



**Sunday 26th April – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

## **Welcome!**

Dear friends of Christ Church,

Welcome to this week's bulletin. We hope that you are finding it useful in keeping you in contact with our community in Christ Church in this most difficult time. We welcome contributions from anyone who has a message to give, be it serious or maybe a little humorous. We all need to be able to smile in the face of challenge.

This bulletin will be emailed out to those on our email list. As always, material for inclusion should be emailed by Tuesday evenings to Jude Bishop at [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)

Please forward this bulletin to anyone to whom you think it would be of interest. We will print a few paper copies and post them to those who are not on email.

We're still following government guidelines by not showing on-line services from inside church and hopefully you are managing to join in from your living room. A reminder of how you can do this is [here](#), and for the moment we will do that from the tiny chapel Colin and Lore have created at home. To make it more of a Christ Church community we would love you to send photos of yourself and these can put up in the chapel as a visible sign that we are all worshipping together. They can come by email to Lore, [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or by post to Christ Church.

Also, do please email or post or text prayer requests and we will try to include them week by week. But be aware that the service will be online and so be careful of the confidentiality of friends and loved ones.

The May Link is being prepared at the moment. If you have any articles you wish to be included please send these to Alex at [alexs@christchurchbath.org](mailto:alexs@christchurchbath.org). The April Link and all past copies can be found on the website [here](#).

## **Revd Professor Cliff Burrows**

Dear relatives and friends of Cliff

It is with immense sadness I have to inform you Dad passed away peacefully in his sleep last night. He was tested positive for the dreaded Covid 19 virus just over a week ago, but we thought he was making an improvement. Sadly he took a turn for the worse on Wednesday and ultimately it was too much for him to fight off. Alzheimer's exacerbated Dad's condition and indeed shaped much of his recent life. He had also survived four different forms of cancer, so living to the grand old age of 82 was an achievement in itself.

Dad came from a very poor background. His mother was in service and married his father partly to escape that life. My grandfather (Edward Stephen) worked on the railway for some time in Scotland where he picked up the nickname "Jock". Cliff was quite seriously ill in his early school years which meant he was bed bound for a while after which most of his personal belongings had to be destroyed. He retained his Dinky Toy collection however which is now one of my most treasured possessions. He always spoke very fondly of his mother and this was a constant recent theme. His favourite story was to recount the war years, when she could conjure up a cake from very few ingredients (not all of them strictly on the ration!). They kept chickens and the eggs produced made a great bargaining chip down at the local Naffi (not sure that translates for our foreign friends sorry!). She also catered for a local councillor when they held house parties to earn a few more shillings. Dad had a huge amount of distain for them as he thought they took advantage of her. I think it was this background that was a big influence on Dad's life with his immense independence. He even refused to accept any help around the house (much to Mum's annoyance!).

My personal favourite story of Dad concerns the main reason he became an Engineer. Always good at Maths, he was taken under the wing of a Director/Manager of a local company - Thames Board Mills. Dad was always a little evasive as to his role there but he secured a scholarship to read Engineering at Swansea University where he also met Mum (Margaret). At this time National Service was still required of young men - unless you were training in certain professions including Engineering. So Dad did one Engineering degree, then another (in London) and then some

further research and by that time they had abolished National Service, much to his relief! He often said to me this helped shape his whole life, you could say as an "accidental" Engineer - a description he revelled in.

After a frustrating time in Sussex University where Dad thought he should have been promoted but the powers that be disagreed, he moved to Glasgow. Dad got his first Chair there as Head of Mechanical Engineering at Strathclyde. I do know he was very happy then to move to Bath where he really felt at home. Watching the rugby was always a pleasure along with the huge contribution he was able to make to Bath University, culminating in his role as Dean of Engineering and Chair of the research centre. He was always very proud the new building "he" built. Well anyone who knew Dad's DIY ability would marvel at this claim, as changing a light bulb could sometimes be a struggle for him... He also really enjoyed his "other job" at Christ Church and I know Rev Lore and all the people there were a huge comfort and support to both Mum and Dad in their later years.

Family was everything to Dad. He was very happy to welcome Janet, Jenny and Julian to the fold and delighted with the five grandchildren that resulted. He was very proud of all our achievements, but not so secret about his desire for one of us to have been an engineer. Well - sorry Dad from a poor old Economist! Dad's devotion to Margaret (Mum) was plain for all to see and he saw John through some very dark times. He was always there for us in his own inimitable way, always glad of our company especially if it involved a cake or even better some shortbread. In his final months of life I have never known anyone able to consume quite as much as he did!

Dad's lifetime achievements were recognised by his award of an OBE and I was very happy to have played a small role in securing that for him. One of his proudest days was at Buckingham Palace receiving his honour from her Majesty the Queen. Afterwards he took us to a nice lunch in the Savoy Hotel, but then graciously let me pay for a taxi back to Paddington as this was another little feature of Dad's life - what's wrong with the bus, son?

We will all miss him terribly. We'll skate over his views on smoking and the forthright way these (and various others) were expressed. So can I now invite you to reflect on Dad's fantastic journey through life and raise a glass or take a piece of shortbread at your next opportunity. In these dark Covid 19 ridden times a public funeral will not be possible. When the time is right we will do something to honour this extraordinary man's life. We'll let you know in plenty of time. Please also feel free to copy this e mail to anyone who knew Dad.

In the meantime if you would like to recognise Dad's life and friendship, may we suggest you consider a donation to the [Alzheimer's Society](#)? Or one of the Cancer Research Charities?

With much love and best wishes, Steve Burrows

## **Reminder from the Priest-in-charge**

**IMPORTANT!** Don't let Coronavirus spoil the young people's Easter egg hunt! Please do buy up small Easter eggs with a reasonably long sell-by date, so that when we get back into Christ Church we can have a delayed but spectacular egg hunt.

If you are experiencing financial problems, Christ Church may be able to help in small ways with day to day needs. Contact the Priest-in-charge in confidence.

## **Sermon for April 23rd, St George's day**

Jesus said: 'If the world hates you - be aware it hated me first.' (*John15:18*)

When John recorded that phrase of Jesus, many of his readers, the early Christians were persecuted by both religious and secular rulers. But they kept the faith; the Gospels were written and through the power of the Holy Spirit, news of the incarnation and the resurrection have been proclaimed to each generation until our own.

George, whom we honour today, was part of that body of faithful Christians. By tradition he was a body-guard to the Emperor Diocletian, one of the more violent & sadistic of the Roman Emperors. When Diocletian condemned all Christian soldiers in the Roman army to death, George, as someone with the ear of the Emperor tried to change his mind, and as a result was executed on April 23rd around 303 AD.

When Jesus said, 'If the world hates you, be aware it hated me first,' I don't think he meant the world and everything in it is evil. In Genesis, God looked at everything that he had made and it was very good. John's gospel also tells us that it was for **love** of the world that God entered history in the incarnation. 'For

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that all who believed in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (*John 3:16*)

It isn't that the world is evil but that we all have a tendency to privilege ourselves and our needs & wants, over the needs of others and over what is true and virtuous and Godly. That's something all of us have to be careful of. As a result the world is full of people, including ourselves, whose priorities are our own health, comfort and advancement. It is easy for that to become selfishness, arrogance and indifference to others and to God.

The legends around St George emphasise his courage, faithfulness and selflessness. He knew the will of God was more important than anything, even his life. He was prepared to die rather than to deny his faith.

In 21st century Britain we aren't generally required to deny our faith on pain of death. But where there is darkness, hatred and pride at the heart of society we are required to name it and oppose it, something that can be both countercultural & unpopular. If we don't go along with half-truths, derogatory language and acceptance of unacceptable behaviour, we may risk our popularity, career advancement and social standing.

We are not to be paranoid. The world is created by God for good. As well as darkness there is light and joy and the resurrection demonstrates that in the midst of death we are in life. But, if we are not to be paranoid, neither are we to be naive. In the struggle between love, freedom and justice on one side; and fear, hatred and lies on the other, we need to choose our way and our words carefully, to accept that we may not always be liked and admired but to decide, like St George, for love and faith and God.

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Third Sunday of Easter**

### **Today's service**

**10am**

Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Psalm 116: 1-7

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Luke 24:13-35

### **Next week**

There will be an online Eucharist at 11am on Thursday

The readings will be:

Acts 8: 26-end

Psalm 66:7-8, 14-end

John 6: 44-51

Let's also keep the gesture going on Thursdays, applauding the NHS, teachers, carers and those who are keeping our society functioning. We are all from different places of Bath and the surrounding area, but we report back to each other that the applause is getting louder. Let's put lit candles in our windows at 7 pm on Sundays as a sign of Jesus, the Light of the World.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' (*John 1:5*)

## **East End Re-ordering Time and Talents Challenge is still alive and kicking**

As there are still quite a few weeks before we get any change in our current situation, we'd still like to encourage you all to use the opportunity of having time on your hands and to take your mind off the current situation. We're not cancelling the Time and Talents challenge and in fact it continues through Lent and extends to the end of October to raise the remaining funds for the East end re-organisation. If you have time to craft or embroider or knit or paint or do beautiful calligraphy or bake or use any of the almost infinite talents that Christ Church folk have, then this is the place to advertise your talents. Delivery will have to wait until government restrictions are limited.

## **We have the builders in!**

Last week came good news from our builders. Although social distancing limits the number of people allowed to work on any one project, it also frees up manpower to tackle a number of projects at once. So, instead of waiting until mid-May to start work on our East end project, a solitary builder arrived to start work on Monday April 20th and has already made a difference to the East end as you can see in this picture taken on Thursday. It shows Rob from Ellis & Co working on the apron which will extend westwards as a

semicircular platform providing space for the new sanctuary furniture. An electrician will be starting next week too.



## Open Doors

Our Charity of the month during April is Open Doors, a charity focusing on the needs of persecuted Christians around the world, supplying Bibles, training clergy and giving practical help where needed. Their website address for online donations is [www.opendoorsuk.com](http://www.opendoorsuk.com)

If you don't have internet access their address is PO Box 6, Witney, Oxon, OX29 6WG, and their phone number (if in use) is 01993 460015

## Social action in Bath and Sustainable Food Partnership

As you have probably heard by now, the **Compassionate Community Hub** is now operational across the whole of B&NES, with large numbers of volunteers who are being asked to provide support to people in need in their local areas.

If anyone needs support with buying food or medicines, and there is no local group that they can turn to, then they should send an email with the subject "Support" to [compassion@3sg.org.uk](mailto:compassion@3sg.org.uk) and the team will pick up your query within 24 hours.

Alternatively, telephone the **Banes Covid/Compassionate Community helpline 0300 247 0050**.

People wanting to register as a volunteer with Compassionate Community Hub should complete the form via this link: <http://bit.ly/communityvolunteersignup>.

**3SG & the Sustainable Food Partnership** have produced a list of local providers offering food to people across Bath and north east Somerset. You can find a comprehensive list [here](#).



## Urgent appeal for chest freezers

B&NES Council urgently need to borrow chest freezers to store freshly prepared meals for distribution to vulnerable families and older people across B&NES. If you can help, please contact Peter Heywood [peter@heywood.co](mailto:peter@heywood.co) 07976 241545



## Genesis 2.6 Challenge

With our usual programme of fundraising events cancelled and every indication that the needs of our homeless and vulnerable clients will increase as a result of COVID-19, we are facing huge challenges, just like many charities. In the light of this, we are delighted to be able to join in a national fundraising event called the 2.6 Challenge.

The event is based on the fact that this Sunday, 26 April, would have been the 40<sup>th</sup> London Marathon. Instead, we are able to join the 2.6 Challenge, which is a really inclusive chance for anyone to take part and raise much-needed funds for Genesis Trust.

Any kind of physical challenge is acceptable, to suit any level of fitness or ability. It can be done indoors by anyone shielding, or as part of the allowed exercise outside the home.

This could be 2.6 miles around your garden, or 260 times up your stairs – it could be 26 burpees, 260 times. Anything goes!

We already have a 5-year old called Henry signed up to do a 26-stage obstacle course around his house and garden, and our own Community and Events Manager Hilary Long, who has happily discovered that she has 26 stairs in her house, is going to climb them 100 times!

We would of course love it if you were able to communicate this to your congregations. Here is the [link](#) enabling people to sign up to the challenge on behalf of Genesis:

With many thanks for your ongoing support and prayers, Jessica Morris, Communications Manager



### **Bath 24/7 Prayer**

There has never been a need to unite together in pray for our city, nation, our world like now. Cover BATH in prayer 24 hours a day *FOR 50 DAYS FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST*. Sign up for a slot for virtual 24-7 prayer by clicking below there will be [bit.ly/50DOP](http://bit.ly/50DOP).

### **Scrub Hubs**

Some of us at Christ Church have responded to the call to sew for the NHS - laundry bags, caps, and "scrub suits" - the pyjama outfits that used to be restricted to operating theatre wear but are now appearing more and more. GPs are wearing these too, at the moment, when they have to do home visits. We've had permission to recycle duvet covers etc. for this, so scrubs are being created in florals, stripes and even dinosaur prints which hopefully will bring a smile to the faces of hard working NHS staff. If you'd like to know more about this contact Rebekah [rebekah.spanner@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.spanner@gmail.com) or 07821 251956.

**Finally, as you clap on Thursday nights, say this prayer:**

#### **Prayer of thankfulness**

God our Creator and Giver of every good thing,  
bless all who work upon the land and the waters,  
and in the food industry  
to provide for our physical needs at this time.  
Guide and strengthen those who toil tirelessly  
to help the many in desperate need of aid,  
and grant that we may always be cheerful givers  
in gratitude for all that we have,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.