

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

Other ways of connecting:

Check out our **Facebook** page: Christchurch Clevedon
and our **children's blog**: www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com .

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

Dear Christchurch Family,

If you have recently 'linked in' to the Christchurch website or started joining us for our online Sunday gatherings, welcome. If you'd like to know more about us, please contact Kathryn on admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you and send you a weekly update with more information or if you'd prefer, we could give you a call.

In amongst all that's been happening, we received some sad news at the end of last week. Our very dear friend Harold Wilkinson passed away, very suddenly. Harold was a remarkable man with a brilliant mind and a humble, servant heart. He was very well-known and loved in the church and our community here in Clevedon where he had lived for many years and was instrumental in advising and encouraging us as we brought our two churches together as one. His family are in our prayers.

We are keen to hear what you are doing and again this week we have heard encouraging stories of people and families sharing, volunteering, writing letters and engaging with others online, collecting shopping / prescriptions and a myriad of other innovative ways you are connecting, serving and being served by others.

There are also many finding they have new skills at home during the lockdown and so many parents/ carers have become 'newly qualified' teachers! Well done.

In amongst all these stories we are aware that there are struggles, frustrations, anxiety, concerns and pain in numerous areas of life including bereavement and separation from the ones we love. With the recent advice that this lockdown will continue, our prayers and love are with you and please, whatever age you are, contact us and we can link you with others from a home group or support group to help you through this time.

Psalms 46 has continued to encourage us through these past weeks bringing hope and courage to many. 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble'.

In our 'online' Bible reading from Acts 2: 22-40 this week, we experience a dramatic shift as the disciples courageously and boldly tell everyone about Jesus. I recall Karl Martin teaching at New Wine some years ago encouraging us all to do likewise to 'encourage our courage and embolden our bold'.

Whatever we are facing, or may have to face this week, we are not alone, and the same God who transformed the early Church with courage and boldness empowers us, His church of today, to bring hope to others.

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,
for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.'

Deuteronomy 31:6

God bless you,
Russ, Clive and the Christchurch leadership team

Praying Together Wherever We Are

We give thanks for:

- those who have courage to give of themselves to feed those on the streets of towns and cities locally and nationally: those who collect food, prepare it, deliver it with love, for the people who receive it.
- family, friends and neighbours who care and show it in little things that make a difference.
- care home residents, management, staff and family of residents in the added challenges of these times. For staff who sit, beyond their shift, with sick residents whilst family are unable to be there.
- shop assistants and other service providers suffering abuse from customers feeling unduly restricted.
 - staff providing facilities in schools for key workers' children and vulnerable children.
 - all key workers as they juggle work with potentially additional shifts and family life.
 - our town and its people and all the good things that we can appreciate.
 - birdsong, trees and other plants vibrant again after the winter.
 - those who continue to serve the needs of the poorest and deprived in the world with funding uncertain and facilities strained.
- C.A.P., Foodbank, T.L.G., Make Lunch, Clevedon Aid and many individuals locally who give time, finance and other resources to provide support when people need it the most and with the desire to see that all are fed in body, mind and spirit.
- all those signs of God at work in and through His people, who take their courage and strength not from their own initiative or desire but through alertness and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Peter spoke at Pentecost in Acts 2: 22

'Fellow Israelite, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.'

We pray for:

- those who feel the weight of responsibility for decisions in this time: those elected to national and local government; parents and carers with school age children; adults with elderly parents and relatives; carers for family members.
- those already suffering reduced income and those living with additional uncertainty about the future.
 - those who have suffered the death of a loved one and in the rawness of grief may we all hold each other before God who holds us all in the palm of His hand.
 - God who gives us peace beyond what we could imagine possible.

We give thanks for Harold's life of faith and witness, and pray for his family as they mourn.

We continue to remember David, Bev, Karl, Abi and Ben as they mourn Joy's passing; Eve and Vicki and their families mourning their brother Tom, and all known to us personally.

We remember and give thanks for those who served our country in the Second World War: those who suffered the trauma of conflict, injury, death of loved ones and those who continue to live with that sense of loss, those whose life's experience has been formed by those years.

We pause to remember and give thanks for the Victory in Europe on 8th May 1945.

We pause to remember and give thanks for the Liberation of the Channel Islands from occupation on 9th May 1945.

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 2: 38

News & Information

Joy Clark

Joy's funeral service will be taking place on Monday at 3.30pm.

Her family appreciate that many of you would have wanted to attend, so if you would like a copy of the 'order of service', please email Kathryn at admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Daily Hope Phone-in

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community

We have read and heard many inspirational stories of Christchurch family members going 'above and beyond' to support their neighbours and organisations during this challenging time.

A huge thank you to everyone who is supporting and serving the more vulnerable in our community, whether individually or in groups, financially or practically. One such story comes from Clevedon Aid and features a couple of special Christchurch ladies: <https://www.clevedonaid.org.uk/news>

Clevedon Aid (originally known as Clevedon Mutual Aid), which works closely with the Town Council and North Somerset Together, can help with shopping, dog walking, posting of essentials, requests for PPE and prescription collection.

They have also recently launched a hot meal project and are already delivering hot meals free of charge to 40+ vulnerable people.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this service,

Clevedon Aid invite you to log a request on their website: <https://www.clevedonaid.org.uk/request-aid>

TLG

The Early Intervention team and Make Lunch team would like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Julia and Nat from Wilfred and Alice in Hill Road who donated so many amazing crafts and toys to Christchurch for coached children (who are now being coached remotely each week) and families receiving Boxes of Hope every week.

These wonderful gifts will brighten up many young lives over the coming weeks.

An act of beautiful generosity from our local community, for our local community.

THANK YOU!!

Clevedon & District Foodbank Requests

The Foodbank continues to be very busy. If you would like to donate, they currently need the following:

Sponge Puddings	Instant Mash Potato	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Custard	Jam
Tinned Rice Pudding	Tinned Meat	Tinned Tuna	Dry or microwaveable rice	
Small boxes of cereal or variety packs		Wrapped chocolate or muesli type bars		

Please deliver donations to: St Andrews Church, Old Church Road, Clevedon BS21 7UF

They are open **Mondays and Fridays between 9.30 am - 11.30 am.**

Spring Harvest Talks

Many of us will have enjoyed listening to the Spring Harvest devotionals, talks and worship from the comfort of our homes, all very relevant to the present situation. If you missed any of it, the Spring Harvest material will be available until the end of May at least - <https://springharvest.org/>

Care For The Family

'Care for the Family' is inviting us to join them for a couple of online events in May:

'Left To Their Own Devices'

Katherine Hill and Sim Dendy will share incredibly useful strategies to help protect our children from the potential dangers associated with the digital world, including:

- How to manage screen time
- Ways to positively engage with your child's digital activities
- The importance of modelling healthy tech habits for your kids

For more information, and to book a place, click on the link below:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/owndevices>

Monday date night!

Four free date nights from Care for the Family.

Coming to a sofa near you.

We were due to run a marriage enrichment evening this Spring at Christchurch . The very helpful people at Care for the Family realised that we couldn't meet up so are bringing

'The Marriage sessions' to your own sofa!

Starting on **Monday 11th May 2020** over four consecutive Monday evening sessions (Cherish / Connect/ Collaborate/ Commit).

Simply sign up (free of charge) and you'll get a link to the four sessions and access to lots of helpful material to help your marriage blossom:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/marriage-courses-the-marriage-sessions>

Enjoy your date night!

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),

or our Church Administrator, Kathryn (admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk),

so we can keep in contact, pray for you and provide whatever practical assistance we can.

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 other local support services ready and willing to help can be found below:

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.

Feel free to share this information with anyone you know living in the Bristol & South Gloucestershire area as well as in North Somerset.

Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)

VANS have launched a coordinated community volunteers programme for anyone external to the council who may be interested in registering to formally volunteer throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

Register online at <https://www.vansweb.org.uk> or by contacting the VANS team on 01934 416486.

The latest information on North Somerset Council's response to Coronavirus and COVID-19, and how to get support can be found here:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/community-safety-crime/emergency/coronavirus>

Christchurch– Mini Directory

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

ChurchSuite Profile Photos

Don't forget to send a photo of yourself (if you haven't already done so, either recently or a while ago) that we can attach to your ChurchSuite profile (our secure data management system).

Photos can be emailed to Kathryn at admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk .

Please also email Kathryn if you're not sure how to log in to your MyChurchSuite account, or have never received an invitation to set up your account

(MyChurchSuite is your personal account within Churchsuite - it shows you any details we have for you as well as any rotas or groups you may belong to, useful church email addresses etc).

"In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart!

I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

