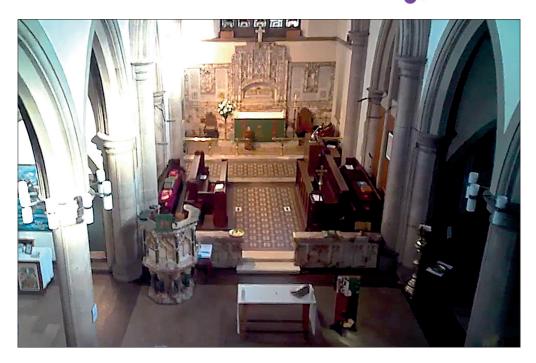
The Grapevine



October 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 quiet prayer)

The October Diary

4th 17th Sunday after Trinity

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

1.30 p.m.1.45 p.m.Ordination of Priests at Manchester CathedralWilliam Byrd Singers rehearse at Christ Church

11th Harvest with Tom celebrating his First Eucharist

11 a.m. **Joint Eucharist** at Christ Church

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

6.30 p.m. **Evensong** at Christ Church with the Knutsford Deanery Choir

18th St. Luke the Evangelist

9.30 a.m. **Eucharist** at St. Christopher's 11 a.m. **Eucharist** at Christ Church

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

25th Last Sunday of Trinity and APCM

11 a.m. **Joint Eucharist** at Christ Church

Brass Cleaning

October 10 Debbie Bradbury and Jill Evans
October 24 Jean Weaving and Barbra Malone
November 7 Marion Davies and Joyce Dixon

November 21 Margaret McMorran and Liz Chalmers

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

What's Happening

Our Church Halls

During lockdown we have worked hard cleaning, decorating and doing repairs to our church halls, as well as preparing Risk Assessments to ensure they are COVID-19 secure.

We are delighted that some groups have now returned and look forward to welcoming others back soon.

Tom's Priesting

Tom, our curate, will be priested at Manchester Cathedral on the 4th October and will celebrate his First Eucharist the following Sunday (11th October) at Christ Church as part of our Harvest Celebrations.

Please remember Tom and the family in your prayers.

APCM

Our APCM was planned to take place at the end of March, but Lockdown put a stop to that! This will now be held as part of the Parish Eucharist at Christ Church on Sunday the $25^{\rm th}$ October at 11 a.m.

Please try to be there, and pray for those putting themselves forward for election as Church Officers and PCC members.

Open Church

Please remember that Christ Church is open every 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. Tea & Coffee provided!

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

Rector's Letter

The Revd. Anne Pilkington

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to 'Grapevine' - our first magazine since March. I do hope that you've kept safe and well during these challenging times. We have prayed for all who live in our parish regularly and will continue to do so.

Christ Church and St. Christopher's both opened for Sunday worship on the 5th July and Christ Church is open each Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 12 noon for private prayer and reflection, and it's been good to have our buildings open again and to offer people a quiet space, which has been very much appreciated.

Things are by no means 'back to normal', but we are seeking to be the church in different ways, and it's good to have this opportunity to be in touch with you once again. Please be assured that every effort is being made to comply with COVID-19 requirements for the safe delivery of this magazine.

I have had the support of my very good colleagues during this time of Lockdown. Barbra, our Reader, Tom (Studman) our Curate and Tom (Phipps) our ordinand on placement. Their reflections about what this time of has meant for them are included in this magazine. I hope that will encourage you to do your own pondering about the experience. For me personally, it's been a time to reflect of all the things we take for granted, and also the inherent goodness in people, expressed in the kindness shown to both friends and strangers. We serve a God who is indiscriminate in his love and care for the whole of creation and there have been many times, over recent months, when God's love has been made known in all kinds of ways, and I hope and pray that you've been able to recognise that.

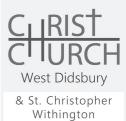
We continue to live in uncertain times, but I hope you know God's love and God's peace whatever situation you find yourself in.

This comes with my love and continued prayers and may God bless us with courage for the journey.

Anne







You're warmly invited to join us for

A Service of Thanksgiving for Harvest

Sunday 11th October 2020 at 11.00am

Christ Church Darley Ave, West Didsbury M20 2ZD

Donations

If you would like to bring a gift for the work of the Booth Centre for the homeless, based at our Cathedral, items needed include:

Sandwich Filling: tinned ham, tinned corn beef, tinned tuna, brown pickle and mayonnaise

Drinks: Coffee, hot chocolate, cup-a-soups, sugar

Fruit, Biscuits, Cakes

Tinned meat: mince, meatballs, stewing steak, hot dogs

Tinned veg. and potatoes

Pasta and pasta sauces, curry sauces and rice

Tinned fruit, custard and rice pudding

Financial donations



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Lockdown Shalom

The Revd. Tom Studman

Shalom, peace, during these times? In my experience there has been an absence of peace! Shalom is a fascinating concept. A common Jewish greeting, shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. Our heart cries out for peace. Shalom was the term used in the Old Testament for wholeness and being complete.

Our need for things to be complete and in good order is strong. We often like to line up all the pieces and imagine the way they will all fit together, to make a task or day complete. Often, we can take control and have the power to complete what we are seeking to achieve. Lockdown has impacted our level of control and power. We are left snookered by circumstances. There is disorder and lack of wholeness in many aspects of our lives due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our sense of peace is lost.



Our lockdown was shaped by home schooling. We balanced being parents and our new role as teachers. We tried to resource and support our three boys. Working with the home learning their schools provided we encouraged and persuaded them to explore the learning opportunities. The boys felt nagged and the whole experience was strange and felt wrong. Various technological hitches

hampered us, and various tasks derailed peace in our house. We feel the blessing of the boys being back in school, enjoying some face to learning.

The bible idea of shalom, can be understood as a block that completes the building of a wall. The block of schooling in the wall of our life had fallen out. Now it is back in place, we sense more peace in our family. I find imagining our lives as a stone wall, with each block representing a vital part of the whole shape of our lives helpful. COVID-19 has sent shockwaves through our lives, tumbling the order and form of our 'walls'. Many pieces are out of place. Restrictions insist the blocks of social contact, places we cherish and activities we enjoy remain dislocated.

We need hope in these unsettling times. Hope for peace, shalom, wholeness. I comfort myself that despite life's muddle, God remains faithful. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and offers us His peace. We must continue to build one another up and be peace makers, doing what we can to share the peace of God that passes all understanding during these tough times.

Fresh Expression

Tom Phipps

Hannah and I have been members of Christ Church and St Christopher's for around half a year now, and I must say, it's been a very strange time to join! With all of the restrictions coming into place fairly swiftly after we arrived, we only managed to attend one or two services before being told that we were no longer allowed to meet for the foreseeable future, and even since we have been allowed back into Church, the social aspect is still awaiting a return to its former glory. As a result, a lot of my interactions have been via phone conversations and fleeting words with people I bump into when in the Church buildings or out and about.

Despite the fragmented nature of Church in a physical sense, one thing became very clear from the outset: this is a community of love and friendship. Notwithstanding the seemingly mercurial rules and regulations we have had to follow over the last few months, the love and fellowship modelled by Jesus have, to me as a newcomer, felt ever present at Christ Church and St Christopher's. From people keeping in touch over the phone, to running errands for one another, to expressing a yearning to meet again after a Sunday service for a cup of coffee, it is so abundantly clear there is a real sense of value placed on the relationships fostered within this community.

Moreover, despite the limited interactions we have experienced ourselves, both Hannah and I have felt very welcomed by the people here. I think there's something in this about the nature of Christian fellowship: there is a real yearning for togetherness, a togetherness which we pursue resolutely, and if an obstacle is placed in the way, we fight tooth and nail to overcome it. We set up Zoom accounts, we speak more over the phone, we send letters and cards, we pick up shopping for one another, the list goes on. I think it is quite remarkable how close-knit the community has felt despite the physical separation we have had to endure.

None of this, of course, is to say that this has been an easy time, and the harsh reality is that lockdown has yielded huge challenges and bitter realities for many, but what has been amazing to me is that, despite these challenges and realities, joining this Church has still felt like joining a thriving, welcoming, Christian community, because that it what it is.

From the archives...

The Magazine of Christ Church with St. Luke's, West Didsbury.

OCTOBER, 1940.

Christ Church Rectory,
West Didsbury,
Manchester, 20.
September 16th, 1940.

My dear Friends,

Another "Day of National Prayer" has been held, and as a nation and empire we have once again committed ourselves and our cause to God. In doing so, we recognised His Sovereignty over our lives, and, I believe, took a big step forward along the path which will lead to ultimate victory. Belshazzar, the king of ancient Chaldea, was condemned because he set himself up "against the Lord of Heaven; and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified."

In our Day of Prayer we honoured and glorified God; acknowledged our complete dependence upon Him, seeking His forgiveness and His blessing. And we believe that our prayers have been answered, and that God's blessing will be with us all through the days.

We are living in strenuous and critical days. The future is obscured by the clouds of war and the threats of invasion. We are forced to live from day to day, but we need not be discouraged or over alarmed. The magnificent heroism of our airmen, and the great success attending their efforts, are surely causes for encouragement, and we can lift up our hearts in thankfulness to God, and see in these achievements God's good hand upon us. In the bombing of London we see the powers of evil striking at the heart of our Empire, seeking by sheer terrorism and ruthless destruction to undermine our morale and weaken our powers of resistance. But if the Nazi thinks that this is the way to victory he never made a bigger mistake, or more completely misjudged the temperament of our people. Such methods must inevitably recoil upon his own head, for they but stiffen our determination to resist unto the end. Our hearts go out in sympathy to all who have been injured or killed, to all whose homes have been destroyed, or who have suffered loss. We shall pray for them, and help them in any way we can.

We ourselves have much to be thankful for. Let us thank God for His mercies, and let us thank Him "not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to His service and by walking before Him in holiness and righteousness all our days."

One of the ways we serve Him is in our Church 'life. I have been disappointed at the small numbers of those attending the War Intercession Service each evening during the week. With the black-out coming now so early in the evening we shall be obliged to discontinue these services after this month. But our Sunday services will still be held. We shall welcome you at these services; may I suggest that you make it a point of honour to attend at least one of the services each Sunday. In so doing we shall strengthen and deepen our own spiritual life, and also help one another. We need this help to-day as never before. It is one of the great ways in which we, who are not in the actual fighting forces, can help forward the defences of our country, and hasten the day when victory shall be granted to our arms, and the world once again be enabled to live in peace "with all men."

May God bless and keep you all.

Your sincere friend and Rector,

W. H. BISHOP.

THE BLACK-OUT CLUB.

One of the "nuisance" values which the enemy is trying to gain is the disorganisation of our working and social life. If we put a curfew on ourselves at dusk we shall in a sense be helping the enemy. But we are not likely to take this course. Because of this attitude we intend to carry on with the Brighter Black-out Club on Sunday nights during the winter months. It is the desire of those in charge that we make the Club a means of "re-creation" in every sense of the word. In other words, we can be entertained and at the same time gain something in the way of culture. To this end Mr. Milnes hopes to arrange some musical evenings which will not be too "highbrow," but at the same time they will not be "lowbrow." It is hoped that we may have the chance of hearing some well-known Manchester players and artistes. We also hope to have some more films, some of which may be supplied by the Ministry of Information. It is hoped that as many as possible will join the Club this winter. Last season we were often told that the Club was appreciated. That being so we hope you will show your appreciation by joining us again this year. The Opening Night will be on September 29th and will be in the nature of an "open" night.

All Hallows' Eve

All Hallows' Eve falls on 31st October each year, and is the day before All Hallows' Day, also known as All Saints' Day in the Christian calendar. The Church traditionally held a vigil on All Hallows' Eve when worshippers would prepare themselves with prayers and fasting prior to the feast day itself.

The name derives from the Old English 'hallowed' meaning holy or sanctified and is now usually contracted to the more familiar word Hallowe'en.

A brief history of the festival

In the early 7th century Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon in Rome, formerly a temple to all the gods, as a church dedicated to Saint Mary and the Martyrs, and ordered that that date, 13th May, should be celebrated every year.

It became All Saints' Day, a day to honour all the saints, and later, at the behest of Pope Urban IV (d. 1264), a day specially to honour those saints who didn't have a festival day of their own.

In the 8th century, on 1st November, Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel to all the saints in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Gregory IV then made the festival universal throughout the Church, and 1st November has subsequently become All Saints' Day for the western Church.

Hallowe'en and Samhain

It is widely believed that many Hallowe'en traditions have evolved from an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain which was Christianised by the early Church. Pronounced sow-in, Samhain is a Gaelic word meaning 'end of the summer'. This festival is believed to have been a celebration of the end of the harvest, and a time of preparation for the coming winter.

It is widely accepted that the early church missionaries chose to hold a festival at this time of year in order to absorb existing native Pagan practices into Christianity, thereby smoothing the conversion process.

A letter Pope Gregory I sent to Bishop Mellitus in the 6th century, in which he suggested that existing places of non-Christian worship be adopted and consecrated to serve a Christian purpose, is often provided as supporting evidence of this method of acculturation.

Encyclopaedia Britannica states that this date may have been chosen "in an effort to supplant the Pagan holiday with a Christian observance".

From the registers...

Weddings

We witnessed the marriage of:

15th August Joseph Strong Clarke and Katy Madelaine Moulton

Funerals

Our thoughts and prayers go to all those who have lost loved ones over recent months. During this time of Lockdown we gave thanks to God for the lives of:

16th April Barry Dobson, Stretford - Aged 83

28th April Oswald Wallice Marshall 'Wally', Aldermary Road, Chorlton

- Aged 89

29th April Alan Heald, Peel Hall, Wythenshawe 29th April Peter Barker, Monet Lodge – Aged 77

4th May Jack Gibson, Glyn Gardens, West Didsbury - Aged 95

24th June Brenda Platt, Holmfield - Aged 83 10th July Paul Knott, Barlow Hall Road - Aged 39 30th July Rosalind Clarke, Holmfield - Aged 79

31st July Baby Theodore Phoenix Robert Hart 'Teddy',

Regan Avenue Chorlton - Aged 10 days

22nd Sept. Adrian Jasper, Riverside Avenue, Chorlton - Aged 57

Concerts

We hope our Concert programme will recommence in the not too distant future

Saint of The Month

Barbra Malone

Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith 15th October

Teresa was born into an aristocratic Spanish family in 1515. Following her mother's death, she was educated by Augustinian nuns and then ran away from home to enter a Carmelite convent when she was twenty. After initial difficulties in prayer, her intense mystical experiences attracted many disciples. She was inspired to reform the Carmelite rule and, assisted by St John of the Cross, she travelled throughout Spain founding many new religious houses for men as well as women. Her writings about her own spiritual life and progress in prayer towards union with God include *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*, which are still acclaimed. She knew great



physical suffering and died of exhaustion on 4 October 1582. Her feast is on 15 October because the very day after her death the reformed calendar was adopted and eleven days were omitted from October that year.

COLLECT

Merciful God, who by your Spirit raised up your servant Teresa of Avila to reveal to your Church the way of perfection: grant that her teaching may awaken in us a longing for holiness, until we attain to the perfect union of love in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

BIBLE READINGS

Wisdom 7. 7-15; Romans 8. 22-27; John 14. 1-7

FROM ROMANS 8:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Sources:

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

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