

OUTREACH

OCTOBER 2021



CHRIST CHURCH
CHELTENHAM

Online Issue No. 19

**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

Curate: Rev Eddie Carmichael 07368 889221
curious.curate37@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Barbara Lucas 228616/07912 345056
Chris Orwin-Henderson churchwarden@christchurchcheltenham.com

Licensed Readers: Andrew Judge 07813 401685
Angela Smith 238232
Amanda Thiselton 07884 370925
(David Laszlo has stepped back from active Reader ministry.)

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
Electoral Roll Officer: Virginia Mullan 231006

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Website Design: Jennie Crow web@christchurchcheltenham.com
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**ADDRESS: Christ Church Parish Office, Malvern Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL50 2JH**

CHRIST CHURCH 'IN PERSON' WORSHIP

Following the Government's removal of most Coronavirus restrictions on Monday 19th July, Sunday worship at Christ Church has changed:

- There is now no longer a requirement to register when you enter, or to use Track & Trace. The QR code will remain available and attendees are encouraged to use it.
- There will be ongoing provision of hand sanitiser: please use it.
- Masks are required in pews that are against the wall in the North aisle, for comfort and protection of those who feel vulnerable or concerned.
- Masks are *optional* in all other pews
- Balcony is open for those who would rather keep a greater distance.
- To maintain distancing, every other pew continues to be cordoned off.
- The Congregation can now sing: masked or unmasked!
- At Holy Communion, the situation remains unchanged. The Priest only to receive wine, the bread is shared by all communicants.
- We will continue to share The Peace from the pews.
- We will aim to provide coffee/tea/squash and biscuits in the Harwood Hall after the main Sunday morning act of worship September onwards.

Be assured that we will make every effort to protect the vulnerable and make our worship together joyful and God centred.

There is still provision to catch up with the main Sunday 10.30am Services and with '*Kids at Christ Church*' via our own YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0jBZVeFyeD2YFgumhzhvZtQ>



Please note we have a new website: www.christchurchcheltenham.com

FACEBOOK ADDRESSES

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

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

COVER STORY: HARVEST FESTIVAL PLUS NEW SERVICES



The front cover photo shows a plentiful display of fruit and vegetables inside a church. This is the time of year when we give thanks to God for our food, drink, the harvests which provide it, and the farmers and workers who plough, plant and later gather in the produce.

At Christ Church we are celebrating our Harvest Festival this year at the 10.30am Service on Sunday 10th October. On the same day there will also be Choral Evensong at 6.30pm – the first since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

In addition we are delighted now to be able to provide Midweek Holy Communion on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10am, led by Rev Julia Hook. This is in addition to the Service on the 2nd Wednesday usually led by the Vicar.

CHELTENHAM CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL GROUP SHOW

The works of 12 artists have been on display in Christ Church's Hub Gallery since 25th September and will be there until 3rd October, hosted by Cheltenham Open Studios. The exhibition is open on Saturdays and weekdays 10am-4pm, and from 12 noon on the final Sunday.

Nikki Seville christianartsfestival.org

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, contact :

Tina Benney tel: 01242 512246

Sara Hicks tel: 07974 355845

or email: christchurch-covid19-outreach@outlook.com

VICAR'S WRITES: BE YOURSELF

Monty Python the much loved and influential British surreal comedy troupe originally active through the 1970s and early 1980s have left a huge legacy. Three of their six members have been voted among the top 50 greatest comedians ever, and their TV shows and feature films have provided quotes and catchphrases that still live on.

Among the sketches and weird silliness were collage stop-motion animation segments created by animator Terry Gilliam, that took images from famous works of art and Victorian illustrations and engravings.

After working on Monty Python, Gilliam went on to become a feature film director, directing among others *Time Bandits*, *12 Monkeys*, and the Academy Award Nominated *Adventures of Baron Munchausen*.

The titular character of the fictional movie was based on a real baron, one Hieronymus Karl Friedrich, Freiherr von Münchhausen. In the middle of the 18th century, the baron became a minor celebrity for telling outrageous tales loosely based on his military career. As these stories were recorded, the preposterous nature of them grew, as at times he was said to have claimed to have ridden a cannonball, fought a 40ft crocodile and travelled to the moon.

Such has been the impact of these stories, that his name has become associated with a physiological disorder where an individual produces symptoms of a condition to draw attention to themselves.

In a world of more than seven billion people the desire to be something special has led to extraordinary acts of human endurance, bravery, or sometimes lunacy. Even among smaller groups, exaggerating a quirk or character trait to become interesting or fascinating can be a huge temptation.

*Hieronymus Karl Friedrich,
Freiherr von Münchhausen,
painted in 1740.*



(Cont'd...)

One time, Jesus spoke about how God has counted the number of hairs on the heads of each of us. It echoes a Psalm where we can read how God has known us before we were born. He knows us completely and intimately. There is nothing about us that is hidden from him. We don't need to pretend, put on an act or pass ourselves off as something we are not.

Whether we have wrestled a crocodile or just wrestled with self-doubt, God knows us and loves us.

Rev Simon Heron

For further study, see these Bible passages referred to:
Hairs on your head, Luke 12:7 and Matthew 10:30.
God knew us before we were born, Psalm 139.



You are unique. Fill your own shoes, not someone else's.

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 *Stewardship*.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 13th October at 2.30pm we are very pleased that the little folk of Christ Church Playgroup will be popping in to sing us some of their favourite songs, which should be a delight for all of us. After they have finished their slot we are planning a *Show and Tell*, so do please bring along any item that has a special memory or meaning for you that you would be happy to share with us.

On Wednesday 27th October at 2.30pm we will welcome Barbara Driver and Charity Co-ordinator Sara Driver who will be telling us about Cheltenham Open Door, a most worthwhile and local organisation.

Cheltenham Open Door provide a hot meal, weekly food parcel and toiletries to about 70 guests a day on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They also signpost anyone in need of specific help with housing or addiction issues and any other requirements, to appropriate organisations. They hope to acquire larger premises soon so they can offer services from Monday-Friday. They provide a valuable shelter too over several days every Christmas.



We offer a free keep fit class for people attending Friendship Club. The class starts at 11.30am and lasts for 45 minutes. It is mainly chair based, so come along, get fit and have fun!

Renate Young

OPEN THE BOOK TEAM

Our small *Open The Book* team desperately needs new members. We are starting up again by going into Christ Church School, possibly from the beginning of October or otherwise after half-term. It will be once a fortnight on Wednesday mornings from 9.30-10.30am.

We take the morning assembly where we narrate, dress up in costumes and act out Bible stories. It is great fun, the children love it and are always keen to take part. If you might be interested in joining us contact: Maureen Jones, tel: 01242 517183, email: maureenjonesbt@btinternet.com

ADMISSION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Our Churchwardens Barbara and Chris were formally Admitted to their roles during a special act of worship at Trinity Church on 27th September.

As it was not possible for everyone from Christ Church to be in attendance, on the next two pages is an extract from the Order Of Service. Hopefully this will give an appreciation of the event, and offer the chance for us all to pray for our Churchwardens.

The retiring wardens sit, and the Registrar (or Archdeacon) invites those wardens to be admitted to office to stand and says:

The Church is the body of Christ, and through baptism every member is called to ministry and to service. You are called to special responsibilities. With your clergy, you are to share in the administration of the parish and the care of the church buildings. You are to promote the whole mission of the Church, which is pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. These things you are called to do for the glory of God and for the well-being of Christ's Church. To him therefore, upon whose grace we rely, and in whose love we trust, let us dedicate ourselves, our lives and work, praying together.

The churchwardens pray:

**Almighty God
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and called to your service;
Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Cont'd...)

The Registrar says:

Brothers and sisters, whom God has called to serve in the office and duty of churchwarden, I ask you to make your solemn promise and declaration and say together:

The churchwardens say:

I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the office of churchwarden for the parish for which I have been chosen during the period of my appointment.

The Archdeacon says:

I admit each one of you to the office of churchwarden for the coming year,
in the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
May the Lord be with you
as you serve him in this office. **Amen.**

All stand with the churchwardens:

Living God,
your love has sustained us, your wisdom has guided us.
We thank you for the joy and encouragement you give.
Fill us, your servants, with your Spirit,
that we may daily listen to your voice and grow in understanding
of your word, faithfully making known your salvation.
Renew our churches, parishes and deaneries, in unity and mission,
that all who love you may work for the coming of your Kingdom
and see your glory revealed among us
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water;
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A CARING TOUCH

“We cannot pray the ache out of one another, but we can bless it with the touch of our hands, the gift of a hug and our embrace. Touch fills a person’s being with the energy of bonding and love. Without saying a word the message is given: ‘I care for you.’

Touch connects one to another in care, makes contact with heartache, centres love, concentrates spiritual energies, and warms the cold or exhausted spirit. A kiss on the cheek, a quiet embrace, arms linked or hands held are all powerful movements.”

These are powerful words I came across recently and would like to share. It is so sad that because of Lockdown restrictions many, many people may have suffered mentally through not being able to connect with their loved ones properly.

I know from my own experience that I was prevented from even just seeing my husband Steve at a time when he most needed me. I, too, felt isolated and alone for many weeks until my lovely “bubble couple” took me under their wing and restored me to some semblance of normal humanity.

I thank God with my whole heart for the love and friendship I have received from my Christ Church family. God bless you all. Let us pray that “a kiss on the cheek” and “a quiet embrace” will soon, once again, become part of normal daily life.

Joan Osmond

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

We are part way through an eight week course produced by Bible Society called *Explore the Bible*. It happens on Wednesday nights from 7.30pm in the Harwood Hall. It is not too late to join in. Accompanying books plus more details are available from the Vicar.

If you cannot attend or prefer home study, it is also available online. See: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>

CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR: SUPPORTING SUE RYDER



The photo above was taken by David Norman at the 19th September Coffee Concert, our Choir's first such appearance since the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Beck Donaldson for organising the event.

Our next concert will be at Christ Church on Saturday 20th November at 7pm. A group of folk singers, Shepherd's Crook, will also be performing and there will be a special appearance from popular flautist Simeon Wood.

We are all supporting the Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice, which, like many charities, has suffered a loss of income over the past two years. Cancer patients from all over the County benefit from time spent at the hospice, but it costs some £10,000 per day to keep it running.

Tickets will be available soon. Our musical history will continue in next month's *Outreach* and the whole series, with additional chapters, is being made into a book which we hope will be on sale at the Concert. Just in time for Christmas!

Tony White & Shirley Collins

EDITOR'S ROUND UP: FREE TO BE ME

As a school pupil I came to Christ Church around a dozen times for end of term services. So it was perhaps a natural instinct which drew me inside later on as a young adult when I needed help.

I was a dance student on a limited income when I began a relationship with a man who at first seemed like a good, kind person. He bought me trendy clothes and jewellery. This included a locket containing both our photos which he insisted I had to wear every day.



He did not like me spending time with my friends and I lost touch with them all. My parents thought he was too possessive and controlling. At first I did not understand what they meant. Then he began to demand I should give up my dancing career, and became angry and violent when I refused.

Wandering into Christ Church one morning I prayed for strength to escape from him and make new friends. The Curate, Tony Wilcox, saw me and invited me to the evening service, and the youth club afterwards. I was impressed God had answered my prayer so quickly!

After leaving my boyfriend the last thing I received from him was a card bearing the words: "Now your dreams won't come true." Well, I achieved many of my ambitions, which he would never have allowed me to fulfil. There is a certain kind of person who enjoys bullying and having power over others. No one has the right to behave like that.

I found real freedom in a relationship with Jesus, who helps us to develop our talents. *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9.)

Shirley Collins

If you have a photo, poem, or prayer to share, or a story to tell, do be in touch. Email: artseccles@googlemail.com or post your item to The Editor, 12 Tanners Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 7LH. Deadline for the November issue of *Outreach* is 19th October.

EMERGENCY GRANTS

At their meeting on 13th September the Finance and Standing Sub-Committee approved emergency grants of £1,000 to Christian Aid to support worldwide vaccination programmes, £800 to GARAS (Gloucestershire Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and £1,000 to the UNHCR because of the situation in Afghanistan.

Susan West

OCTOBER DIARY: CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS

Friday 1 st	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am. <i>Christian Arts Festival Group Show</i> in The Hub Gallery 10am-4pm (see p4).
Saturday 2 nd	Coffee Concert: Jonathan Hope 10.30am (see back page) <i>Christian Arts Festival Group Show</i> in The Hub Gallery 10am-4pm (see p4).
Sunday 3 rd	Holy Communion in Church 8am. Parish Communion 10.30am. <i>Christian Arts Festival Group Show</i> in The Hub Gallery 12 noon-2pm (see p4). See website and emails for Christ Church Without Walls.
Monday 4 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am. PCC Meeting 7.30pm.
Tuesday 5 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Wednesday 6 th	
Thursday 7 th	Bible Study Course Week 4 (see p10). Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Friday 8 th	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 10 th	Holy Communion in Church 8am. Harvest Festival 10.30am. Choral Evensong 6.30pm. See website and emails for Christ Church Without Walls.
Monday 11 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 12 th	
Wednesday 13 th	
Thursday 14 th	Midweek Holy Communion 10am followed by Coffee. Friendship Club meets in Harwood Hall (see p7). Bible Study Course Week 5 (see p10).
Friday 15 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am. Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.

Sunday 17 th	Holy Communion in Church 8am. Parish Communion 10.30am. See website and emails for Christ Church Without Walls.
Monday 18 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 19 th	
Wednesday 20 th	
Thursday 21 st	Bible Study Course Week 6 (see p10). Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Friday 22 nd	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 24 th	Holy Communion in Church 8am. Morning Worship 10.30am. See website and emails for Christ Church Without Walls.
Monday 25 th	Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Tuesday 26 th	
Wednesday 27 th	
Thursday 28 th	Midweek Holy Communion 10am followed by Coffee. Friendship Club meets in Harwood Hall (see p7). Bible Study Course Week 7 (see p10). Morning Prayer in Church with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Friday 29 th	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Andrew Judge 8.45am.
Sunday 31 st	Holy Communion in Church 8am. All age Communion 10.30am. See website and emails for Christ Church Without Walls.

For Zoom links to Friday Morning Prayers contact Andrew Judge tel: 07813 401685, email: andrew.judge50@gmail.com

COMING SOON: WINTER WONDERLAND

Myself and Nigel Green have just started a not for profit venture to serve people on this side of town. As H & N Events we plan to stage Winter Wonderland in Christ Church's rooms on Saturday 11th December. This will provide an affordable fun day out: produce and gift stalls, children's disco, entertainment, refreshments, and the chance to meet Father Christmas. More news next month. Please contact me for details, or if you would like to help email: helen.hope74@outlook.com

Helen Hope

ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

Playgroup: 9am-3pm Monday to Friday } 243021/
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

2nd & 4th Wednesdays after 10am Holy Communion Mandy Whitefield 511919
mandywhitefield2@hotmail.com

Friendship Club Lunch, talks, & afternoon meetings

2nd & 4th Wednesdays Harwood Hall Mandy Whitefield 511919
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

OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

The Matilda Project, Wendy Phillips, matildaproject@gmail.com
Mission Without Borders, Jos Downey, jdowney@mwbuk.org



COME JOIN US

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month at 10am



Coffee Concerts 2021
Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham

Meet the
Christ Church Organ
Concert and Demo

Jonathan Hope

Principal Organist at Gloucester Cathedral
SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER, 10.30am

Entry by donation
Homemade Refreshments

This event includes a
**BIG
SCREEN
VIEW**

Afghanaid