

# **OUTREACH**

**JUNE 2021**



**CHRIST CHURCH**

**CHELTENHAM**

*Online Issue No. 15*

**THE PARISH OFFICE IN OUR CHURCH COMPLEX IS OPEN PART-TIME.  
FOR URGENT MATTERS CONTACT THE VICAR OR CHURCHWARDENS.**

**Vicar:** Rev Simon Heron 515983 (Day off 6pm Fri-6pm Sat)  
[vicar@christchurchcheltenham.com](mailto:vicar@christchurchcheltenham.com)

**Curate:** Rev Eddie Carmichael 07368 889221  
[curious.curate37@gmail.com](mailto:curious.curate37@gmail.com)

**Churchwardens:** Barbara Lucas 228616/07912 345056  
Chris Orwin-Henderson [churchwarden@christchurchcheltenham.com](mailto:churchwarden@christchurchcheltenham.com)

**Licensed Readers:** Andrew Judge 07813 401685  
David Laszlo 581593  
Angela Smith 238232  
Amanda Thiselton 07884 370925

**Pastoral Co-ordinators:** Tina Benney 512246  
with Anne Chapman & Chris Eddershaw

**Weddings Administrator:** Angela Smith 238232

**Youth & Children Team:** Anna Laszlo 581593

**CHRIST CHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL (Voluntary Aided):**  
**Head Teacher:** Mrs Kerry Pope 523392

**Church Complex Manager**  
**Parish Administrator & Secretary:** 578163

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mandy Whitefield 511919

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Registered Charity No: 1135571)**  
**Lay Vice-Chair:** Ian Kirkwood 581883  
**Treasurer & Verger:** Philip Whitefield 511919  
**Secretary:** Susan West [susan.blackett1@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.blackett1@btinternet.com)  
**Electoral Roll Officer:** Virginia Mullan 231006

**Church Flower Secretary:** Penny Kirkwood 581883

**Website Design:** Jennie Crow [web@christchurchcheltenham.com](mailto:web@christchurchcheltenham.com)  
**Outreach Magazine Editor:** Shirley Collins 696094

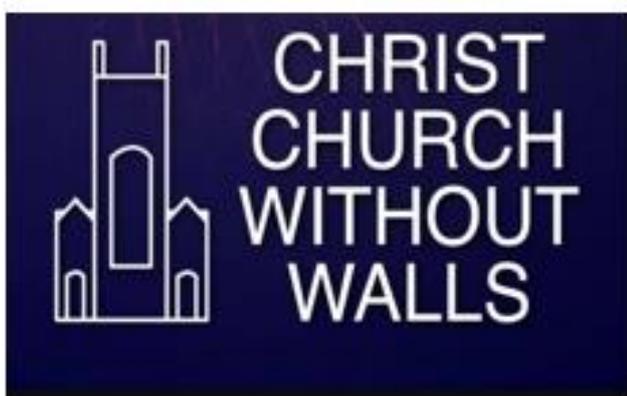
**ADDRESS: Christ Church Parish Office, Malvern Road, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL50 2JH**

## CHRIST CHURCH OPENING TIMES

We are delighted to be able to worship in Church again and that a number of other activities are now also happening. See the Diary and lists on pages 14-16. We need to keep social distancing measures in place and face coverings need to be worn at all times inside the building. If you have symptoms of Coronavirus, or feel unsafe indoors with others, do stay at home, there is provision to catch up with the main Services online.

## NEW WEBSITE

Please note: we are in a time of transition between our existing website as below, and a new one: [www.christchurchcheltenham.com](http://www.christchurchcheltenham.com)



Join Andrew Judge for  
Morning Prayer weekdays  
On Zoom and in Church  
For details  
Tel: 07813 401685 or Email:  
[andrew.judge50@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.judge50@gmail.com)

### The people are here when the Church is closed.

Website Services: <https://www.christchurch-cheltenham.org/>

Public: <https://www.facebook.com/Christchurchmalvernroad/>

Private: <https://ps-af.facebook.com/groups/123108727771269/>



Our YouTube address is now the place where you can find the CCWW Services:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0jBZVeFyeD2YFgumhZvZtQ>



Additional material for children can also be found on Christ Church's YouTube facility.

## SUMMER SERVICES CHANGE FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS

The 4th Sundays in June, July and August will be 'Community Sundays'. There will be an 8am Holy Communion, a 9am short act of worship followed by being church in the community – various suggestions will be forthcoming shortly – and a 4pm gathering.

## VICAR'S WRITES: THE END OF THE STORY

The BBC drama police procedural series *Line of Duty* ended its 6<sup>th</sup> season recently and Social Media was buzzing as the seven episodes progressed. The plot twisted and turned, bullets flew, bent coppers confessed and Superintendent Ted Hastings spouted extraordinary exclamation after extraordinary exclamation.



When the credits rolled for the final time, to say that reaction from the viewers was mixed would be a huge understatement.

Each of the previous five seasons of the show had seen some kind of closure. Sub-plots had ended, characters had come and gone, while the story arc of the whole series kept on going. Viewers had expected that as the tension during season six rose episode by episode, they would finally get the answer to the major question – who was the mysterious 'H', mastermind behind all the nefarious goings-on?

As it was there was huge disappointment with the identity of the main villain. Viewers were dissatisfied that the other unpleasant, disagreeable and vexatious individuals did not all get the comeuppance they so richly deserved. And to top it all, the heroes of the piece did not get to sail off into the sunset with smiles on their faces and skips in their steps.

So often we want our fictional characters to be relatable and realistic, to go through the same failures and triumphs that we do, but still have the feel good finish. Even when things don't work out quite as we might have expected, a drama with a bittersweet ending can still leave us feeling good about ourselves, and our place in the world.

(Cont'd...)

That *Line of Duty* accurately portrays the messy endings, the ones that don't culminate satisfactorily, the ones that not only do not close off a story, but leave it hanging with new threads unravelling, better tells us how the world is.

The difference for followers of Jesus is that they know what the ultimate end of their story arc looks like even as they are living through it. The process of getting there can be unexpected, surprising, even shocking or painful. But – spoiler alert – in this story, Jesus wins.

Rev Simon Heron



## OUR COVID-19 SUPPORT TEAM

Christ Church has a small group of volunteers who help vulnerable and self-isolating parishioners in a variety of ways – from shopping and collecting prescriptions to phone support and sending letters. Some of these volunteers are from the congregation whilst others have contacted Christ Church, keen to do all they can to assist people during this time of crisis. To request help, please contact :

Tina Benney tel: 01242 512246

Sara Hicks tel: 07974 355845

or email: [christchurch-covid19-outreach@outlook.com](mailto:christchurch-covid19-outreach@outlook.com)

## HOME GROUPS

We have a number of Home Groups offering lively discussion, Bible study, prayer, and social contact. Some of these can function via Zoom and meet on different days of the week, during daylight hours or in the evenings. If you would like to join one do be in touch with me, tel: 07884 370925.

Amanda Thiselton

## Friendship Club Summer Garden Party

To celebrate the end of Pandemic Restrictions and to meet again after such a long time, we are holding a Summer Party in the garden of the

**Vicarage, Malvern Road, GL50 2NU on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 1pm-3pm.**

It would help us to know how many we are catering for (also please let us know of any dietary requirements or if you need access support). Mandy can be emailed on [amandawhitefield2@hotmail.com](mailto:amandawhitefield2@hotmail.com) or texted or phoned on 07880 715200.

We are planning to re-start a full programme of regular meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month beginning on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept in the Harwood Hall.

## GIVING TO CHRIST CHURCH

If you normally make a regular gift via the collection plate, please do not forget about Christ Church even when the building is closed.

You can still give by:

- Texting CHURCH, plus the amount you would like to donate (up to £20), to 70450. So to give £5, text CHURCH 5 to 70450, or to give £20, text CHURCH 20 to 70450. This service costs your donation plus your standard message rate.
- Posting or putting a gift by cheque through the Church letterbox (in the wall by the side gate) which is being emptied regularly by staff.
- Visiting the Christ Church, Cheltenham Website and following the Donate link to *Give.net*.

Thank you.

## COVER STORY: OUR NEW CURATE WRITES

My name is Eddie and I have just started my curacy with you at Christ Church.



Originally from Portsmouth I spent my youth living in Fareham where I was a member of the local Boys' Brigade and worshipped at Fareham Baptist Church.

At the age of 16 years and 12 days I joined the army as a Junior Leader in the Royal Armoured corps. I joined the Royal Hussars at 17 and went on my first operational tour to Belfast at 18. I spent 22 years in the army as a tank commander, adventurous training instructor and signals instructor.

At the end of my military career I met Catherine who was working in Cheltenham as a nurse. We married and have two sons: Edward a paramedic and Harry a tree surgeon. I also have two daughters: Laura a teacher and Elaine a social worker.

After finishing my active military career, I became a FE teacher and then a head of department. I have taught inmates in Gloucester and Bristol prisons and young Muslim women in an all women Muslim centre. I worked for the Oxford Diocese Board of Education and helped lead a secondary school out of special measures. I retired in 2016. Unfortunately for me God wasn't ready for my retirement and called me to serve as a teacher in All Saint's Academy over in West Cheltenham.

I became a Christian in 1974 in Fareham when during a dream I met Jesus at a railway station. As a young soldier I was physically beaten for my faith by other soldiers. When I was 17 I had a vision of myself in a dog collar, but as a working class lad who wasn't going to do A Levels or go to university, I tried hard to ignore it. All through my life the calling never went away. Eventually I gave in, thinking I would be laughed at.

I trained for ministry part-time in what used to be known as WEMTEC, and is now called RGH. This involved evening classes, week-end residentials and placements. I am looking forward to getting to know you and worshipping and walking with you over the next few years.

Eddie Carmichael

## CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR AND ORGANISTS: PART 13

In January 1994 the church magazine carried an interesting piece on the ribbons hung around the necks of various members of the Choir. Here is an extract:

*“A junior chorister wears a light blue ribbon, a senior chorister a dark blue one, and a full chorister a red ribbon. A treble attaining full chorister status will have had to put in a great deal of hard work and shown real commitment. Trebles can go on to take external examinations to become a Dean's Chorister (green ribbon) or Bishop's Chorister (purple ribbon). Attendance and hard work earn points for each treble. At the end of a month the treble with the highest score gets to wear a special gold ribbon for the following month, and the side of the choir that gains the most points gains the RSCM shield, you will see it hanging over either the Vicar's or Curate's stall. With Christmas just over, everyone is aware of the hard work all members of the choir have put in, but the hard work continues all year round. Please remember us in your prayers.”*

In February the following year Paul Derrett resigned as Director of Music. He was replaced by Jonathan Lane, who stayed in post for about a year. There followed a deliberate period with no professional leadership, in order to reflect on the past whilst considering future needs.

During times of vacancy in the 1990s it should be noted that several individuals stepped in to provide continuity of a good standard of music. After Paul's departure many parents wondered what would happen to the trebles and their RSCM training. Luckily Rae Murray had done the job several years previously, and she immediately rearranged her many commitments, working alongside Acting Choirmaster George Howarth to ensure that Christ Church Choir was given priority.

A well-known former GP in the town, Dr Bill Benney became our Organist, and after Jonathan left, Rose Spence helped him to run a number of choir rehearsals. When Bill retired from work a couple of years previously he and his wife Tina were looking forward to spending more time together, but the organ stool at Christ Church would become more familiar to him than his home furniture, as he had to learn a tremendous amount of choral music in addition to playing an organ voluntary at the end of each Service. (Cont'd...)

On December 1<sup>st</sup> 1996 the Vicar, Rev Ted Crofton, announced to the Choir that James Brown had been offered the position of Director of Music. He would be starting in January 1997, but was able to play the organ on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> December, rehearse the Choir and conduct for a special Christmas Carol Service on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The latter was important as it was to be recorded by BBC Radio Gloucestershire and broadcast to the whole County on Christmas Day.



James had attended Girton College Cambridge (with an organ scholarship) and the Conservatoire de Musique, Geneva (studying organ and voice). During his time in Switzerland he was organist and choirmaster at an Anglican church for the English speaking community. Then he went to the USA for two years as assistant organist and choirmaster at a large Methodist Church in Texas. On returning to England he was organist at Dean Close School, Cheltenham for seven years as well as being Director of Music at Christ Church until 2006.

Our Choir's first concert with James was on Good Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 1997 when he directed *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Dubois. The Organist on that occasion was Carleton Etherington, with Soprano Helen Wright, Tenor George Howarth and Baritone Robert Marsden. A few months on and we had the honour of singing Evensong on 16<sup>th</sup> August at St George's Chapel Windsor (see photo below). Music included Dyson's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D* and the Anthem *Make a Joyful Noise* by Leo Sowerby.

Tony White



## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

So far there has been but one meeting of the new Deanery Synod, and that via Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Apart from the routine appointments of officers for the triennium and other regular business, the following significant items were addressed:

**Parish Share.** No increase for 2021. There will be an inter-deanery meeting in June which will discuss this issue and by November we should know what if any increase there may be for 2022.

**Deanery review.** The Area Dean has started a process review of the Deanery and its churches, looking at what may need to change in a post-Covid landscape. Synod members have completed an initial survey which is likely to lead to further questions (and one hopes eventually some answers). This will be a piece of work that the new PCC will need to engage with. Some of the input to the survey was quite pungent – here are a few comments that caught my eye:

*“We have created hospitals (not Churches) where people go to be cared for.”*

*“[We need] people to do things rather than just attend – volunteers and role holders.”*

*“Being with God before doing.”*

*“Covid has caused people to reflect on the heart of discipleship – following Jesus not church programmes or vision plans”.*

**University of Gloucestershire Foundation Fellows.** In the beginning was St Paul’s Teacher Training College for men, founded like Christ Church by Francis Close. Later, from the same roots, grew a parallel College for women: St Mary’s. Eventually these combined (St Paul’s and St Mary’s), and later combined again with another local FE establishment to form GlosCAT. Some 20 years ago GlosCAT became the University of Gloucestershire. Like the Teacher Training Colleges, it remains a Christian Foundation; and is a member of the “Cathedrals Group” of 14 Universities with Church links. A key element of this are the Foundation Fellows – 32 lay or clerical people responsible for sustaining the Christian ethos of the University and providing prayer and practical support, not least to the chaplaincy team. The University is looking for new Foundation Fellows. Could this be you? To learn more, please contact me, tel: 581883.

Ian Kirkwood

# BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES

A Way of Life

Teach my poor spirit to reach for your kingdom.  
Comfort me, Lord, that I may give comfort to others.  
Set my meek footsteps on paths of obedience  
That I might be worthy of my inheritance.  
Starving and parched, my soul longs for righteousness,  
With your love and compassion, may I be filled.

May I be merciful to the helpless and lost,  
As You show your mercy to me in my weakness.  
Keep my heart pure to find good in all people,  
That I may see your face clearly before me always.  
Give me courage to speak up for justice and peace,  
That I may be numbered among your children.

Grant me the strength and power to defend  
Your holy name against those who would have me deny You.  
Then, as your faithful servant, may I be truly blessed  
To come home to your heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

Joan Osmond

*Written about 20 years ago, Joan says this is her 'take' on the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew Chapters 5-7). It was normal for Jesus to preach outside and this, his longest sermon, was delivered on what has become known as the Mount of the Beatitudes, looking down on the Sea of Galilee.*



## ONLINE AUCTION TOTAL

Our Online Auction of 24<sup>th</sup> April raised a final total of £250, following two recent donations. The monies have been sent to Christian Aid. Many thanks to all who contributed funds or sale items.

## SUE RYDER CONCERT POSTPONED

The concert for Sue Ryder's Leckhampton Court Hospice has been postponed from June until the Autumn. In the meantime, if you support this charity you may like to consider signing their petition to government to make bereavement leave mandatory. You can add your name to the campaign at: [www.sueryder.org/BereavementLeave](http://www.sueryder.org/BereavementLeave)

## WALKING FOR BLIND VETERANS

Alison Faulkner is doing a sponsored walk for the organisation Blind Veterans on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. You may remember her: she is the daughter of Hazel MacClaren, who worked in our Parish Office for several years.

As she has special needs (very poor sight and partial deafness), Alison will be accompanied on the walk by her carer Molly. They hope to raise £500. To donate go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alison-faulkner5>

## BOOK REVIEW: SINGING IN BABYLON

Everyone has to live with second choices — events and circumstances they would not choose, some trivial, some tragic. In the Bible Daniel was a man whose life was filled with tough decisions, but he did more than just survive; he stayed faithful to God and actually thrived.

In *Singing in Babylon – finding purpose in life's second choices*, author Jeff Lucas challenges readers to be like Daniel. This is an inspirational book, written in the down-to-earth style Rev Lucas also uses in his preaching. If you have experienced disappointments eg a career change due to the pandemic, this paperback could be a very useful tool to aid your recovery.

Published by David C Cook, ISBN 9780830778713, available from: [Eden.co.uk](http://Eden.co.uk), tel: 0800 612 2186, circa £11.99.

## EDITOR'S ROUND UP: SPEAKING ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven He told his followers to make disciples from all nations (see Matthew 28: 16-20). For most of us this may not mean training to be a missionary. Our new Curate Eddie Carmichael bravely made his faith known to fellow soldiers during his army service (see page 7). If you have been a Christian for a long time, it may be that you have little contact with unbelievers. But there will be ways to witness.

Before the pandemic, I went food shopping on the way home from a meeting at Gas Green Baptist Church. We had each been given printed Scriptures to gift to other people. The young man on the checkout at Mark's & Spencer was talkative. He had recently watched *The Omen* series of horror films and said he would like to read the Book of Revelation for himself one day, to see what it actually says. Imagine his surprise when I produced a copy of the New Testament from my shopping bag and said: "This could be the day."

We may never know the effect our words and actions can have on the lives of those we meet. Sometimes, we are given a glimpse. A few weeks before I began working for Tearfund there was a death in my family. One of my cousins suffered the loss of a young son, from a longstanding health condition. Some comfort was found in knowing the lad had given his life to the Lord, whilst on holiday. My new job had many creative aspects. The staff artist was asked to draw a cartoon of me. As we chatted, he mentioned his Summer work with children on beach missions. Here was the man who had led our little Christopher to Christ. It was a privilege to tell him the end of the story and we both ended up in tears.

When I saw the cartoon there were tears of laughter!

Shirley Collins



If you have something to say, a poem or prayer to share, or story to tell, do be in touch. Email: [artseccles@googlemail.com](mailto:artseccles@googlemail.com) or post your item to The Editor, 12 Tanners Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 7LH. Deadline for the July issue of *Outreach* is 20<sup>th</sup> June.



## DIARY

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> }	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> }	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> }	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Communion in Church 8am. Parish Communion 10.30am. See website and emails for CCWW.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> }	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> }	
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> }	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> }	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Communion in Church 8am. All Age Service 10.30am. See website and emails for CCWW.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> }	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> }	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> }	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> }	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Communion in Church 8am. Parish Communion 10.30am. See website and emails for CCWW.
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> }	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> }	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> }	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> }	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Community Sunday: Communion in Church 8am. Short act of worship 9am before going out. 4pm Gathering. See website and emails for CCWW.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> }	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> }	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> }	

**DETAILS WERE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.**

## ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERS

### FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

**Playgroup:** 9am-3pm Monday to Friday } 243021/  
[christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk) } 07989 124492

**Crèche:** Sundays from 10.20am Alstone Porch  
**Sunday Morning Children's Groups & Youth Nights** }  
} Anna Laszlo 581593

### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS:

**Rainbows:** Thursday 5pm Bayshill/Lansdown}  
**Brownies:** Thursday 6pm Harwood Hall }  
**Guides:** Thursday 6.15pm Bayshill/Lansdown} Maureen Jones 517183

### FOR ADULTS:

**Baby & Toddler Group** for Mums & Dads with pre-school children  
Monday 1.30-3.15pm Harwood Hall Sarah O'Meara 513067

### Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 10am-12 noon Alstone Porch (currently suspended)

**Friendship Club** Lunch Club & Afternoon Tea Meetings (from 8<sup>th</sup> September)  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays Harwood Hall Mandy Whitefield 511919  
[mandywhitefield2@hotmail.com](mailto:mandywhitefield2@hotmail.com)

### MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

**Director of Music:** Tim Ingold 01452 524199

**Choir:** Friday, Music Room 7.30-9pm

**Worship Group:** Beck Donaldson 01451 860561

### CONTACT LEADERS FOR LATEST NEWS

### OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

The Matilda Project, Wendy Phillips, [matildaproject@gmail.com](mailto:matildaproject@gmail.com)  
Mission Without Borders, Jos Downey, [jdowney@mwbuk.org](mailto:jdowney@mwbuk.org)

# SERVICES OF WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH IN 'NORMAL' TIMES

## ***Sunday***

8am        **HOLY COMMUNION**  
A said Service ie without music  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays BCP  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Sundays Common Worship

10.30am   1st Sunday **PARISH COMMUNION**  
2nd Sunday **ALL AGE SERVICE**  
3rd Sunday **PARISH COMMUNION**  
4th Sunday **MORNING WORSHIP**  
5th Sunday **MORNING WORSHIP**

Children are in church for the first few minutes of each Service, and then leave for their Sunday teaching groups:

***Scramblers (Key Stage 1), Explorers (Key Stage 2) and Pathfinders (Years 7-9)*** meet during each 10.30am Service except All Age Service.

**CRECHE** available each Sunday morning for the under 3s.

6.30pm    **CHORAL EVENSONG**  
Once a month, often on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday when possible.

## ***Wednesday***

10.30am   **HOLY COMMUNION**  
When possible.

## ***Monday-Friday***

8.45am    **MORNING PRAYER**  
Fridays on Zoom.