

Bringing you the latest news from

# Christchurch

[www.christchurch-clevedon.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-clevedon.org.uk)

## and the Community

Dear Christchurch Family,

This week we have been praying 'thy kingdom come' and we would love to hear your stories of people who through this week have come to know Jesus afresh or for the first time.

If you check out our weekly gathering online Bishop Peter sent us, as a Church, a seasonal encouraging message.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May we celebrate Pentecost. It's the day the Church reminds itself of when God's promises were fulfilled and the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out for us all.

That day brought dramatic change not only to the people who were in Jerusalem but also to the wider world. The old ways were challenged and shaken and God's people grew and adapted into new ways of serving and worshipping amongst in the midst of increased persecution and fear of arrest and execution.

It seems to me that change rarely comes without struggle, pain and anxiety and that is certainly true for us today but in amongst our theme on prayer there was a verse that leapt out at me and sort of attached itself to my thoughts as we give thanks for each other and ask what the Church will become through this time of dramatic change:

**I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?**

**My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 121.*

It's an interesting question and many people are asking that at this very moment in time, **where does my help come** from?

As Christians we know the answer, 'my help comes from the Lord', and many of you are showing and sharing that help with others in courageous, new and innovative ways. Yet, what do we say when people ask us directly and don't yet know Jesus? Can I encourage you. Tell them your story of how the Lord has helped you or is helping you at this time.

During 'thy Kingdom come' we were encouraged to pray for five people who we long to come into relationship with Jesus. Anyway, one of my five people who has been on my prayer list for some time called me, and in amongst the conversation asked '**the question**'.

I pray that as the gifts of the Spirit are stirred up amongst us in this time of great change that we will seek the words, boldness and courage so that we are all ready with the answer. It may be sharing our story of faith and hope, or praying with people when they ask, or just listening and asking the Holy Spirit to reveal himself as they speak.

As we move through this time of change, I pray we will emerge as a larger, stronger Discipled people of God so that many more people will be able to say in confidence '**my help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth**'.

We need to share some pastoral news - this week our dear friend Jack Dagnall passed away at home. Jack had an inquisitive, searching mind, and a warm, friendly character – he was much loved. At 95, Jack was the oldest member of the Christchurch men's group, which he regularly attended. His family is in our prayers.

God bless you,

Clive, Russ and the Christchurch leadership team

# Praying Together Wherever We Are

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove,  
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love.*

On this Pentecost Sunday fill us again with the Holy Spirit so that we may show your love to those near to us as well as those far away from us.

Show us ways to love when it seems that we can do nothing. Show us how to respond to others' needs in ways that make a difference for them. Overflow our lives with the Holy Spirit so that we move by His direction. Dare us to follow however He leads us.

*You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;  
we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.*

As we read and hear the plethora of words in instruction and comment during the current situation, help us, Lord, to hear Your voice.

Let's look for your voice of truth in the Bible by reading it like we've never read it before.

We give thanks for those who have provided translations and printed Bibles for peoples all over the world and especially in China where an 80-year-old Mr Meng in a village in Sechuan province said this:

*'During this time of isolation, I read the Bible without stopping for 10 days and I could not stop reading about God's forgiveness and love for me. Now I want to spend the rest of my life reading the Bible. (Bible Society)*

Lord, make us eager to read your word to us, not just because it's our daily habit but because it's our heart's desire.

*Without your help we fail you Lord, we cannot live his way;  
we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.*

We pray for Clevedon Community Hospital and all those there who will see some of the impact of Weston General Hospital's decision to close for new admissions and A&E. May all the staff on the wards, minor injuries unit, outpatients' department and administration know they are highly valued as they continue to provide the wonderful service to the community and not be overwhelmed; for school communities preparing for the return of some children next week; for headteachers, governors, teaching and support staff, children, parents all with various thoughts, all with differing circumstances to organise or overcome.

We will all know someone who works in these areas of life and we lift them to you, Lord, for their protection, strength and stamina for the jobs they are doing and the knowledge that their efforts are not in vain.

Lockdown for us means choosing to obey certain rules and regulations.

For leprosy sufferers in India there are other obstacles in their way:

*'We are living in unimaginable times. Many of us are staying home, miles from our loved ones. Others may be self-isolating and adapting to a new routine. For the staff at Chandkhuri Hospital, social isolation is not new. The team serves people affected by leprosy. People who have experienced social stigma from the disease and often found themselves segregated from their loved ones and communities.'* (The Leprosy Mission)

Lord, in our social distancing and in our staying at home or self isolating, give us your power and strength to follow Christ each day.

*(Spirit of God...words of hymn by Margaret Old (1932-2001))*

# News & Information

## South West Prays

As part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative, thousands of Christians across the South West will be meeting online to pray together on Pentecost Sunday (31st May) at 8pm.

Bishop Pete Hancock (Bath & Wells Diocese), Bishop Nick McKinnel (Diocese of Exeter) and Marvin Rees (Mayor of Bristol) will be sharing on the evening along with many church leaders.

To watch the event on Sunday evening, click on this link: [www.southwestawake.com](http://www.southwestawake.com)

If it's not possible to join in online, may we encourage you to set aside some time on Sunday at 8pm to wait on the Lord and unite with thousands of others in prayer.

## Men's Group Quiz

Next Tuesday (2nd June) at 7.30pm

Please get in touch with Steve Hargreaves for details on how to join in:

[steven.f.hargreaves@hotmail.com](mailto:steven.f.hargreaves@hotmail.com)

## New Wine: United Breaks Out, 30th July to 3rd August

Many will be disappointed that we can't gather in the rain and worship at New Wine this year!

The good news is that we can gather online at home with New Wine's 'United Breaks Out' and if you miss the rain you can always turn your shower on in the background!

Keep the dates in your diary and more information will be released soon.

# Here to Help

If you are considered 'high risk' or are struggling in any way and would like some support, please get in touch with your home group leader,

or Carolyn, our Home Groups Co-ordinator ([carolynmwaite@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmwaite@gmail.com)),  
or our Church Administrator, Kathryn ([admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk)).

Please note that although the answer machine in the church office will be checked as often as possible, it is advisable to contact one of the clergy (by phone /email) or Kathryn (by email) if the matter is urgent.

All contact details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Details of some of the local support services ready and willing to help can be found below:

**Clevedon Aid** (originally known as Clevedon Mutual Aid) can help with shopping, dog walking, posting of essentials, requests for PPE and prescription collection.

They have also recently launched a Hot Meal project delivering hot meals free of charge to 40+ vulnerable people as well as a Well-Being project supporting anyone struggling with loneliness and isolation. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from these services, Clevedon Aid invite you to log a request on their website: <https://www.clevedonaid.org.uk/request-aid>

**Healthwatch North Somerset** is a Government approved charity partnered with NHS England to provide support & services to the shielded and vulnerable in our communities. NHS Responders can help with shopping, prescription delivery, transport to surgery appointments, a chat over the phone and more.

Please call them on 01275 851400 or 07857036292.

## Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)

If you're interested in registering to formally volunteer throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, you can register with VANS online at <https://www.vansweb.org.uk> or phone 01934 416486.

## Christchurch– Mini Directory

<b>Clergy</b> Rev Dr Russell Herbert Rev Clive Jennings	872580 872134	clevedonmethodist@btinternet.com vicar@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Clergy P A</b> Kathryn McManus-Jones	871483	admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Wardens</b> Jess McManus Alex Pett	602262	Jess.warden@outlook.com alex.pett@me.com
<b>Finance</b> John de Borde	873200	john.deborde@btinternet.com
<b>Prayer Co-ordinator</b> Jean Balcombe	269741	prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Home Groups Co-ordinator</b> Carolyn Waite	340689	carolynmwaite@gmail.com
<b>Safeguarding</b> Margaret Sutherland	07527 988690	safeguarding@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Children &amp; Family Co-ordinator</b> Kate Dommett	871483	childrenandfamilies@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Sunday Children and Families Co-ordinator</b> Emy Buxton	871483	sundaychildrenandfamiliescoordinator@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to:

**admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk**

Other ways of connecting:

Check out our **Facebook** page: [Christchurch Clevedon](https://www.facebook.com/Christchurch-Clevedon)

and our **children's blog**: [www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com](http://www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com) .

For **prayer requests**, please email Jean Balcombe: prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

