

Bringing you the latest news from

Christchurch

www.christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

and the Community

Sunday 12th July 2020

Dear Christchurch family,

We really hope you are enjoying and engaging with the teaching series on prayer.

The theme this week is Listening.

One of the many joys and privileges of being a Vicar and Minister is being alongside people as they sense 'the nudge' of God's call on their life.

It was no surprise when Kate Dommett phoned for one of those prayer filled conversations as God called her to make that step and go 'both feet in' with her new full time post with TLG.

Kate has been such an important part of the Christchurch team for many years and throughout that time has encouraged, enthused and empowered so many, and lives have been enriched and transformed through her care and prayer.

Kate has made lasting and significant links with the local community and shaped the ministry of TLG in our ever growing partnership with local schools, parents, carers, teachers and young people.

Kate. A massive thank you from us all at Christchurch for every area of your life and ministry and we give thanks to God for you and being the person He has made you. We will be praying with you and for you in your new and exciting challenge, and we give thanks for your faithfulness in responding to His call.

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Pete Greig encourages us that in order to listen to God that it's good to Slow Down and soften up. If you are anything like me, I can often miss God's prompting because I haven't taken time to 'slow down' and listen and as for the 'softening up', we may need to examine our hardened hearts, attitudes and motives in order to truly be 'in tune'.

There will be many who were impacted by last week's service, testimony and encouragement that Helen gave on the work of Christians Against Poverty (C.A.P.). I would encourage you that if you felt that Holy Spirit prompt to step out and become 'a CAP befriender', someone who can bring time, gifting and energy to support an individual in their time of financial crisis, then please pray and contact Helen or any of the team for more information.

Thank you to those who have written and emailed with encouraging encounters in prayer and especially the Refresh Women's Group where the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is exciting and empowering.

Listening and being in conversation with God is an ongoing part of everyday life that isn't without its need for challenge. In our Acts 9 reading this week Ananias is called to visit, pray and Baptise Saul whose reputation and mission was to persecute and eradicate every Christian from the land! Listening will sometimes require courageous action and be rewarded with huge blessings as Ananias discovers.

God bless you,

Russ, Clive and the Christchurch leadership team

Praying Together Wherever We Are

*'Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.
With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.
I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* Psalm 119: 12 -16

When the cords of our lives become frayed or broken there is a temptation to simply tie them back together with the knot of necessity or expediency.

In the brokenness of so many areas of our world and in how we organise our lives, there is a temptation to want it to be tied back to how it was, or at least as best we can make it, just so we can get on with our lives.

In the pain and anguish of the brokenness, do we truly desire the quick fix or are we willing to listen to God as he teaches us how to splice the cord and create a strong bond to take us in to the future? Let us pray this week with the intention of listening to God's word and to put it into practice.

For ourselves

- to be attentive and alert to God and be ready to hear and respond however he asks us to hear God's instruction to rest or wait
- for those who are having surgery and treatment now that restrictions are easing.
- for our church family and wider families and we give thanks for the life of Elsie Calderbank who died peacefully on 4th July. May Roger and Janet and the family know your presence most nearly in this time, Lord

For the Church

- with Churches Together in Clevedon, we pray for Clevedon Baptist Church this week, giving thanks for their position in Queens square and their arrangement to be open for prayer. May those who enter find the peace and solace they seek
- give thanks for Christians in and around government that they may speak truth and wisdom into situations that could be fraught with tension
- for all local church leaders as they discern how and when to arrange opening buildings, arranging services and other activities. May they listen for your voice and your direction for where to serve. May they encourage one another and not feel a compulsion to emulate or compare

For our community

- people recovering from COVID-19 and having recovered are reflecting on the experience
- those living with loss - of a loved one; of income; of sense of purpose in life; of time to celebrate or mark life events; of home or accommodation. In the sense of insecurity help us all to hear your guiding voice

For the world

- when we hear reports of racism and modern slavery help us hear the reality and examine our own hearts as we respond
- in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tearfund launched a campaign in June to speak truth into the fake news that was prevalent about coronavirus. Nakataa Coronavirus (which translates 'I refuse coronavirus') had as its aim to prevent the spread of the virus by sharing crucial public health information using social media, text message and radio broadcasts. It is reaching many and especially the 18 - 24 year age group. For so many in DRC, hospitals and clinics are often hard to access, which makes reliable public health information difficult to promote so this campaign is having a huge impact. DRC has suffered from Ebola epidemic, conflict and attacks on health facilities and workers so often. We pray that this campaign will have a beneficial effect.

'Therefore consider carefully how you listen.....My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.' Luke 8: 18, 21

News & Information

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

Christchurch Methodist-Anglican Ecumenical Church, Clevedon is seeking to appoint a youth worker (25 hours per week).

We are a lively, growing church of all ages and stages. We strive to be accessible for everyone, especially 'those who don't do church', equipping people to live out faith in everyday life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are seeking a prayerful person with:

A passion for the Gospel and a heart for young people;

A proven ability to build relationships with young people and equip them to grow as disciples of Jesus;

A commitment to grow the existing links with young people and their parents / carers, schools and other settings within the local community;

The skills and sensitivity with which to engage issues of mental health and wellbeing among young people;

A commitment to the vision and mission of Christchurch;

A sense of fun, creativity, and innovation, with a servant heart, a sense of initiative and the ability to work as part of a team.

For details and application form contact: admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 24th July

Interviews by arrangement in August.

Elsie Calderbank

Elsie died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Saturday morning, 4th July.

She had been at Elm view nursing home for some time and although very frail, never lost that wonderful smile when we visited her.

Elsie was a wonderful Christian lady and a delight to visit, chat and pray with.

Our prayers are with Janet and Roger and all the family at this time.

Financial expertise? Join the Christchurch Finance Team

Christchurch has a small dedicated team that oversees the many aspects of our Ministry and Outreach.

We give thanks for each member of the team and those who support them with their gifts and skills. The Finance team has identified the need to expand given the growth of the Church. We are prayerfully seeking people to join the team who have a heart for Christchurch's Vision and Mission and our increasing outreach to the community we are called to serve. We are seeking those who possess the necessary gifting, skills and experience in one or all of the following areas:

Strategy, communication and finance planning,

General accounting / Charity law and practice / Gift aid

Support role to our existing team member by gathering information/statistics and figures for funding applications.

If you possess any of these gifts and skills, please prayerfully consider using them to serve the wider Church and community as part of the Christchurch finance team. Please contact Kathryn at admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk who will direct you the clergy team, John deBorde or a member of the Finance Team.

Giving

If you were giving by way of the yellow 'gift aid' envelopes or the Goodbox on Sunday mornings and would like to continue donating to the ongoing costs and work of Christchurch during this time, we've linked up with Stewardship to enable givers to donate online. You'll find the link on the Giving page of our website: <https://www.christchurch-clevedon.org.uk/giving/> or you can reach it directly via this link: www.give.net/20033670 (information on Stewardship can be found at www.give.net). For any information on giving regularly, please contact John de Borde: john.deborde@btinternet.com / 01275 873 200

Our New Prayer Wall

Hi young people at Christchurch!

Have you seen that the wall has been rebuilt outside Christchurch?

We've decided to turn it into a prayer wall for all of Clevedon to see!

We would love you to write a prayer on the template provided (please don't write your name on it) and then get an adult to laminate it or put it in a plastic wallet and then attach it to the cargo net on the wall outside Christchurch. You could use ribbons, string or wool; make it as colourful as you like!

The prayer could be thanking God for things in our lives or asking God to look after our family, friends and community at this time. It would be great if you could colour in the template to make it stand out! We hope that this wall of our prayers for our family, our friends, our town and our world will encourage others.

Christchurch– Mini Directory

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