

Bringing you the latest news from

# Christchurch

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

and the Community

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Christchurch family,

The experience of Covid, and the social and economic devastation accompanying it, has caused huge anxiety and despair for vast numbers of people. It is reckoned by many that as a society we will be facing the consequences for years to come.

Paul writes that as Christians we 'do not grieve like the rest of humankind, who have no hope' (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Hope is a power, without which we sink. Life itself depends on it – indeed it is one of those things that we live by to the extent that it is often only when it is removed that we realise just how much we need it for our very survival.

Someone recently shared with me the following words that came from an online source:

*I believe Hope still wins but it has a tear-stained face.*

*It has a broken and a vulnerable heart.*

*Hope has bloodied fists, because it keeps on fighting and knees scraped raw because it keeps crawling forward.*

*Hope isn't always pretty, hope is sweaty. Life can be so hard, a battle.*

*But yes, I believe Hope still wins.*

As Christians we regard hope as something that is God-given, and ultimately the hope that is big and strong enough to face even death itself is only found in and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Today I invite you to turn to Philippians 4:4-8...**

The cultivation of hope (or despair) has to do with the patterns of thinking that we nurture. The gospel is so deeply practical, because it offers us the all-surpassing hope that can radically transform such patterns. In this passage we are urged to pay close attention to our thoughts, and to get into the habit of focusing on that which is of God. Daily contemplation is about making ourselves intentionally present before God so that we become more aware of His presence with us and in us throughout the whole day. When that happens, we learn to pray in 'real time' – not just in designated 'prayer times', but continually, living and growing in communion with Him.

**Let's pray:** *Lord, thank you that you're always with me, in my waking and my sleeping. Help me to focus my heart and mind on you this day and every day. Be the centre of my thinking, my doing, my being. Amen.*

God bless you,

Russ, Clive and the Christchurch leadership team

# Praying Together Wherever We Are

*'Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.'* Psalm 62: 8

## For ourselves

- that we would have a hunger for God and draw ever closer in our walk with him
- for our relationships with those we live with, our wider family, our closest friends, our wider friendship circle, with our work colleagues, those we speak to or meet as we deal with daily needs, with officials - that we seek to build each up as we would like them to build us up
- for our health - mental as well as physical - as we emerge out of lockdown, or remain shielding, and find our way into this next season
- for those who feel beleaguered by circumstances beyond their control

## For the Church

- Churches Together in Clevedon are praying with us, Christchurch, this week. We give thanks for God's faithfulness in each season of this church's life and pray for His provision, blessing and care of us all in the coming days, months and years.
- for wisdom and discernment of national and local church leaders in planning ahead for how we may gather for worship again. Give us all patience and courage to wait on the Lord's leading
- for Suzy settling into curacy with us in a very different way - may she and her family know they are both welcome and belong
- for Jay and for Adele in their curacy settings too
- all over the world there are brothers and sisters in Christ who live under oppression and are persecuted for their faith in Jesus
- for youth leaders as they nurture and support the spiritual development of young people both within the church, in schools and in other youth forums

## For our community

- give thanks for connections and connectedness that enables coordinated support and encouragement for families through Make Lunch and the CAP money course
- for those who work in the care sector with contracts reduced to payment for client contact time rather than shift time. For an appreciation by decision makers of the value of such services for so many, particularly elderly people, for their independence and wellbeing.
- that those who are itching to get back into social gatherings will take responsibility and have respect for others this weekend
- for the police, ambulance, fire and rescue, coastguard and other emergency services as they attend incidents - may they be kept safe as they serve others
- for those who have or are about to lose their jobs and the impact of that on their lives

## For the world

- for the people of Leicester and environs in their local lockdown and the disappointment and concern that will have brought
- for those who suffer at the hands of those who are of evil intent and have to exact violence, abuse and harm on others. For those who suffer verbal and physical abuse because of their race or skin colour, their faith, sex or opinions. Lord, your love embraces all - may all accept your unconditional, overflowing love in Jesus.
- for the people of Hong Kong and the clashes following the introduction of the new 'anti-protest' law
- for the people affected by the seemingly high numbers of murders being reported in the UK in the past week
- for statistics to be prepared, interpreted, acted upon and communicated helpfully

*'in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.'* Proverbs 3: 6

# News & Information

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to: [admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk)

Facebook page: [Christchurch Clevedon](#)

Children's blog: [www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com](http://www.christchurch-kids.blogspot.com) .

Prayer requests: [prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:prayer@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.give.net/20033670) (information on Stewardship can be found at [www.give.net](http://www.give.net)). For any information on giving regularly, please contact John de Borde: [john.deborde@btinternet.com](mailto: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.



## Reverend Suzanne Kirkham

Our new curate, Suzy, is really looking forward to getting to know us all! In order to help her put faces to names, please send a photo of yourself that we can add to your ChurchSuite profile (if you haven't already provided us with one).

## 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).

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 and free hot meals, as well as provide a listening ear to 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 Rev Suzy Kirkham	872580 872134	clevedonmethodist@btinternet.com vicar@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk curate@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