

Bringing you the latest news from

# Christchurch

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

and the Community

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Christchurch family,

As we draw towards the end of July, this Sunday we say farewell to our dear friend and amazing youth worker, Will Alvarez. In September, Will is off to Cambridge to train for ordained ministry. We are absolutely delighted for Will as he enters this next exciting chapter of his life, but we will be very sad to say goodbye. In the years he has served at Christchurch, Will has been a tremendous inspiration. His warm, loving, gracious, and outgoing yet humble and unassuming character has helped to draw not just our younger people but all ages closer together into the life of the church and closer to Jesus. Many of the lives he has engaged are those who don't come anywhere near church but who he has befriended in school, through football, table tennis and his work across the wider community. Within Christchurch itself he has built up and grown our ministry among teenagers and young adults. Will – we will miss you – thank you, and God bless you!

## **Today I invite you to turn to John 6:25-35...**

Eating is one of those things we need to do regularly in order to live. When Jesus said 'I am the bread of life', he was making a statement about how we need him in an ongoing way. I think there's a danger of forgetting that. In Christian faith we like to emphasise the 'once for all' nature of what Christ has done for us on the cross. Now, it's important that we do – after all, Christ has died for us and has been raised – the victory is won. But let's not allow that truth to mask another, equally important truth – namely the truth that we need the continuing presence of Christ in our lives each and every day – just like eating, as well as other necessities like drinking and breathing.

In John 6 Jesus makes this quite clear when he refers back to hundreds of years earlier, to the way that the people of Israel, having been set free from slavery in Egypt, were sustained for forty years by a type of bread called 'manna'. Throughout that period, the Israelites had learned to depend on God on a daily basis, gathering and eating what they needed each day in faith that God would provide again the next day, and the next, and so on.

If we are to live, grow and indeed flourish as disciples of Jesus, we need to be fed and go on being fed by him, daily - praying, reading God's Word and asking him to fill us and renew us with His Holy Spirit.

**Let's pray:** *Lord, in a spiritually hungry world, you offer us everything we need. Feed us, fill us, sustain us and nourish us, by your Word and your Spirit, this day, and every day. Amen.*

God bless you,

Russ, Clive and the Christchurch leadership team

# Praying Together Wherever We Are

Pointers for Prayer 26th July 2020

*'You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs for free.....I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more.'*

*John 6: 26,35 (The Message)*

## For ourselves

- hear Jesus say 'Come to me', trust Him and align ourselves with His teaching and way of living
- ask God to show you how Covid-19 has affected you and your approach to life
- in our listening to His response, let the Holy Spirit guide our honest reflection and active reaction

## For the Church

- with Churches Together in Clevedon, we are praying for the Credit Union and pray that there will always be enough people saving to meet loan requests. Give wisdom and discernment to those organising the Union
- pray through and into the various items on the newsletter and for the people involved, and for the people God has purposed for specific roles that they may hear His voice calling them
- 'Any questions? - Let's Explore' will take place by Zoom in the Autumn - pray for those with questions about the Christian faith to get to know about it and be encouraged to attend

## For our community

- for people of all ages out and about that they are appropriately sensitive to others around them
- for the police and other emergency services encountering additional responsibilities and challenges with the easing of lockdown restrictions. Thank you for their professionalism and dedication to the safety of everyone. For those with difficult and on the spot decisions of prioritising resources that have to be made
- give thanks for Clevedon Aid and the support in various ways that they are able to provide for those who are finding this time especially difficult

## For the world

- for relations between the UK and Hong Kong
- for persecuted Christians - *'Open Doors partners have reached a milestone in Asia, having delivered relief packs to 100,000 believers across Asia. There's still so much more to do, and courageous local partners will keep risking everything to take food, aid and Jesus' love to the most vulnerable. "When you are praying, we are able to serve those in need, despite the situation," says Pastor Samuel in India (name changed).*
- for places, such as Yemen and South Sudan, where there is famine and civil war as well as coping with the pandemic. For remote places around the world where transport is limited or difficult and therefore supplies of any kind are in short supply or not able to get to where they are needed.

*A reminder of the Methodist Covenant Prayer that we shared together  
at our annual Covenant Service on 26th January 2020*

*I am no longer my own but yours.*

*Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;*

*put me to doing, put me to suffering;*

*let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,*

*exalted for you, or brought low for you;*

*let me be full, let me be empty,*

*let me have all things, let me have nothing:*

*I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,*

*you are mine and I am yours. So be it.*

*And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.*

# News & Information

**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)

## Christchurch Summer and Autumn Teaching Series

Join us online every week throughout the rest of the Summer  
as we delve into the 'I am' sayings of Jesus.

Below are the details of the weekly themes and Bible readings:

Date	Theme	Readings
26 <sup>th</sup> July	'I am the Bread of Life'	John 6:25-35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	'I am the Light of the World'	John 8:12-20
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	'I am the Gate'	John 10:1-10
16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	'I am the Good Shepherd'	John 10:11-21
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	I am the Resurrection and the Life'	John 11:17-27
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'	John 14:1-6
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	'I am the True Vine'	John 15:1-8

Looking further ahead, we are excited by the theme of this Autumn's teaching series for home groups, interest groups, individual and home family study:

**'Church: what we can learn from Acts', seven studies for groups, by Beki Rogers.**

This material is based on the hugely inspiring and timely book,  
'Unleashed: the Acts Church today' by Gavin and Anne Calver.

This moment in time with all its struggles gives us the opportunity as a Church, as it did in the time of Acts, to show our community, friends and family what is different when we face uncertainty and the future with Jesus at the centre of our lives.

How does this impact in the way we behave?

What difference should it make to our sense of hopefulness?

We will be using prepared Bible study notes for each week starting on the 13th September.

We pray as a Church that this timely engagement with the experience of the early Church will encourage us, prepare and shape us to serve and reach out to others in new and exciting ways in the later part of what has been a challenging year for so many.

If you are not yet part of a home group and would like to join one, please get in touch with Carolyn, our Home Group Co-ordinator: [carolynmwaite@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmwaite@gmail.com) / 01275 340689

## Farewell from our Youth Minister, Will Alvarez

As many of you will be aware, I will be stepping down as youth minister at Christchurch shortly to begin a new journey on a path towards ordination, which will see me continue studying theology at Ridley Hall Cambridge this September. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone at the church who has journeyed with me and God and I will be praying and looking out for Christchurch as it continues to serve God in the community it has been called to reach. I also have massive prayers for the fantastic youth of our church who I have worked with for the past four years, I pray you all know how loved you are by God and how gifted he has helped make you. You have taught me so much and I pray in the future that I will get to see how you have all used your amazing skills to serve God and others.

### Men's Bible Study, Tuesday 28th July

The Men's Bible Study group will be meeting online again this Tuesday (28th July) at 7.30pm.  
For details on how to join the online meeting, please contact John de Borde:

[john.deborde@btinternet.com](mailto:john.deborde@btinternet.com)



### United Breaks Out- New Wine comes into your home this year! Thursday 30th July– Monday 3rd August

Yes, we will miss queuing for the showers and toilets, the early morning seminars, the group paella evening, the weekly trip to Tesco in Shepton, and that memorable year of almost non stop rain!

Take your iPad into the garden, set up a tent, worship so  
the neighbours have to come round and join in....it's New Wine.....enjoy!

Head over to the event website on Thursday ([new-wine.org/breaksout](http://new-wine.org/breaksout))  
where you'll find the timetable of events which you can watch live or on catch up, for free.

Something for all ages and abilities:

[New-wine.org/UBOKids](http://New-wine.org/UBOKids) will bring together the best of New Wine's Kids groups; discover their Space Agency, where children can encounter God through songs, challenges, teaching & gunge!

### CPAS Ventures

Emy and her family spend one week every Summer at Blandford 3 CPAS Venture having lots of fun, making new friends and learning about God. This summer the Venture is going online from

**Monday 3rd to Sunday 9th August.**

This is a fantastic opportunity to have a look at a Venture if you have never been before.

You can join in from the comfort of your own home.

There are fun challenges and activities planned as well as finding out more about God.

If you are interested in joining in with the Virtual Venture, email Emy at:

[sundaychildrenandfamiliescoordinator@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:sundaychildrenandfamiliescoordinator@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk)

or sign up for free at [https://cpasventures.brushfire.com/events/470448?](https://cpasventures.brushfire.com/events/470448?fbclid=IwAR3v4YI1Vlglzxd6eWg5U8TOb5iP-Le7RLMtmYSH6g8nR5Use1dNbMwUQ8)

[fbclid=IwAR3v4YI1Vlglzxd6eWg5U8TOb5iP-Le7RLMtmYSH6g8nR5Use1dNbMwUQ8](https://cpasventures.brushfire.com/events/470448?fbclid=IwAR3v4YI1Vlglzxd6eWg5U8TOb5iP-Le7RLMtmYSH6g8nR5Use1dNbMwUQ8)

### LOVE-IN-A-BOX

Love-in-a-Box will be taking place this year even during the present situation. Please support this part of the Church's outreach which is now part of who we are.

The requirements are as in previous years:

basic toiletries, pens, pencils and notebooks, hat and gloves and small toys.

The collection date will be in early November, but as we don't know yet when we will be able to return to church, please start to collect your goodies and assemble your shoeboxes, and be ready to help us make this a bumper year.

If you need any further information- and a leaflet when we have them, please call me, Marilyn Barrow, on 876132 and I will be happy to help.

#### Message from Suzy Kirkham:

Many thanks to the Christchurch family for the lovely Portable Holy Communion set. It was a very thoughtful gift & will be very useful to me in my ministry @ Christchurch beyond.



### Christchurch- Mini Directory

<b>Clergy</b>		
Rev Dr Russell Herbert	872580	clevedonmethodist@btinternet.com
Rev Clive Jennings	872134	vicar@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
Rev Suzy Kirkham		curate@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Clergy P A</b>		
Kathryn McManus-Jones	871483	admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
<b>Wardens</b>		
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Alex Pett		alex.pett@me.com
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<b>Home Groups Co-ordinator</b>		
Carolyn Waite	340689	carolynmwaite@gmail.com
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<b>Sunday Children and Families</b>		
<b>Co-ordinator</b>		
Emy Buxton	871483	sundaychildrenandfamiliescoordinator@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk