

Ministerial Meanderings



HOW DID 'giving it up for Lent' go? Some of us succeeded, some of us were less successful. Either way, Easter is upon us and by Sunday evening there will be lots of people enjoying lots of things – or perhaps not. Perhaps you've decided that what ever you gave up you can do without. Go for it – as long as it isn't causing harm.

Sometimes we try things out for a while and then decide to keep them – it's a way of making a new beginning, which seems appropriate at the start of April. After all, Spring is in the air, things are beginning to grow, the lambs are in the fields and, when the sun shines, it can feel like life is really good.

New beginnings can be scary too – particularly if they are the result of bad news. But good or bad, the main problem with every beginning is that we have no idea where it will end. Well, we may have some hopes and plans but we can't be certain.

We've a new beginning coming up right here in Nailsworth. Christ Church and St George's are getting together to offer a worship time with a difference. On Sunday 26th April, at 6pm, One Voice begins. Launching at Christ Church (that's the big building opposite the surgery) it's a time for those who like their worship to be lively, and possibly loud, with contemporary songs, prayer and a chance to discuss some questions about God. And then – pizza.

We've no idea where our new beginning will take us. But we're certain that it's something that needs to happen. Are you coming? Do you know someone who might like to come – please tell them about it (they might not read things in as much detail as you do)!

Those of you with eagle eyes, who do read in detail, will spot that this piece also appears in Nailsworth News this month. No apologies for that – we need to get the word out there that this is happening.

So please share with your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and anyone else who may be interested. We know that young people from Nailsworth are travelling to Stroud, Cirencester and Minchinhampton to worship – and we'd love them to feel they can do that much more easily here!

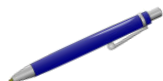
New beginnings are great opportunities and we have just started our new year – we must have as we have had our annual church meeting and reflected on the last year. I'm looking forward to what the rest of 2015 and the start of 2016 has in store for us. If you haven't already sent me your thoughts on how things might change here at Christ Church then this is a gentle reminder that it would be good to have them by April 12th. The Elders will be going for a half day of reflection on 15th and it would be good to be able to share your thoughts as we think together about what God is saying to us. We've reprinted '**Preparing for our journey**' from last month just in case you can't put your hands on it. Number 3 is the one you need to tell me about – if you can't think of something for each point then just share what you can.



Helene

PREPARING FOR OUR JOURNEY!

IN THE MINISTERIAL MEANDERINGS, and at recent Church meetings, I've talked about the need to think and pray individually and together about what we should be doing. I suspect that God is already making His plans known, we just haven't joined the dots together yet. So, here is a reminder of the things I have asked everyone to do:



1. Pray lots

If you aren't sure what to pray then use either the Lord's Prayer, or you can use the one at the bottom of my meanderings this month. If those don't work for you then you could simply just ask 'Lord, help me to hear what you want us to do.'

2. Look and listen for an answer.

God may bless you with a direct reply, but more often He uses other people and situations to guide us. Sometimes it is a nagging suspicion or idea that won't go away. Write down anything like that, or any comments that others make that seem to 'ring true.'

3. Think!

I would love you to share your thoughts with me. Please think about the following:

What you love about Christ Church as it is

What you think God would like us to do – be specific if you can

What is frightening you about the idea that we may change things

What do you think is 'non-negotiable'

Three things that you believe Christ Church MUST do in order to be a church

Write your answers down and let me have them by April 12th. It would be helpful if you could put your name on them!

Helene

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

WISHING you all a very happy and blessed Easter from South Africa.
Diana Carr

We think of everyone not well at the moment - those in hospital, or undergoing treatment, or those recovering at home. May God surround you with His healing love.

As we look towards Easter may we think of all those for who open worship is not possible - those countries where Christians are persecuted.



O Lord God,
your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his resurrection
he restores life and peace in all creation.
Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance
and those oppressed by their fellow humans.
Remember in your kingdom those who have died.
Lead the oppressors towards compassion
and give hope to the suffering.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYER WALKING THE STREETS OF NAILSWORTH

WEEK BEGINNING:

Apr	05	Bath Road; Tetbury Lane
	12	Old Bristol Road; Mill Bottom
	19	Horsley; Old Horsley Road
	26	Barn Close; Rockness



EASTER PRAYER

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.



The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

*This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson,
Superintendent Minister of the Ealing Trinity Circuit.*

SHORTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

SHORTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH celebrates 300 years this year and in preparation for celebrating part of the beginning of Christ Church, I am re-reading copies of THE SHORTWOOD MESSENGER and found this one from 1959. I thought that it fitted in with our writing down of our own interpretations of the Lord's Prayer recently.

THE PRACTISE OF DEVOTION An unconventional exercise.



“Let this be how you pray: Our Father.....” Matt 6:9

‘After this manner’, not necessarily in these words. Jesus is giving us a method, a technique of prayer. There lies the tragic mistake which has turned what He gave into a Paternoster, a patter (a vain repetition, as He would have called it). He meant it to be a constructive attitude of mind and spirit. It can become a series of thought backgrounds spread out over the day. Then it has the power to redirect the mind to God and to restore to the soul the atmosphere of the world of the Spirit to which we all belong.

There are three definite moments in the day when the circumstances in most of our lives provide this opportunity. The Christian disciple should train his mind to move in thought from “A” to “B”:-

ON WAKING UP:

“A” What was it? Yes, of course, that worry, that problem. And I’ve got to meetAlso there is that situation to be faced Oh, hell!

“B” Father of us all, our real life is in heaven, the heaven all around where thou dwellest. All power is here and round me now; Faithful I stand in rule and vow, while ‘tis not I but ever thou. Thy will be done.

IN THE LUNCH HOUR:

"A" Ah, How tired one gets! And what's the good of it all?
How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me all the
uses of the world'.

"B" Patience, courage and power to see it through are all
mine in Thee, O Father. 'Thou shalt feed me in a
green pasture and Lead me forth beside the waters of
rest, Thou dost convert my soul'.

ON COMPOSING YOURSELF FOR SLEEP:

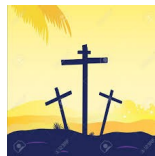
"A" What a day! I don't think I can stand much more of
it. Life seems all on top of me!

"B" Through ages and ages Thou hast borne for us
human children, understanding us and therefore forgiving
us. So now dost Thou enable us to forgive one another
and to forgive life and to be reconciled to Thee in Jesus
who taught us to know Thee.

*From "Bedside Manna by F.W. Moyle
Margaret*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

last verse



If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross,
His work had been incomplete.
if the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,
He had only known defeat.
But the way of the cross never stops at the cross
and the way of the tomb leads on
To victorious grace in the heavenly place
where the risen Lord has gone.

**Happy
Easter**

*Annie Johnson Flint
From 'A Barrel of Fun
J. John & Mark Stibbe*

WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIES



MY GRANDFATHER, Thomas John Kift Floyde, served
with 1st Bn Scots Guards in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia
and the Somme. He was badly wounded in the leg by
shrapnel near the end of the war, which left him with a
limp for the rest of his life.

With his time in the Scots Guards he had a strong Devonshire
accent, now touched by a Scottish brogue, most noticeable
when he read the lesson in church. He only ever spoke of
mud and rats and like most, he struggled to get employment
after the war. The survivor that he was, he could turn his
hand to anything, gardening, cutting bean and pea sticks,
mending boots and shoes, sweeping chimneys, selling boot
and shoe laces, buttons and cotton. He also worked as a
Church Caretaker, which, along with his other jobs, allowed
him to bring up his family of seven. This was increased to
eight when his sister in law died giving birth to her son Fred
who he adopted. Sadly he lost a twin daughter.

There was an article in the Daily Mirror headed 'King of the
village; a man of many talents'. This empathized with his
survival when the West Lyn River burst its banks at Barbrook
in 1952 to a depth from the river bed of 25 feet and 100 yards
wide. The waters were waist deep on the pavement and road.
He was being swept away when his daughter Ellen, who was
holding on to the railings struggling not to be swept away
herself, pulled him from the raging waters by his braces.

His future was secured when he was fortunate enough to get
a job as a postman in Lynmouth. He pursued this
employment for 28 years, which took him to his retirement.

Pat Burgess

SPRING HARVEST 2015

A glimpse of what is going on at Spring Harvest this Easter

SPRING HARVEST is a teaching and worship event for everybody. It's a unique break for all the family: holiday, festival, conference, and an encounter with God. Join thousands of Christians for life-changing days of learning, growth and spiritual refreshment.

Theme

Each year, Spring Harvest has a theme which runs right through your break. The Bible is central to it all and, from toddlers to adults, everyone learns from the same passages, in a way to suit them.

Spring Harvest 2015 - Immeasurably More

In 2015 we'll be looking at Ephesians 3:20-21, and exploring the potential of a God of immeasurably more.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21

Programme

From early morning to late night Spring Harvest offers a great programme for all the family. Bible teaching and worship, age-specific kids groups, engaging practical teaching and workshops, a range of evening celebrations and a choice of entertainment.

Bible Teaching

Skilled Bible teachers communicate God's truth through Scripture. Each day looks at a different strand of the theme

Practical teaching and Workshops

There is a lot to choose from every afternoon for all ages and tastes. Firstly, there is a packed schedule of practical teaching. You could attend a brilliant course or a specialist stream that runs daily throughout the break, or dip in and out if you prefer. For those who want to get more creative and practical there is a choice of workshops.

Lord, guide those who give their time to further your work in this world. May their work inspire all who attend Spring Harvest this year and enthuse the churches as word spreads.



HUMAN RIGHTS

EVENTS IN ISRAEL, the West Bank and Gaza are rarely out of the news and the recent election has been widely reported. We in the west are often concerned about the way Israeli citizens and the State of Israel are trampling over the human rights of Palestinians with little opposition from Jewish people. However I recently read about a Jewish organisation based in Jerusalem which is documenting the human rights violations against Palestinians by the Israeli state, by soldiers and by Jewish citizens. It is called B'Tselem and this word in Hebrew means "in his image". This phrase comes from Genesis 1 v 26-7 where it is said that God made man in his image.

The founders of B'Tselem argued that to be Jewish was to treat all people with dignity. Jews have a duty to live up to their human godliness by being just and showing empathy. As inheritors of the Jewish religion this is an understanding that we can use in all dealings with other people. Unfortunately this message appears not to be accepted by most people in Israel who view the purely factual work of 'Tselem as treason and its members as traitors.

Chris Law

From UCB Mission of Hope 2015

E Everlasting life

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16



A Assurance

Jesus assures us that: 'Because I live, you also will live.' John 14:19

S Salvation

'If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Romans 10:9



T Truth

'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."' John 14:6

E Exalted King

'...at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth...and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.' Philippians 2 10-11



R Resurrection

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25-26

Rotas for April 2015

"Willing is not enough, we must do".
Goethe

Cleaning

Apr	L Clarke	H Ball	
May	H Webb	J Eldridge	D Beale



Communion

Apr	05	am	L Clarke
	19	pm	L Driscoll
May	03	am	D Beale



Flowers

Apr	05	EASTER
	12	In Memory of Phil Marshall
	19	G Brown
	26	M Butterworth
May	03	G Brown



Coffee

Apr	05	Mary Blunt & Louise Dembny
	12	Beth Boxall & David Hampton
	19	Mary Price & Jenny Eldridge (church meeting)
	26	Doris Highfield & David Oldham
May	03	Alison & Howard Price

