

Bringing you the latest news from

Christchurch

www.christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

and the Community

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to: admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Facebook page: [Christchurch Clevedon](#)

Children's blog: www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com .

Prayer requests: prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Here to Help

If you would like some practical or prayer support, please get in touch with either your home group leader, or Carolyn, our Home Groups Co-ordinator (carolynmwaite@gmail.com).

Please note that **Kathryn** will be back in the **church office** on

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from **9.30am to 2.30pm** (tel: 01275 871483).

Sunday 13th September 2020

Dear Christchurch family,

Earlier this week we held a strategy meeting to map out a way forward for reopening the church building. We want to thank everyone for the responses to the questionnaire as this has been really helpful in giving us information for planning and preparation. Meanwhile, Downing Street has made further announcements regarding restrictions. As I write we are awaiting confirmation of some of the finer details of the implications, but what follows is a summary of what we are hoping to do.

Our intention is for services to resume at the start of October. Social distancing requirements mean we are limited as to how many we can fit in at any one time. We want to provide opportunity for everyone who wants to come. Our plan is that in addition to Sunday worship there will be a number of midweek opportunities.

Everyone will be required to book their place in advance. Details about how to book will follow very soon, but at this stage we just want to give everyone the heads up. If you are able to come to something midweek, that will help to free up space for others who might only be able to come on Sundays.

As has been explained previously, the format will be rather different. We will be required to wear face masks, we are not able to include congregational singing, services will be a bit shorter, and we are unable to mingle before and after. Nevertheless, after all these months it will be wonderful to join with others, even if we cannot all gather at the same time. And as we do so, we will be able to worship and pray and share in God's word.

We should also add that it is our intention to continue to provide something online as we are aware that many will not be in a position to attend gatherings on site.

Our thanks go to all the team who are working so hard to help us make everything happen in a way that keeps everyone safe – and we are particularly grateful to Jess.

We will of course keep you updated and more details will follow over the next couple of weeks.

This week we begin a new series looking at the book of Acts.

The series is based on the book 'Unleashed: The Acts Church Today' by Gavin and Anne Calver. For groups or individuals who would like to follow Bible study material accompanying the series, this can be found in another book that Spring Harvest produced, called 'Church: what we can learn from Acts' by Beki Rogers.

Today we turn to Acts 1: 4-8...

In this passage we see the disciples in conversation with the risen Jesus. Their minds must have been full of awe and wonder, yet also uncertainty and confusion as they try to make sense of what Jesus is promising them. This is the prelude to the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. There's a sense of both poise and promise in the air. It reminds us that however weak and vulnerable we may feel as human beings, God knows what is going on and God will equip and empower us according to what is needed at any given time. He is faithful.

Let's pray: *Lord, thank you that it is in our weakness that we can find your strength. Help us as individuals and as a church to know you and trust in you in ever greater measure, this day and always. Amen.*

God bless you,

Russ, Clive and the Christchurch leadership team

Praying Together Wherever We Are

Pointers for Prayer

'And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common.'

Acts 2: 44 (The Message)

For ourselves

- consider and offer to God the people in your life with whom you 'sing' in harmony
- consider and offer to God those people in your life that strike a discordant note
- ask God to show you how to live in a wonderful harmony with all around you and all you have conversations with in this week and every week

For the Church

- this week we pray with Churches Together in Clevedon for Prayer4Clevedon. Praying without physically meeting we ask for discernment for how to continue to pray that we may be a town that 'sings' in harmony in all aspects of its life
- give thanks for our Christ-centred, outward looking church leadership that is committed to serving our community
- give thanks for our church family in their encouragement of one another as we rejoice in being connected in faith, hope and love - let us always 'sing' in harmony

For our community

- for those holding elected positions that they may weigh in the balance the needs of all and especially those most in need
- for families feeling disjointed because of the restrictions in meeting together whether at home or for occasions such as weddings and funerals
- for businesses dealing with the challenges of additional rules and regulations for everyone's safety

For the world

- for those places in our country and around the world showing increased infection rates and the impact of increased restrictions has on everyday life
- for governments as they strive to make the right decisions based on sound evidence in an unknown climate
- for our police officers, ambulance men and women, fire and rescue services, coastguards and all those who respond to emergencies. We give thanks that they do with such professionalism and compassion

*'It is not in the angry voices that reach out for our emptiness,
the social media which promises to be our family,
that life which seems to be just one purchase away;
but it is in your heart where we find our deepest longings.'*

Prayer by Thom M Shuman based on John 5:39

News & Information

Any Questions? Let's Explore!

7.30pm weekly via Zoom, 30th Sept- 21st Oct 2020

Join us online to explore the meaning of life and ask challenging questions about the Christian faith.

If you are just curious or want to find out a bit more this is a great way to do it.

This is especially helpful if you haven't attended a group like this before.

To register and/or to find out more, please email Jean: prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Clevedon & District Foodbank

If you or anyone you know has fallen victim to redundancy recently, your local Citizens Advice will help you work through your benefits claim (01934 836200 or 03444 111 444, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

You can quote 'Clevedon Foodbank Redundancy Support' to get a Foodbank voucher, which can be taken to Clevedon & District Foodbank in exchange for six weeks' food support until your benefit arrives. That way, you'll be getting expert help to navigate the Benefits system, and you and your children will be fed while you wait for benefits to come through.

Please note that the **Clevedon Foodbank** has returned to their usual premises at **Unit 1, Knowles Road, Clevedon BS21 7XS** and is open on **Mondays and Fridays between 9.30am and 11.30am.**

Yatton, Nailsea and Portishead Foodbanks remain open as normal.
For more information go to www.clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk

The Foodbank is currently short of **toiletries** and **household cleaning products**.

Revd Suzy Kirkham's Ordination

Suzy will be ordained as a Deacon at 4.30pm on **Sunday 27th September 2020** with Bishop Trevor Willmot in Wells Cathedral.

Sadly, the service will not be live streamed and each person is only allowed to bring four guests because of the current restrictions.

Please pray for Suzy as she prepares and also for Dave Wilkie who is being Deaconed at the same time.

Welcome back to our Trinity College Students!

Nate Longstaff and Elliot Grove are back to Trinity College this weekend and will continue their placements with us this academic year. They will be joined here at Christchurch by another Ordinand from Trinity College, Adam Wingrove, who has recently moved to Bristol with his wife, Emma, and their two young sons, Ellis and Levi. A very warm welcome (back) to you all!

Adam and Emma write :

A big hello to all at Christchurch Clevedon! We are Adam and Emma and we have been married since August 2013 and have 2 young boys Ellis (3) and Levi (1). We first met aged 11 at school, found faith after coming from a non-Christian background and have been doing church together ever since. Adam has been working in recruitment for the last 4 years, just finished 2 years as churchwarden, deanery synod, prayer ministry, and previously youth worker in local church and council context, Emma has been working in a customer service centre for NHS hospitals looking after their medical equipment and has previously worked in childcare. She has enjoyed serving different teams within the church such as children's ministry, Homeless outreach, pastoral care team and in the prayer ministry team and looked after the prayer chain.

We are originally from Reading and as a family we enjoy national trust walks, baking (some of us better than others), gardening, watching films and chilled days laughing with friends and family.

We are extremely excited and felt it has been God led that we will be joining you in September and getting to know you all as church family and seeing where we can slot in and serve you and our new community together. We would be grateful if you can cover us in prayer for:

Easy transition from leaving our workplaces into studying

Ellis settles into his new nursery

Christchurch– Mini Directory

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