

Christ Church News

Easter 2023



HAVE A BLESSED
Easter
FROM CHRIST CHURCH



***“The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and love never
dies.”***

*Christ Church Anglican Congregation Vision
Statement*

*“Through our worship, mission, nurture and service
we want to enable all people to enter into a living
relationship with Jesus Christ”*

In this edition of the Parish News:

- *A season of growth*
- *Christianity Explored*
- *Holy Week and Easter*
- *Summer floral coffee morning*
- *Death into life*
- *Welcome to Coventry*
- *Thank you*
- *News from Appleby*
- *Book Reviews*
- *Traidcraft News*
- *Gardening in the spring sun!*
- *Hot cross bread and butter pudding recipe*
- *Easter Colouring*
- *Regular Christ Church activities*

Dates for the diary

- *Save the Children quiz 31st March 7.30pm*
- *Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 6th April 7.30pm*
- *Good Friday Workshop with Crafts and Easter Garden 7th April 10.30am*
- *Good Friday 'Last Hour at the Cross' 7th April 2pm*
- *Easter Day Sunrise service with breakfast 9th April 6.30am*
- *Easter Day Family Communion 9th April 9.30am*
- *Summer Floral Coffee morning 17th June 10.00am*

A SEASON OF GROWTH

What can you see outside your window as you're reading this? Is it still Lent, or have you put off the Parish News till after Easter? Is it a rainy morning? Is it a sunny lunchtime? Are the tulips out? Can you see any blue sky?

On our Lent Quiet Day, Valerie Quinlivan reminded us that "Lent" – our English word for the 40 days of preparation for Easter – comes from an old word meaning "lengthen". She spoke about the growing daylight, and the coming Spring that belong to the Lenten season. What an image of growth as we move from winter to spring, and through the remembrance of all that Jesus has done for us, to the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Day!

At Christ Church we have been working through the winter of dark days, seasoned with the Epiphany and all the Sundays that tell the story of Jesus being revealed to the world, into Lent and now towards Easter. And we too have been growing in ourselves, along with the daylight, thanks to God's goodness!

We have recently spent time with the eight families (now nine, in fact!) seeking baptism for their many children; we are teaching and learning with some of our young people in their journey towards Confirmation in May; we are reading and discussing our way through our Lent study, "Easter People in a Good Friday world" and finding unexpected treasure, week by week, in our Lent Groups. Thanks to God for all sorts of growth, in this Lent season.

Growth is a process; which of us has finished growing? Some of us may have reached our greatest physical height, but God has

more for us, always, in our inner spiritual growth; in our relationship with Jesus. We will be starting the “Christianity Explored” course, for seven Monday evenings, starting on 15th May. Do come and participate! Whether your exploration of faith is hardly begun, or whether you’re already a good way along the journey, it’s an opportunity for each of us to grow in faith and understanding, in good company with tip top refreshments! There’s more about this on another page.

Most exciting of all, though (almost) is the news that a new Priest in Charge has been appointed to Christ Church and St Botolph’s. Revd Chris Smith will be installed on Monday 12th June. We very much look forward to welcoming Chris, Emma his wife, and his two young children Charlotte and Adam. Please do pray for them in this time of preparation and change.

The most exciting news – always new, always amazing – is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at Easter, and indeed every day!

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here...he is going ahead of you...you will see him, just as he told you!” Mark 15; 6,7

From the Ministry Team at Christ Church: Clive, Sara, Sheila, Katherine, Paul, Jean and Rod.



CHRISTIANITY
EXPLORED



Christianity Explored is a seven-session course that gives people the time and space to think about the big questions of life and to explore the life of the man at the heart of the Christian faith.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

The news is a bit grim these days. Want some good news?

YES

Then try the course run by ordinary, local Christians.

IT'S FREE (SOME GOOD NEWS)

To think about the meaning of life. No Bible knowledge necessary.

You won't have to sing or pray but you can ask questions or just sit and listen.

THIS MIGHT BE THE BEST BIT OF NEWS YOU'VE EVER HEARD

Now, what do you need to know beforehand

WHERE: Christ Church, Ireton Road, CO3 3AT

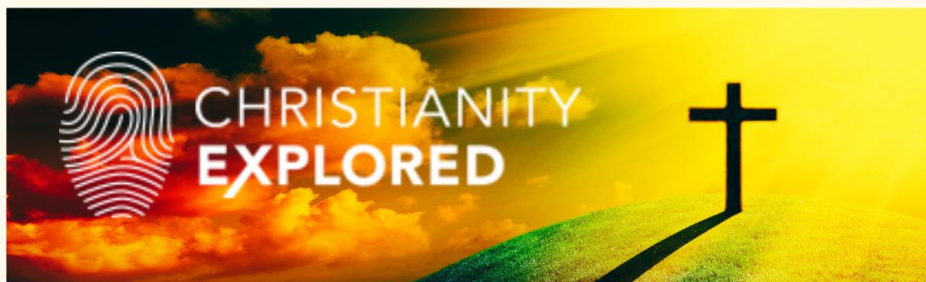
WHEN: Seven Mondays from May 15 (7.30pm-9.30pm)

CONTACT: Church office 01206 542307
christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com

MORE INFO: christianityexplored.org

REFRESHMENTS: Have your first course at home. Then we will provide coffee, pudding and cheese.

GOOD NEWS AWAITS YOU



Holy Week and Easter

Join us as we follow the steps of Christ's patience & humility and as we rejoice in God's love for all



Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (3rd, 4th & 5th April)

9.00pm Compline, *livestreamed only to our Facebook page*

Tuesday (4th April)

2.30pm Lent Book Review - Sharing thoughts on "Failure" by Emma Ineson

Maundy Thursday (6th April)

7.30pm Commemoration of The Last Supper – Communion & Vigil

Good Friday (7th April)

10.30am Workshop for all ages – crafts, refreshments & informal worship

2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross – a time of quiet reflection

Easter Day "CHRIST IS RISEN!" (9th April)

6.30am Sunrise service, *followed by breakfast (to be booked in advance)*

9.30am Family Communion "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

DEATH INTO LIFE

November 1940 and a huge incendiary bomb destroyed much of Coventry Cathedral, collapsing the roof and blowing out the windows. Today the red sandstone walls, the window frames with their intricate gothic tracery and, miraculously, the tower and spire still stand. The ruins proclaim the result of man's inhumanity to man.

July 1962 and the new cathedral was consecrated next door to its predecessor. A modern design and dominated inside by the huge tapestry of 'Christ in Glory' covering the entire eastern end.

Each year on Good Friday the last hour at the cross is observed in the shell of the ruined cathedral. Then on Easter morning a procession starts in the ruins and moves to the new version to celebrate the Resurrection. Death into life.

Rod



WELCOME TO COVENTRY

WELCOME TO COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, questioning, well-heeled or down at heel.

You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up, or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegans, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like organised religion (we're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to look round. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both, or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids, or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters- and especially you....

Please come in!

Would you like to be
sent to Coventry?





Summer "Floral" Coffee Morning.

Following the cancellation of the Coffee Morning in February, I am pleased to say that an alternative date has been agreed upon with Helen Bird for the flower arranging demonstration.

The Coffee Morning will now take place on **Saturday 17th June** from 10.00am to 12 noon, with the demonstration at approximately 10.15am. There will not be any charge for coffee but donations will be gratefully appreciated to meet the cost of the flowers and hopefully to provide a contribution to the Building Fund.

I hope this will be an enjoyable social occasion, with the added interest of seeing how a pedestal flower arrangement is constructed. This is not a workshop morning, so all that is needed is a chair and a cup of coffee and a biscuit!

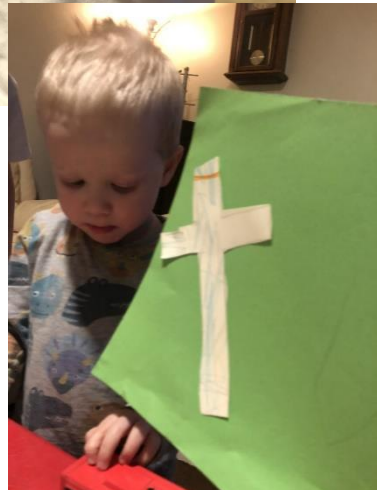
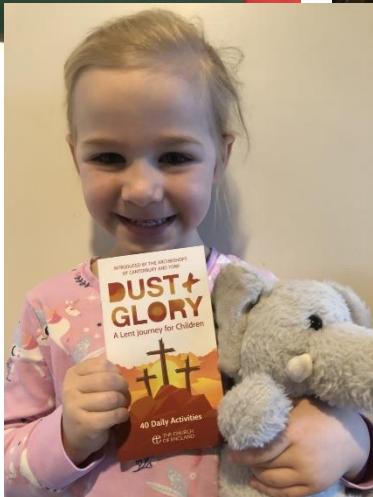
Hoping to see you there, Best Wishes, *Angela*.



Thank you

Many thanks to those involved in our Lent preparations. These Lent books for our children, Dust and Glory, have been brilliant for helping our little ones understand a bit more about Lent and a different outlook on life rather than the 'perfect' life that we sometimes think we have to portray.

Here is right at the beginning with our Ash Wednesday crosses. Looking forward to continuing our journey to our very special Easter preparations.



Thank you to our Flames Sunday School for teaching our children each week.

Faith was particularly excited about the Hope cress that they planted recently.

There are so many preparations that we don't see happen each and every week for this very important session for our children. They have so many special moments that they share with the helpers and their friends in learning about the Bible and our Christian life.

Michelle



NEWS FROM APPLEBY

It is so lovely to be sitting here thinking of you all at these exciting and challenging times. As you are considering a new rector we here in Appleby have now appointed two 'half ministers' after a long interregnum. I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to being part of these new times for St Lawrence's here in the heart of the town. It is without doubt a warm loving and generous spirit that lives here in Appleby. However, new ministers will inevitably bring new ideas. Much needed enthusiasm and, I fear, change that not everyone will necessarily understand or embrace.

When I looked recently at a photograph of us all at Christ Church, long before Covid, I felt such a warmth and love for my diverse family of fellow Christians. From the very young to the not so young. What a joy to see how the little ones have grown and in some cases flown. Here in Appleby we are such a small and for the most part 'not so young' family. I look forward with anticipation to bringing some of the gifts of Christ Church here but I will keep my promise not to say 'well, in Christ Church...'

As the late winter sunshine brings new life to the hills, fields and mountains I shall think of you all in the Christ Church garden party next month and wait with anticipation to see what will come up in my garden here. I have put in some spring bulbs and winter jasmine but the garden has been turned over mostly to gravel and concrete so I shall have my work cut out putting in lawns and flower beds.

We have a number of outreach programmes in town during the week and I am now part of a very new home group which we hope will flourish. There is a warm spot with tea and biscuits in

church on Tuesdays, a knit and natter group on Thursdays. (I am quite good at the natter part!) a Wellbeing cafe with home made soup and fellowship at the cricket club on Fridays and Choir practise in the evening. We also have regular compline services at the Alms Houses 14th Century chapel in town.

I had quite an experience on 2nd Feb in church. Candlemas is a very big event here, notwithstanding that it was my birthday (One of those with an '0' at the end that you could do without!) I have never been to a service with incense before and you could hardly see the back of the church by the end. We had visiting clergy processing with gold and cream robes and tall mitres. The church bells were rung and the music was wonderful. A truly uplifting experience. It brought a whole new awareness to the Nunc Dimittis.

Well, suffice to say that I still think of you all every week and love to see and hear what is going on. Never lose sight of what an amazing family you are and the God given gifts you share with others. My life is so much richer for you all. And if you ever feel the need to 'Lift up your eyes to the hills' there is a welcome here deep in the heart of the stunning Eden Valley. I have two double beds keeping warm.

Until I visit later in the year I send my love.

Ann.

WELCOME TO

CHRIST CHURCH LIBRARY

Please browse our selection,
choose a book and sign it
out.

Open to everyone!

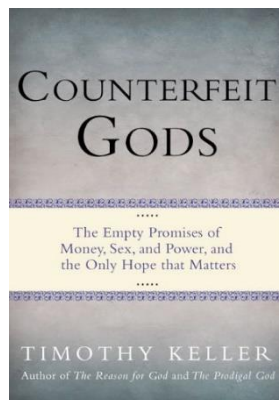


BOOK REVIEWS

Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller

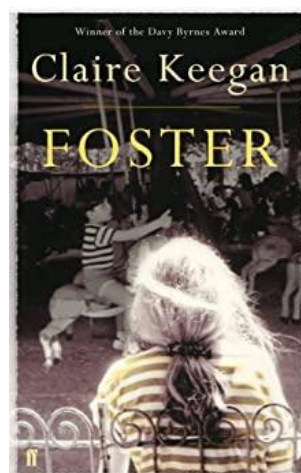
A very readable and thought -provoking book which is very relevant to us today bombarded as we are with all the messages that are beamed at us as to how we can achieve Beauty, Wealth, Success, Love and Power which will grant us Happiness and Fulfilment. We are all tempted by these promises but the purpose of the book is to help us recognise these goals as false “Gods” which will lead us astray from the recognition of the true God who offers us a more fulfilling life.

The message is presented with both clarity and conviction and very much a message for our time.



“Foster” by Claire Keegan

This is a little book about a little girl who does not fit in to her rather large and disorganised family with older siblings who have no time for her and a mother who is constantly pregnant. There is precious little time for a quiet girl and she is sent off away from home to spend a summer in the country with an aunt and uncle whom she does not really know but who are childless themselves and with whom she learns what it is like to live in a loving cherishing relationship. Then at the end of the summer she is taken back home to meet the latest baby! It is a beautifully written book and a delight to read with a story that lingers long after the book has ended.



Judith B

TRAIDCRAFT

As most of you will know by now, Traidcraft plc has gone into administration after struggling for the last couple of years. It is possible that a buyer will come forward but nothing is known yet.

It was in the autumn of 1995 that the PCC agreed we could have fair trade goods for sale at Christ Church once a month and shortly after we became a "Fair Trade Church".

I have loved bringing fairly traded goods from Traidcraft and other fair trade companies to the stalls and am so grateful to everyone for their support.

Whatever the outcome of the administration process, I feel it is time to "retire". My last stall will be on March 26th. Then I will have a grand closing sale (date to be decided)

Traidcraft was a pioneer in the fair trade market but now there are now many companies and supermarkets selling fair trade goods. I hope and pray that we will continue to look for and keep buying them. I can suggest some to you, so if you are interested, do please ask me.

If anyone feels they would like to take over running a stall, I would love to help and support in any way I can.

Clare

Gardening in the Spring Sun!

After days of snow and rain, we were truly glad that warm sun made our first gardening day of 2023 so delightful. A great team of gardeners helped with the usual tidying tasks – weeding, trimming shrubs, edging the paths, sweeping up leaves, checking nest-boxes are clean and ready, and making the garden look welcoming to all. Great excitement to discover a beautiful frog hiding in the undergrowth! We also enjoyed chats over morning coffee, and had time to greet neighbours, passing walkers and their dogs.

We are planning this summer to mow a prayer labyrinth into the short grass at the front of the church – this is a prayerful and fun way to use the garden – hopefully inviting people to stop and look, and maybe even pause to reflect as they follow the labyrinth's path to the centre in a tiny representation of our life's journey towards God.

The next gardening day will take place on April 29th and we warmly welcome everyone, whether you count yourself as a gardener or not! All tools and tasks of many kinds will be available.

The garden team Carolyn, Kate and Jean



Cleaning out nesting boxes



*Trimming and sweeping
around the steps*



Tidying ivy along the back wall

Hot cross bread and butter pudding recipe

A sensational spin on a British classic. This is a great way to use up leftover buns, add chocolate and custard for an indulgent and comforting pud. [See method](#)

- Serves 6
- 10 mins to prepare and 35 mins to cook
- 321 calories / serving



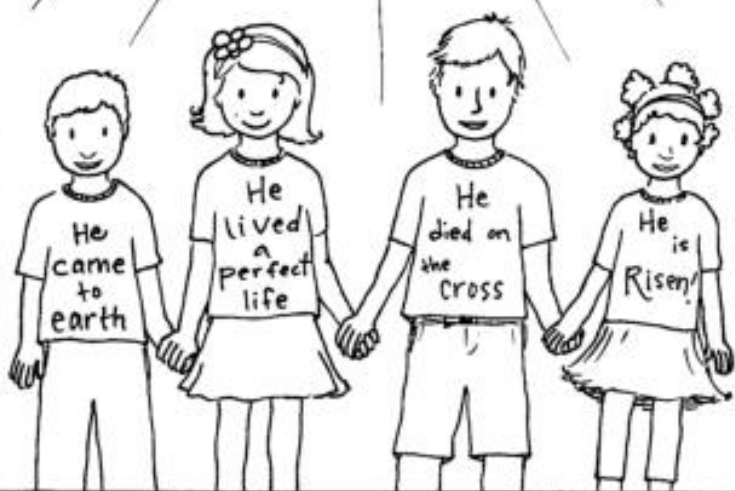
Ingredients

- 6 hot cross buns
- 25g butter
- 75g dark chocolate chips
- 2 large egg
- 250ml milk
- 1tbsp caster sugar

Method

1. Heat the oven to gas 3, 170°C, fan 150°C.
2. Cut the hot cross buns in half and butter the cut sides, sprinkle with half of the chocolate chips, sandwich together again and place in a baking dish.
3. Beat the egg, milk and sugar together and pour over. Scatter with the remaining chocolate chips and bake for 30-35 mins until just set.

happy
easter



Mandy Groce '12

ministry-to-children.com

**HE HAS
RISEN!**



Regular activities at Christ Church

time together

Meets every Tuesday morning in term time from 10am to 12 noon,

Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment for little ones (0-4yr) to play and for parents, grandparents and carers to chat and relax over a cup of coffee.

We close our morning together with a Bible story, some nursery rhymes, Christian songs and celebrate any family occasions e.g birthdays.

Please feel free to drop in for a short visit or stay for the morning.

Email:

timetogether@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk

the **BREAKFAST CAFÉ**

Thursdays from 9am to 11.30 ish.

A café for all ages held in the main church space, a safe space for little ones to play, adults young and old to meet over cake, breakfast quiche, tea coffee and other goodies.

Pop in for a short time or stay longer.

All ages welcome

FLAMES

(for all those aged 4-11)
On Sunday mornings

**Bible stories, games,
crafts and prayers**

more information contact Sheila



An after school club for primary school age children, on Tuesdays 3pm till 4.30pm.

Parents and Carers stay in the building with the children, pre-school children are also welcome (toys provided).

Activities include Craft, Stories, Videos, Lego and Games.

There are refreshments during the afternoon for children and adults.

FrOG club has a relaxed atmosphere for children and adults to enjoy.



**Join us at
Splodgy on the
2nd Friday of the Month
7:30pm till 9pm
School Years 6 - 10**



COVID19

We will have relevant COVID safety measures in place in line with the government guidance in place.

To see visit www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy



Christ Church
Colchester



splodgy@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/christchurchcolchester
www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy

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Jean Taylor

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Church Treasurer:

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The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford