

Christ Church News

7th September 2021

CHRIST CHURCH CHORLEYWOOD

YOUTH AND KIDS!

Whilst the Toddler groups restart this week, our usual youth and kids programmes will be back in full swing next week. The calendar on the website has everything on it, but here's a reminder.

Mondays from 13th September:

Going Deeper – Y6, 6.15 – 7.45pm including a meal. Please sign up using [this link](#) and make sure we know about any food allergies.

Wednesdays from 15th September:

Lighthouse (years 1-3) 3.30 – 4.45pm

Midweek Youth (REAL and YPF) 7-9pm

Thursdays from 16th September:

Illuminate (years 4 and 5) 3.30- 5pm

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion – in person service and on line. [Click here](#) to attend

10.30am Morning Worship – in person service IN THE CHURCHYARD and online. [Click here](#) to sign up to attend the in person service.

6.00pm Evening Service – in person and live streamed – [click here](#) to sign up to attend the in person service.

SERVICE THEMES

12TH The parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price
Matthew 13 v44-46

19TH HARVEST: The parable of the sower
Matthew 13 v1-23

Message from Laura Joiner - Pastoral Assistant

Dear Friends,

I do hope that you've all had a restful time over Summer and are feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Now we are all settling back into to our usual routines, I thought it may be useful to update how the Pastoral Team will be operating whilst Tracy is away on sabbatical.

Tracy mentioned in her July message that I would be covering for her. For those who don't know me, I have been working alongside Tracy, as the Christ Church Pastoral Team, for almost 5 years now and, as she alluded to, I too have found being involved in so many of your lives, an absolute privilege. I will endeavour to continue with the same love, compassion, professionalism and faith that Tracy has always displayed, as we navigate our way through life together, particularly as we hopefully begin to return to a somewhat normal life! In order to manage the various pastoral needs of the church family, I have been blessed with an excellent core of volunteers who are long-standing, trusted members of the Christ Church family, to assist me until Tracy returns in November.

If you would like to get in touch, please either email me; Laura.Joiner@cccw.org.uk, or telephone the church office on 01923 282149. I will be available during the week within the following hours: Monday 10.30am-3.30pm, Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday 9.30am-4pm, Thursday 10.30am-3.30pm.

With love and blessings to you all. Laura

PRIME TIMERS RETURN!

A group for those in the Prime of Life* – a social gathering in a Christian context, with Fun, Fellowship and Friendship

If you'd like to join us, we are planning to return to meeting 'in-person' at church in The Junction, on Wednesday 6th of October 2021, and each first Wednesday of the month thereafter. In order to keep everyone safe, and because refreshments will be served, the requirement will be that you have been double vaccinated. If you have not been vaccinated due to significant health conditions OR personal choice, we will require that a Lateral Flow Test is done the day before the event, with the evidence brought with you of a negative test result.

The sign-up for this will be available from early September via the Church Calendar by clicking on the entry at that date (ALSO HERE - [CLICK FOR THE LINK](#)). Please do keep an eye open for further information!

(*65 and over)

RICHARD WILSON

A Thanksgiving Service will be held for the life of Richard Wilson at St Andrew's church on Wednesday, 8th September at 11.00. Richard was a regular attender at our monthly Prime Timers lunches and was a well-recognised resident of Chorleywood where he had lived for most of his life. All are welcome to attend the service.

HARVEST SERVICE

Our Annual Harvest Supper will once again not be taking place this year as we remain cautious in respect of Covid-19. We will however be making a collection to be split between the Rickmansworth food bank and New Hope Watford on the weekend of 17-19th September as we celebrate Harvest festival. [Click here to go to the donation page](#). (Donation pages can be found on the website www.cccw.org.uk, or given at church in an envelope marked 'harvest')

Annual Bereavement Service -

We will be holding our annual Bereavement Service on Sunday the 19th of September at 3pm in the Church. It will be a very gentle service of remembrance, including the lighting of a candle and a roll call of names of those we are remembering. If you would like to attend please do get in touch with the church office on 01923 282149, or email office@cccw.org.uk, (please include the name of the person you would like included on the roll call). Sign-up is also available via the church website via the Bereavement service page [link](#).

MARY TOMS

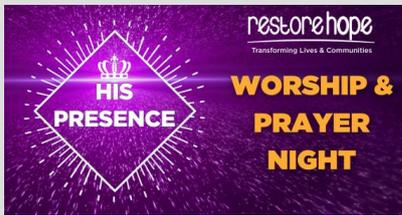
It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Mary Toms, beloved mum to Stewart, Kelvin, and Sarah, grandmother to Christopher, Alexander, Elise, Luke and great grandmother to Cullen, who went home to be with her Heavenly Father on Tuesday 31st August. Mary was a stalwart of our Christ Church family regularly attending the 8.30 service, and was a popular member of The Lunch in the Junction club. She will be sorely missed by us all.

A memorial service will be held in Christ Church, date as yet to be decided.

GRACE's shop!

One of our very talented young people, Grace Barrett (you may have seen her in the 6pm worship band) has created a series of encouraging and beautiful thank you cards and spiritual cards. She has an online shop on Etsy and is raising money for the charity Everylife who work in disadvantaged communities around the world. For every purchase of cards a donation is made in their name! Take a look at her shop here: <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/itsbygracedesigns>





Restore Hope are excited to be able to announce their next "His Presence" worship evening and we would love to invite you to join them for an evening of worship, prayer and celebration in their Marquee.

As always, this is a FREE event, however pre-booking is essential. Places can be booked here:

www.HisPresenceWorshipNight.eventbrite.co.uk.

The event will be open from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Please be assured that Restore Hope are continuing to operate a Covid-secure venue for the protection of everyone on site. (Please note that it is advisable to dress warmly as it may well be chilly in the Marquee!)

It is so exciting to be able to worship together again, and the folk at Restore Hope look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 24th September!



Fulfilled lives for people with learning disabilities

We're Looking for Volunteers!

Would you like to be part of an exciting new training scheme for young adults with learning disabilities - or do you know someone who would? We are looking for volunteers who can spend up to four hours per day (on one, two or three weekdays) as a volunteer, helping to train six young people on our new Supported Internship programme, based in Chorleywood

You don't need a long list of qualifications, just good communication skills, a sense of humour and some experience of working with young adults with a learning disability. In return, you will be part of a lively team and will be supported by our Training Manager, Cass Langham.

If you would like to know more, please click here:

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEW LAZARUS BOX PROJECT

Kenyan Children's Project is an existing preferred mission organisation. They are building a facility called Imani in Kakamega and Christ Church is going to help with the funding of this large capital project.

The Crisis Centre will be able to provide up to 96 vulnerable children temporary residential care, at any one time. They are also building a Trauma Recovery & Family Strengthening Centre, a facility for education, a large dining hall, two administrations blocks, a kitchen and a children's play area. The Crisis Centre will be a place where children have an opportunity to break free from the trauma of the past, and receive empowerment and support for a brighter future. Imani is also hosting significant outreaches and training events, impacting the lives of hundreds of widows and community leaders and they have built a large community Kibanda, with a capacity to seat 250 people. They are also currently farming 5 acres of land to produce crops to benefit the children rescued and the wider community

For more detail, look at :-

<https://www.thekcp.org/imani> (scroll on towards the bottom of the page for the information!)

To give to the Lazarus box appeal, go the church website or to <https://christchurchorleywood.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/kl3ozhty>





Prayer Diary September 2021

'Do not judge, or you too will be judged. Matthew 7:1

Am I alone in finding it far too easy to see the faults in others and criticising them? Jesus is very clear in warning us against this attitude and behaviour. Of course He is not telling us to ignore wrong behaviour but rather warning us against judging the person who "seems to be in the wrong" along with the wrong-doing.

What we need to remember is that we are in no position to judge and criticise the person since we do not know what lies behind the action. Perhaps the wrong-doer has suffered from rejection as a child, or the reckless driver is desperately trying to get someone to hospital. This is not to condone the wrong action but to love one's neighbour enough to leave any judgement to God who knows all the circumstances.

Let's not be judgemental *"for in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged,"*

Let us start by praying together that we maintain an open mind when dealing with others & an open heart to reach out to them.

Thank you Lord for providing all the volunteers that have served over the holiday period, which can sometimes be a time difficult to cover due to child care. We particularly give thanks for J a young man who faithfully came every week for the past year, grew in confidence & is now starting an apprenticeship. Please pray that he settles in well both to the work & academic environment.

Please pray for new beginning for other clients that are struggling with anxiety & mental health issues which is impeding their success in securing a job.

Over the summer many families have come to the various distribution points of our foodbank network, often telling their stories of difficulties. Praise the Lord that they feel safe & comfortable to open up how they are feeling & coping. Pray that we maintain that listening ear & watchful eye to help relieve their burdens.

The café is due to re-open in Sept. so please continue to pray for ex regular clients as they consider returning to the café, that good relationships & rapport may be re-established. Pray for safety & good health of all involved.

As the healthy hub evolves, now offering a monthly specialised outreach worker specifically for domestic abuse. MECT has a new volunteer offering mentoring, pray that she settles in well, easing her way into the café environment, which previously has been volatile between clients at times. We have a few new volunteers commencing- let's pray they settle in well & feel part of the team, as we witness our faith by serving others wholeheartedly.

Finally please pray for MECT & the Methodist church as we discuss the new possibilities following their conference and options for us to realistically pursue together regarding the premises.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME GROUP USE

5 September 2021

Parables of how the kingdom grows – Matthew 13:31-35

³¹He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” ³⁴All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

Opening discussion – our reflections on world events

Question 1: When you see or hear disheartening news (e.g. Afghanistan, ever-growing secularisation), how does it make you feel about Jesus’ promises about triumph of Kingdom of God? How does it impact your faith and witness?

Jesus’ use of parables – Jesus deliberately teaches using parables.

Question 2: What is a parable and why does Jesus choose to teach in this way (vv34-35)?

Question 3: To what extent should we seek to assign spiritual significance / meaning to all the details of a parable (especially when Jesus does not explain the parables as is the case here compared with other parables in Matthew 13 – e.g. parable of the sower or the parable of the wheat and weeds)?

Question 4: Consider the details of the two parables in vv31-33. To what extent do all the details have spiritual significance (e.g. use of grain of mustard; birds perching in branches mustard plant; woman taking three measures of flour) or are they just there to establish the salient point of the parable story?

Encouraging our faith – Jesus uses these parables both to ensure we have realistic expectations about the future, but also to encourage his hearers and our faith.

Question 5: But what actually is faith? How do we build lasting faith? Why is it so difficult just to will / force ourselves to have more faith? Look at Hebrews 11:1 & 6.

How the Kingdom of Heaven grows – Matthew 13 contains a series of parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. These two parables in vv31-33 focus on the particular ways in which the Kingdom of Heaven grows.

Question 6: What are these particular ways in vv31-33? Question 7: To what extent have you seen these demonstrated – historically, in church, in your own life and family?

Question 8: What insights may Jesus be teaching about how we should live and serve the Lord through these two parables?

Question 9: How do these two parables fit with the other parables about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13? What total picture do we get?

Question 10: Are there areas right now or in the past where you are struggling / have struggled to see God at work or where there are seeds that don’t / didn’t seem to be growing? How might you / did you face this?

QUESTIONS FOR HOME GROUP USE

29 August 2021

Jesus Sends out the 12 Apostles – Matthew 10:1-15

Mission

Mt 10 ¹ And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out ,...

Question 1: Is there any time when it feels God has “sent you out” in a way you felt totally unprepared for? How did things turn out in the end?

Question 2: What makes one a disciple of Jesus in the church today? Is there any difference in the nature of discipleship between the 12 Disciples and Christians of today?

Question 3: Jesus gave the 12 disciples authority over unclean spirits and to heal every disease. To what extent do we have that same authority? How might we know?

⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,[b] cast out demons.

Question 4: What relevance is this type of evangelism to our own mission in life?

Hospitality

Mt 10 ¹¹And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it,...

Rom 12 ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

Heb 13 ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

1 Pet 4 ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Question 5: How did hospitality contribute to the mission of the early church? Why are things sometimes so different today?

Question 6: In what ways should offering hospitality be part of our own mission? Are there aspects of this we might need to consider further? Progressive Discipleship From the sermon: Jesus was teaching the disciples using the “see it, do it, teach it” model

Question 7: To what extent does this represent a model of maturing discipleship? What might this model not address?

Question 8: “See it” - How do we currently determine what Jesus did (as a model for our own discipleship)? How might we achieve this understanding using a better approach?

Question 9: “Do it” – To what degree do we have clarity in our personal mission? Do we need help in discerning God’s mission for us? To what extent are our skills, talents and resources available and/or used for Kingdom work?

Question 10: “Teach it” – To what extent do we have the spiritual maturity and skills to teach or lead within the church community? How do we determine what aspect of these we should next develop? What element of church life might we consider leading?

A Prayer:

Lord, lead me love you more deeply. Guide me to thrive in life and grow more firmly rooted as a disciple of Christ. Please show me the mission that you are calling me to within your world as your disciple and empower me to pursue it with all my God-given skill, talent and resources. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.