The Grapevine



November 2020

50p

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church, West Didsbury & St. Christopher's Withington







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ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

13 Moorgate Ave, Withington M20 1HE

Regular Worship

Christ Church

SUNDAY

11.00am Eucharist

(see page 4 for details)

MONDAY

9.30am **Morning Prayer**

(Church open at 9.00am for quiet prayer)

WEDNESDAY

9.30am **Morning Prayer**

(Church open at 9.00am for quiet prayer)

7.30pm Said Eucharist

St Christopher's

SUNDAY

9.30am **Eucharist**

(see page 4 for details)

TUESDAY

9.30am **Morning Prayer**

(Church open at 9.00am for quiet prayer)

THURSDAY

9.30am **Morning Prayer**

(Church open at 9.00am for guiet prayer)

The November Diary

1st All Saints'

9.30 a.m. **Eucharist** at St. Christopher's **Eucharist** at Christ Church

3.00 p.m. All Souls Memorial Service at Christ Church

3rd 7.30 p.m. **Deanery Synod (via Zoom)**

6th 8 p.m. Anne P. and Ann M 'Sleep Out' at Christ Church

7th 2 p.m. **Musicians rehearse** at Christ Church

8th Remembrance Sunday

9.30 a.m.
11 a.m.
12.30 p.m.
Eucharist at St. Christopher's Eucharist at Christ Church
Baptism at Christ Church

1.30 p.m. William Byrd Singers rehearse at Christ Church Hall

15th St. Luke the Evangelist

9.30 a.m. **Eucharist** at St. Christopher's **Eucharist** at Christ Church

1.30 p.m. William Byrd Singers rehearse at Christ Church

17th 11.30 a.m. CWTID meet via Zoom

22nd Christ the King

11 a.m. **Joint Eucharist** at Christ Church for our Patronal

Festival

1.30 p.m. William Byrd Singers rehearse at Christ Church

29th Advent Sunday

9.30 a.m. Eucharist at St. Christopher's11 a.m. Eucharist at Christ Church

Brass Cleaning

November 7 Marion Davies and Joyce Dixon

November 21 Margaret McMorran and Liz Chalmers

December 5 Debbie Bradbury and Jill Evans
December 19 Jean Weaving and Barbra Malone

Please have a word with Marion Davies or Barbra Malone if you think you could help on an occasional Saturday morning.

Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards church flowers, please see Joan White

Open Church

Please remember that Christ Church is open every Wednesday and Saturday morning from 10.00am - 12.00pm.

We are always in need of volunteers to staff the building during this time and to greet visitors etc.

Please speak to or email Anne if you think you might be able to spare a couple of hours once a month.

A MESSAGE FROM ANNE SHELLEY

I knit blankets for Guide Dog puppies.

Please has anyone got any wool they no longer need? I can use small amounts as well as larger ones and any thickness, except chunky.

I am happy to pick it up at church or collect it from you at home.

Anne Shelley

Curate's Letter

The Revd. Tom Studman

Dear friends

On the 4th of October I was ordained as a priest. I begin this next phase of my journey in very strange times. Despite the radical differences we all face in our lifestyle, I have found God to be consistently the same, faithful, and sure.

I was ordained by Bishop David at Manchester Cathedral and despite the different times we live in, the service words were the same. I stood before the bishop and heard him speak out the calling of priests. I am called to be a servant, shepherd, a messenger, watchman, steward, and a proclaimer of Good News. I have been called to teach and to preach and declare God's might acts. I have the privilege of presiding at the Lord's table, sharing communion, as we worship together. I am called to lead us to worship and offer our praise and thanksgiving. My priesting calls me to bless God's people, support the weak, defend the poor and intercede for all in need. I am to minister to the sick and the dying. Guided by the Spirit I am to encourage all God's people to discern



and foster their gifts. In many ways this a weighty calling but I continue this journey with faith that God is by my side. With God's help I will live out my calling. It is a privilege to start to do this here in West Didsbury and Withington with you all. When what lies ahead seems challenging, it is a great comfort to know God is with us and will help us.

As much as my priesting was a special moment for me, it was a moment that prompts us all to remember God's call to each of us. We are a royal priesthood. A people loved by God and called to delight in Him and declare His wonderful deeds. He has called us all into His wonderful light and hope. Because of God's great love for us, His Holy Spirt dwells with us and permeates creation. Together we can grow to love and know Him more. So, as we face the journey ahead, let us be confident that God is with us. Neither you nor I need to depend on our own strength. Like Saint Paul, we can say,

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

May the God who gives us our daily bread, sustain, and keep us in these difficult times.

What's Happening...

The Big Sleep out

On Friday 6th November Anne P and Ann M will be 'camping out' in Christ Church (without heating!) as part of 'The Big Sleep Out' to raise money for the Booth Centre.

The Booth Centre has this to say:

Our commitment to supporting people into permanent homes has never been needed more than it is now. During lockdown lots more people were able to access single room accommodation, receive 3 healthy meals a day and regular wellbeing check-ins. Now, these people need homes. We know that getting the keys to your own front door isn't the end of the story; our holistic approach supports people to not just start a tenancy but to maintain it so that the cycle of homelessness can end.

Join us in our mission to end homelessness in all its forms. www.boothcentre.org.uk/manchester-sleepout.html Sponsor forms available at both churches

All Souls Memorial Service

A service to remember those we have loved but see no longer will be held at Christ Church on Sunday the 1st November at 3 p.m. Please put the names of those you would like to be remembered on the lists which are available at both churches, or give Anne a call on 0161 445 4152

Advent Gift Day

Our Christmas Fair usually takes place on Advent Sunday and raises a considerable amount for Parish funds. Unfortunately this will not be happening this year. The PCC have decided to have an Advent Gift Day in lieu of the Fair and we would like you to consider making a contribution based on what you might have spent either buying goods at the Fair or supplying them! Gift Day Envelopes will be available at both churches soon.

Christmas Gifts

Once again we will be collecting gifts for those families fleeing domestic violence this Christmas. New items only please.

Gifts needed for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers, and nice food for the children and adults.

Please bring them along on Advent Sunday, 29th November.

Rectors of Christ Church series Neville Griffiths 1981 - 1983

Neville was born in 1939. He attended the University of Wales and received a BA in 1963. He then studied at St David's College, Lampeter, founded by Bishop Thomas Burgess in 1822 and the oldest university institution in England

and Wales after Oxford and Cambridge.

In 1966 Neville became a Licentiate of Theology and was ordained deacon, being priested the following year. From 1966 to 1968 he was curate at St Mark's church, Newport, Monmouthshire, and then spent two years as a curate in Cardiff before becoming chaplain at Greystoke College, Cumbria from 1970 to 1976. For the first five years he was also curate of Greystoke with Matterdale and from 1975 to 1976 he



was team vicar for Greystoke, Matterdale and Mungrisdale. From 1976 to 1981 he was curate in Croxdale, south of Durham, and also chaplain to Grey College, University of Durham. Apparently Grey College was originally to be called Oliver Cromwell College but this proved too controversial and so it was named after the 2nd Earl Grey who was Prime Minister at the time.

Neville was married with two sons.

Neville arrived at Christ Church on 13 December 1981. By the time he arrived the only service at St Luke's church on Burton Road was evensong. Neville had the unenviable task of overseeing the closure of St Luke's. During his time here there were parish barbecues, an outing to Grange-over-Sands and a ladies' friendship group outing to Warburton's bakery.

Neville left the diocese on 13 September 1983 to become priest in charge at Lowther with Askham near Penrith. Parishioners attended his induction at Lowther.



In 1988 he became vicar of St Matthew's church, Guernsey. In 1993 he became rector of St Pierre du Bois and St Philippe de Torteval, Guernsey, where he remained until 2002. From 1999 to 2002 he was vice-dean of Guernsey. He retired in 2003 and moved to Neville's Cross, Durham.

Finally, in one edition of the Church Times Neville wrote a letter bemoaning the absence of Anglican Fudge in the souvenir shop at Lambeth. Of course, the term "Anglican Fudge" can be taken two ways! What did he mean?

From the archives...

The Magazine of Christ Church, West Didsbury.

NOVEMBER, 1939.

Christ Church Rectory,
West Didsbury,
Manchester,
October 15th, 1939.

My Dear Friends,

By the time this letter reaches you, we shall have been at war for two months. seems little hope of an early peace, and we must prepare ourselves for a long and a stern struggie. We cannot hope to escape some disasters, and possibly severe air raids. But these need not make us despondent or uncertain of the ultimate victory. Our conscience is clear, and we are fighting for the cause of freedom against the tyranny of brute force. We may therefore commit our cause into the hands of God, and go forward with quiet, tranquil, minds. With the "peace of God which passeth all understanding " in our hearts, let us encourage and strengthen one another, and in the friendship and fellowship of our Church find the source of Divine power, which shall enable us to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

I am afraid that quite a number of evacuated children have returned home. Unforseen circumstances have sometimes made this inevitable, but it is regrettable, nevertheless. In any case, it must mean loss of educational facilities for the children, and if the war lasts any length of time, this will be a serious loss. But their spiritual education need not suffer, for our Sunday Schools are open. May I urge upon you the importance of this, and beg you to send your children to Sunday School, or bring them with you to the Church services.

We shall all be more than sorry to say "good-bye" to Mr. and Mrs. Street on their departure to Goodshaw, and shall wish them every joy and blessing as they take up their new work. Mr. Street will be preaching his farewell sermons on November 12th, in the morning at Christ Church, and in the afternoon at St. Luke's. May I suggest that a "bumper" congregation at each service will be one way of showing your appreciation of all that he has done. You will also see on another page that it is proposed to make him a presentation; this is only right and proper. The date on which the presentation will be made will be announced later.

May I make one last appeal for our Envelope Gift Scheme, and Gift Day to be held on November 5th. I need not stress the urgency of the appeal, for I have already done so on many occasions. As there may be some who will not be able to afford even 10/- just now, "Gift" envelopes have been prepared, and we hope they may be used for any gift which you may be able to give. It may be, too, that some would like to make a special Thankoffering, and may care to use the envelope for that purpose. And please come along and join in the Church Services during the day, that we may make it a real Parish Thanksgiving for all that God has done for us, and ours, and will continue to do during the days which lie ahead.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."

Your sincere friend and Rector, W. H. BISHOP.

LETTER FROM THE REV. J. L. STREET. Dear Friends,

As you all know I have been appointed, by the Lord Bishop, to the parish of Goodshaw in Rossendale, therefore my wife and I will be leaving about the middle of November to take up our new duties. We should like very much to thank you all most sincerely for the kindness you have shown to us and for all the help that you have given us while we have been with you in Christ Church parish. We can truly say that in many respects we are not looking forward to our departure one bit, for we shall be leaving many friends and loyal workers, and what a blessing both are to any clergyman in a parish! We have been greatly blessed with both. May we say a word of deep appreciation and gratitude to our friends at St, Luke's who have always backed us up and followed any lead given. You have been splendid and we hope and trust that the progress made will not only be maintained but will become greater. St. Luke's is a happy, homely little Church and we pray that many may be helped and blessed by its administra-You will, I know, support the Rector whole-heartedly in all his work in the parish and so lighten his heavy task. Will you remember us in your prayers as we take up our new work? May God's blessing be upon you

Yours in the Master's Service,

J. L. STREET.

Advent Traditions

Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas—the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (30 November), and can fall on any date between 27 November and 3 December.

In England, especially in the northern counties, there was a custom (now extinct) for poor women to carry around the "Advent images", two dolls dressed to represent Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. A halfpenny coin was expected from every one to whom these were exhibited and bad luck was thought to menace the household not visited by the doll-bearers before Christmas Eve at the latest.

In Normandy, farmers employed children under twelve to run through the fields and orchards armed with torches, setting fire to bundles of straw, and thus it was believed driving out such vermin as were likely to damage the crops.

In Italy, among other Advent celebrations is the entry into Rome in the last days of Advent of the Calabrian pifferari, or bagpipe players, who play before the shrines of Mary, the mother of Jesus: in Italian tradition, the shepherds played these pipes when they came to the manger at Bethlehem to pay homage to the infant Jesus.

In recent times the most common observance of Advent outside church circles has been the keeping of an advent calendar or advent candle, with one door being opened in the calendar, or one section of the candle being burned, on each day in December leading up to Christmas Eve.

The idea of the Advent wreath originated in Germany in the 16th Century, but the modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, came from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. In view of the impatience of the children he taught as they awaited Christmas, he made a ring of wood, with nineteen small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle. Custom has retained only the large candles.

The wreath crown is traditionally made of fir tree branches knotted with a red ribbon and decorated with pine cones, holly, laurel, and sometimes mistletoe. It is also an ancient symbol signifying several things: first of all, the crown symbolises victory, in addition to its round form evoking the sun and its return each year. The number four represents, in addition to the four weeks of Advent, the four seasons and the four cardinal virtues, and the green colour is a sign of life and hope. The fir tree is a symbol of strength and laurel a symbol of victory over sin and suffering. The

latter two, with the holly, do not lose their leaves, and thus represent the eternity of God. The flames of candles are the representation of the Christmas light approaching and bringing hope and peace, as well as the symbol of the struggle against darkness. For Christians, this crown is also the symbol of Christ the King, the holly recalling the crown of thorns resting on the head of Christ.

The Advent wreath has candles, usually three violet or purple and one pink, the pink candle being lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday after the opening word, Gaudete, meaning "Rejoice". Some add a fifth candle (white), known as the Christ Candle, in the middle of the wreath, to be lit on Christmas Eve or Day.

The candles added to the wreath crown can symbolise the great stages of salvation before the coming of the Messiah; the first is the symbol of the forgiveness granted to Adam and Eve, the second is the symbol of the faith of Abraham and of the patriarchs who believe in the gift of the Promised Land, the third is the symbol of the joy of David whose lineage does not stop and also testifies to his covenant with God, and the fourth and last candle is the symbol of the teaching of the prophets who announce a reign of justice and peace. Or they symbolise the four stages of human history; creation, the Incarnation, the redemption of sins, and the Last Judgment.

The readings for the first Sunday in Advent relate to the Old Testament patriarchs who were Christ's ancestors, so some call the first Advent candle that of hope.

The readings for the second Sunday concern Christ's birth in a manger and other prophecies, so the candle may be called that of Bethlehem, the way, or of the prophets.

The third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday after the first word of the introit (Philippians 4:4), is celebrated with rose-coloured vestments similar to Laetare Sunday at the middle point of Lent. The readings relate to John the Baptist, and the rose candle may be called that of joy or of the shepherds.

The readings for the fourth Sunday relate to the annunciation of Christ's birth, so the candle may be known as the Angel's candle. The Magnificat or Song of Mary may be featured.

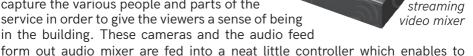
Where an Advent wreath includes a fifth candle, it is known as the Christ candle and is lit during the Christmas Eve service.



Live streaming...

Those who attend Christ Church will be aware that we are now 'live-streaming' our Sunday 11.00am service. But what exactly is live streaming and what does it involve?

Basically, we are broadcasting our worship over the internet so that it can be watched by anyone, anywhere! Many of you will have seen our new cameras placed around the building (5 in total) which capture the various people and parts of the service in order to give the viewers a sense of being in the building. These cameras and the audio feed



Our

new

Roland

Importantly, we have made the whole system movable so that we can stream any event successfully by placing the cameras in the required locations. This will be very useful in streaming concerts and other events in the future.

operator to select which camera is being used 'live' at any one point.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to this project and I hope that you now see the benefit!

You can view services live or watch later through our website https://christchurchdidsbury.org.uk/worship-with-us-online/ or on out youtube account

https://youtube.com/user/christchurchdidsbury

Christmas Carol Service...

Due to the current restriction on the number of people able to worship inside Christ Church, we have decided that our traditional service of **Nine Lessons & Carols on 13th December** will be a ticketed event (tickets will be free) in order to regulate the number of people present. Don't worry though we will be holding 2 services to accommodate everyone! Details will shortly be on our website (and in the December magazine) of how to reserve your place..

From the registers...

Baptisms

We welcomed into the Lord's family:

27th September Chimamaka Stephanie Nnabuife

Saint of The Month

Barbra Malone

Margery Kempe, Mystic

9th November

Margery Kempe was born in Lynne (now King's Lynn) in Norfolk in the late fourteenth century, a contemporary of Julian of Norwich. She received many visions, several of them of the holy family, one of the most regular being of the crucifixion. She also had conversations with the saints. She was much sought after as a visionary, was endlessly in trouble with the Church, rebuked by the Archbishop and was more than once imprisoned. Following the messages in her visions, she undertook pilgrimages to many holy places, including Walsingham, Canterbury, Compostela, Rome and Jerusalem, often



setting out penniless. She was blessed with the gift of tears and seems to have been favoured with singular signs of Christ's love, whereby for long periods she enjoyed consciousness of a close communion with him and developed a strong compassion for the sins of the world. Her autobiography, The Book of Margery Kempe, recounts her remarkable life. She died towards the middle of the fifteenth century. (The book was lost for many centuries but came to light in 1934).

GOD WITH US

My mind and my heart gradually became so joined to God that he was continually with me in everything that lived. The more my love grew, the more I became aware of my own sins and my dependence upon God.

Lying in my bed I heard the Lord call my name. I listened in silence until be spoke.

'Where God is, heaven is. God is in your soul night and day.'
'When you go to church I go with you; when you sit down for a
meal I sit with you; when you lie down to sleep I lie with you;
and when you go out I go with you.

Sources:

Exciting Holiness - Collects and Readings for the Festivals and Lesser Festivals of the Church of England, Canterbury Press, Norwich, 1997

and

The Mirror of Love. Daily readings with Margery Kempe, edited and introduced by Gillian Hawker,

DLT 1988

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