Josh and Adam.

## CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL NURSERY ADMISSIONS Sept 2021

All applications to the nursery class at Christ Church Chorleywood C of E School are now made directly to the school. The local authority no longer supports an online nursery application process. Full details are available on the school website: [www.christchurchschool.herts.sch.uk](http://www.christchurchschool.herts.sch.uk) following the 'Admissions' link.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the school are unable to conduct tours in person, but there is a virtual tour of the nursery and school available on the website.

To apply for a place, you will be required to complete the schools own application form which will be the only method for applying for a nursery place for your child.

- This form must be completed by the parents/carers and returned directly to the school.
- The process for applying to the nursery commenced Monday 1st February 2021.
- All parents considering applying under the Church Worship Criterion must also submit a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and Confirmation of Worship Form (CoW), by the closing date, Monday 1st March 2021.
- All forms are available to download from our website

Should you have any queries about the nursery admissions process please contact Mrs Alison Cottle (Monday - Wednesday) by email: [admissions@christchurchschool.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@christchurchschool.herts.sch.uk).

## CHURCH SUITE

For the last 12 months we have been using a new tool to help us manage our database, calendar, rotas, giving and more. Church Suite also has a fantastic function for church members, called My Church Suite. From this site, which also has an app you can download, you can check your personal details and update them, see the calendar. If you are in a specific group or committee the calendar is personalised to allow you to see your meetings. You can look at your home group and contact members without having to share personal details if you do not want to, and check rotas and arrange swaps.

Some of the data in the system to do with home groups is still a work in progress, but the more members who sign up and use it, the better it will be. If you want to be able to access My Church Suite please contact [sarah.wright@cccw.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wright@cccw.org.uk).

## 8.30am SERVICE VIRTUAL BREAKFASTS

After the success of the virtual breakfast on 7<sup>th</sup> February, we will continue to host these monthly on zoom.

Sign up at any time to receive the zoom code for the next breakfast for an informal chat and then a thought for the day after the 8.30am service broadcast. This is a great way to reconnect with the people who usually attend the 8.30, and to meet new people if you have joined us during lockdown.

Sign up [here](#) or via calendar for next one on 7<sup>th</sup> March

## PRIME TIMERS RETURNS!

PRIME TIMERS: A group for those seniors in the Prime of Life, a social gathering in a Christian context, with Fun, Fellowship and Friendship

### Zooming and Quizzing

We can't meet face to face, but we can meet online. If you'd like to join us for some social interaction over Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month, please sign up via the relevant date on the Church Calendar, clicking on the entry at that date, or by clicking on this link:

### [Sign up to prime timers](#)

Our next session on zoom is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am – click the above link to be sent the zoom code.

Or if you'd like to join in with our regular email quizzes please contact the church office on 01923 282149 or email [office@cccw.org.uk](mailto:office@cccw.org.uk)

## WORRY

### What to do with Worry?

As we have now reached February 2021 and we are almost a year into the pandemic I think we are all getting very weary of trying to remain resilient. Despite the vaccine and the snowdrops pushing up through the soil, and the fact that we have had Christmas (well sort of), it is still really hard to keep going at times and remain positive!

Personally, I am relieved that my parents (in their 80's) have had their vaccines but they still have to wait until April for the second dose and that feels a long way off. Some of you will be in the same position, or a lot further down the list, before you will receive yours and it is worrying. Others of you may be worried about having the vaccine at all.

So, I thought it might be useful to look at worrying and how we can help ourselves to worry less ...

Firstly, there are two types of worries – SOLVABLE worries and FLOATING worries and it is the floating worries, the things that haven't even happened yet, or things from the past, that take up the majority of our time and head space. 90% of our worries are floating worries and usually we cannot do a thing about them because they are out of our control.

Solvable worries (as the name suggests) are the 10%, and they are the worries that we can turn into a problem and hence begin to solve. Try, if you can, to let go of the floating worries and attend to the 10% that you do have some control over.

Next, I like the acronym FEAR – Fake Evidence Appearing Real – it can 'feel' when we are worrying that we are doing something useful, when actually it is not helping very much at all. For some of us our internal systems are working over-time which is when worry turns into anxiety and anxiety over a pro-longed period of time can be extremely debilitating.

So, just because something 'feels' important, it doesn't necessarily mean there is anything to attend to. This is because our feelings follow, and are linked to, our thoughts. If our head is full of worrying or 'floating' thoughts, we begin to feel bad and then we may react and behave in relation to our feelings, rather than working out that the feeling is a direct result of a negative automatic thought.

So to reiterate ... just because something 'feels' important it does not necessarily mean there is anything to attend to.

A word about NEGATIVITY BIAS, this is when we tune into the difficult, worrying, scary stuff and tend to not really notice the good things. For example, the dreaded school report ... there might have been 5 good comments about our work and 1 negative comment and often it is the negative comment that we remember. Or, at the end of the day, rather than being pleased with what we have achieved, we are disappointed, or we may focus and worry about the things we didn't manage to get done. Right now, we need to keep tuning in to the good stuff!

Finally, we all know that suffering and adversity is part of life but knowing that does not make it easier to bear and with COVID there have been no quick fixes. We may sometimes feel that God is far away or even absent. However, Jesus knew about suffering (unfairly and undeservedly) and there is some comfort in this for us. He too has walked these painful, worrisome journeys and he is with us now and always. This too will pass, and until it does we will keep praying and trusting in our faithful Lord and encouraging one another.

God bless you,

Tracy (Brown) – Pastoral Minister

Building for eternity - Matthew 7 v 24-29

A: Jesus in action

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

(Colossians 1:15-20) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

*Question 1: What aspects of this description of Jesus most surprise you?*

B: A foolish builder in action

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

*Question 2: What do you feel about David's thoughts on the possible symbolic meaning of the different aspects of the storm?*

(Daniel 2:31-44) “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. <sup>32</sup> The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <sup>34</sup> As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. <sup>37</sup> You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, <sup>38</sup> and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. <sup>39</sup> Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup> And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. <sup>41</sup> And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. <sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. *(continued over page)*

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever.

**Question 3:** What kind of compromises were going to cause the destruction of the kingdom?

(1 Corinthians 3 v11-15) “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup> If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”

**Question 4:** How does this passage describe how God’s judgement will affect the believer?

**C: A wise builder in action**

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

(Jude 20-21) But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

**Question 5:** What would taking proper responsibility for our own spiritual development look like?

(Ephesians 2:21-22) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Question 6:** What are the joys and sorrows of regarding other Christians as part of your family?

(1 Peter 2:4-5) As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Question 7:** What does participating in Christian worship as a contributor rather than a consumer look like?

(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

**Question 8:** How are we expected to feel about eternity as people who build on the rock?

(Habbakkuk 3:17-18) “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines...I will rejoice in the Lord”

**Question 9:** How might a right attitude to eternity affect our attitude to life and its problems?

## For use in your bible study and home groups:

Sermon notes from – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (Anne Lovegrove)

### God's power to heal – Matthew 8 1-4

1. When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.
  - i. What do you think motivated the crowd to continue following Jesus?
  - ii. People avidly follow the lives of sports personalities, pop stars, philosophers, politicians, fashion icons etc. What do you think attracts them to do this?
  - iii. Would you be able to express to others what makes you follow Jesus?
2. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.'
  - i. How would you describe the leper's attitude towards Jesus?
  - ii. What would you say about his character – given that he had leprosy and that there were large crowds?
  - iii. What would you be able to learn from this poor and needy man?
3. And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean."
  - i. There is a whole chapter devoted to leprosy and other types of skin diseases in Leviticus 13 (59 verses!). Do you think it was necessary for Jesus to touch the man in order to heal him?
  - ii. Leviticus 13 v 45: "The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean. ...' He shall live alone." Can you think of similar cases of deprivation that some people experience today?
  - iii. What kind of ways might we help them – especially in lockdown?
4. And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."
  - i. Jesus told the man not to say anything to anyone because he didn't want people to think that he had come just to be a miracle worker. If we have been healed in some way, whether it's through prayer or medical intervention, have we been eager to share this with others? Would you find it possible to share your experiences now?
  - ii. The leper had to offer sacrifices as part of the prescribed cleansing ritual for uncleanness. Spend a few moments reading the following from Romans 5 v 6 - 9, praying for understanding and then turning it into prayers of praise:

*<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*