
THE MINISTER WRITES ...

Dear All,

In Matthew's Gospel, the followers of Jesus are referred to as the 'light of the world' and as a 'city built on a hill that cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14ff). I am drawn to this concept of light. I am sure we all love light! In recent weeks, we've even had the blessing of sunlight (along with free heat!) on many occasions! And who doesn't enjoy the lighter evenings? But the point is this - there is something very special about light, wherever it is found.

The 'light of the world', 'city on a hill' references to light could draw us to picture in our mind the way in which, say if you are travelling during the hours of darkness, the bright lights of a city are clearly visible even from a distance, creating a fascinating view of light against the night-time darkness. You have to look across, don't you! But there is more for us to think about. Jesus, the one who came as the 'Light of the world', draws us on from such reflections and says to us, 'you are the light of the world', 'you are the city built on a hill that cannot be hidden.'

We might feel that we are surrounded by much darkness in the world, and understandably so. In these poignant words of Jesus, we are reminded of our calling to radiate with the light we have received in Christ. As well as receiving light, we are called to illuminate the lives of others, and indeed the world in which we live. Now, this protest against war and prayer for peace, this small act of service, these few actions that help care for creation, these few words of kindness and love, this simple gesture of giving to God, to others, this little step forward in discipleship – done as individuals, well, perhaps none of these seem particularly significant to us. But then we remember, there is something very special about light, wherever it is found!

And then, we consider what happens when we together at Christ Church step into our 'light' calling – this creates a potent combined effect: We as God's church become an increasingly fascinating view of light against the night-time darkness. People will just have to look across. Of course, as they do so, they will find themselves attracted not to us, but to the One who shines through us.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

An evening prayer:

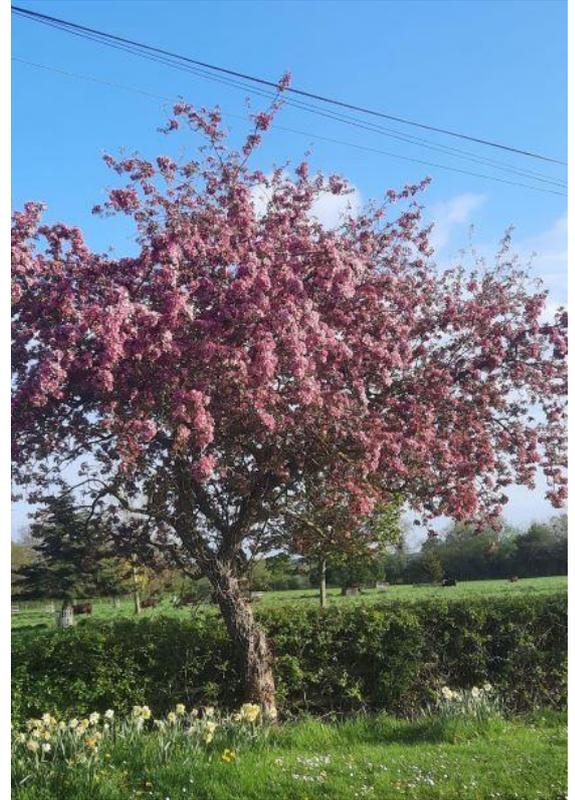
*God of light,
Your presence illumines even my darkest shadows.
Gather today's sorrow and pleasure
and remake them, in me,
into generous hope, sober joy, tested faith,
that my life may be radiant with your love.
Amen.*

Grace and peace,
Neil

TREES

The trees this Spring are bursting into leaf and flower. The prayer below entitled "Trees" by James Ashdown was published in the 2021 URC prayer handbook and reminds us how trees can shape our lives.

May we be like trees planted by the river of God
Our trunks straight, untwisted by envy or selfish ambition.
May we be like trees planted by the river of God
Our leaves broad, giving shade to all who suffer chaos and evil.
May we be like trees planted by the river of God
Our fruit sweet, bursting with mercy and peace.
May we be like trees planted by the river of God
Our roots deep in the ever fertile love of God.



CHRIST CHURCH'S WEST WALL

The works to the west wall of the church are due to commence on Monday 9th May. To ensure your safety, the following measures will be put in place:

- The gallery will be closed from the end of service on Sunday 1st May.
- As from the end of Saturday 7th May, access to the Schoolrooms will only be possible via the rear Langston Hall doors or Cox Lane gate.
- As from Monday 9th May, the top two left hand car parking bays (nearest the side gate) will be reserved for contractors only. Other bays may be put out of use from time to time.

These measures are expected to last until the end of September.

We thank you for your co-operation and understanding whilst the works are carried out.

ECO-CHURCH - CREATION CARE

Have you ever wondered about the greenhouse gas emissions from doing the laundry? It seems that the way we wash and dry our clothes can make quite a difference to our carbon footprint.

- It is the way we dry the washing that has the biggest impact; a 40 degree load that is dried in a tumble drier produces 3-4 times the emissions as one dried on the line, inside or out.
- For a washing machine that you keep for 10 years and use efficiently, the embodied emissions from the manufacture and delivery of the appliance account for nearly 80% of the carbon footprint of each wash. So we should keep and repair appliances for as long as possible.
- Modern washing powders work just as well at 30 degrees; keeping the temperature down makes a significant difference to the energy used.
- Wash when you have a full load; half-loads are much less efficient per garment washed.



Popping our clothes into the washing machine has become so easy – but do we sometimes wash our clothes unnecessarily often? Do we like to iron more than is actually necessary? Perhaps, by doing the best thing for the environment, we can even save ourselves time and money as well!

Kate Helleur



Recently TWAM has started to collect foreign coins which they utilise to raise funds.

A box is available by the prayer board if you would like to contribute.

Saturday 14th May at 7pm

Christ Church Hall, Tacket Street

Concert for Ukraine

All proceeds to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal

Silbury Hill

Folk Duo

Saxophony

Saxophone quartet

Tickets £10

Under 18s free

to include tea/coffee & cake



Tickets from Kate Helleur kate.helleur@btinternet.com

or the **Fair Trade Shop**.

You are welcome to bring your own drink, alcoholic or otherwise.

SUFFOLK REFUGEE SUPPORT



To all at Christ Church,

Thank you so much for choosing to support our work over the past six months, and for the amazing sum of money you raised! As we welcome Afghan families to Suffolk and deal with the urgent needs of all those arriving in the county seeking safety, your generosity will help give us the resource necessary to make sure that vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers receive a warm welcome and long term support here.

We are providing a full range of integration support to Afghan families and individuals arriving in Suffolk under the UK's Afghan resettlement schemes. We help with orientation, volunteer support, English assessments, access to health services, employment support and assistance getting children into school. We are already seeing people find employment, while others are making excellent progress in their English language skills and taking part in activities such as our sewing group.

You can find our latest update on the Afghan refugee situation in Suffolk here:

[Latest update on the Afghan refugee situation – Suffolk Refugee Support](#)

At a time of record displacement around the world, and unprecedented demand on our services here in Suffolk, your support will enable us to continue delivering and adapting these vital services. Thank you again for your commitment to refugees - together we will make sure that vulnerable people are supported to rebuild their lives in safety.

Best wishes,
Rebecca Crerar
Charity Manager





Thank you very much to everyone who supported the lunch held in aid of The Leprosy Mission. This followed the all-age and parade service on 20th March which included an illustrated talk by Daisy Mansfield from The Leprosy Mission. We were pleased that Daisy was able to join us for lunch.

As always, friends rallied round and supported the Greater Heights appeal. John Durnford collated all the donations and I was able to forward £837.78 to The Leprosy Mission. A small amount of Gift Aid will be added to this sum.

So once again, thank you for your continued support.

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE EVENTS

The month of May brings us to Christian Aid Week. This year we are holding a **Plant and Cake Sale on Saturday 21st May from 10.30am.**



The plant stall will be on the front lawn to attract passers-by. We are hoping to sell cakes and serve refreshments at the back of the church, but as work on the west wall should have started by then, the back of the church may be out of bounds so these, as well, may be outside, we may not know until the day. Wherever they are situated, to make it a success, we need everyone's help.

The on-line events held during the two years of lock down out-stripped all expectations, and it would be brilliant to match these. Gardeners have been busy plantings seeds, taking cuttings etc. for the plant sale, now it is the turn of the bakers. Home-made cakes are always popular, we can never have too many.

Plants and cakes need to be at the church by 10am on the 21st May. If you need your plants or cakes to be picked up, this can be arranged, please contact Anne Durnford.

Most importantly, we need you and your friends' support on the day. We look forward to seeing you.

HOLIDAY AT HOME

After much thought and discussion we have decided to have Holiday at Home again this year. This had become a popular event among our own members and friends and a major part of our church outreach over many years prior to the pandemic. However, much has changed in the intervening years. Several helpers are no longer available, and this is a very labour intensive event. We have lost, or lost touch with a lot of our regular attenders.



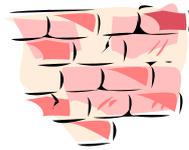
In spite of this we are proceeding with a two day event on 21st and 22nd July. We will be "visiting" Scotland, and Chris Parfitt, known to all who go to Thursday Forum, has already been booked for a travel talk and slide show on the Scottish Isles.

Scotland

For this event to succeed we are appealing for cooks and catering assistants, drivers to bring and take home guests, help with the craft morning and others to just be there to chat and make our guests feel welcome. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the above email or phone no, or speak to any Church Life Committee member.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

... from our neighbours at St Pancras



Dear Friends,

It seems to me that there's something of an "after the Lord Mayor's show" feeling about this period between Easter and Whitsun. After the wonderful celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection things can feel a bit flat, as if we're in a holding pattern until Pentecost. However, dig a little bit below the surface and things are bubbling up with the feasts of St Pancras on 12th May, the Ascension on 26th May and our diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on 31st May among the things to look forward to.

I write this after a walk with a group of Anglicans around the land designated for Ipswich Garden Suburb, north of the town, where 10,000 people are to be housed in more than 3,000 homes, to be built over the next ten years or so between Henley Road and Tuddenham Road. The plans include three primary schools and a secondary school but, apparently, have no mention of churches. As Christians we perhaps need to consider how and what we are going to do about that.

I was asked on the walk if I, as a Catholic, was a fan of the Channel 4 sitcom Father Ted. Humour is a very personal thing but I have always found the programme hilarious and isn't there something endearing about people having the ability to laugh at themselves? But apparently some Catholics feel it is blasphemous. After the walk I travelled to the Ink festival in Halesworth where I was uncomfortable about one of the short plays featured, Press Pray, about "a desperate soul" seeking help from above but being put on hold by an Almighty who has his wires crossed. The would-be worshipper is driven to distraction by, for example, being given a menu of numbers to choose what kind of prayer he wanted. It could be argued that the play was mocking automated call centres rather than faith and possibly offence, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. But there does seem to me to be an element of sneering in modern culture: as if humans, in their wisdom, had left God behind and did not need him any more to cope with life, death and the whole caboodle. As Our Lord said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."



THURSDAY FORUM IN MAY

- 5th May* Inspire Suffolk: enabling a positive future for local young people with Terry Baxter (CEO)
- 12th May* Shelterbox: there with concrete help in disasters across the globe
- 19th May* Climate Change – What it means to us with Ian Hawker
- 26th May* Sermons in Stone – a ‘tour’ of local church buildings with Elizabeth Serpell, Blue Badge Guide

Thursday Forum lunches are available every week from 28th April until 26th May from 12 noon.

After a break over the summer, Forum will return on 6th October.

MAY'S DIARY DATES

- Wednesday 4th May* 7.30pm Property Committee in the Langston Hall
- Monday 9th May* Start of work to the west wall
- Thursday 12th May* 7.30pm Deacons' Meeting in the Langston Hall
- Saturday 14th May* 7pm Concert for Ukraine in Christ Church Hall
- Thursday 19th May* 2.30pm Forum Committee Meeting
- Saturday 21st May* 10.30am Christian Aid Sale
- Tuesday 24th May* 7.30pm SSAP meeting
- Thursday 26th May* 7.30pm Church Meeting in the Christ Church Hall

REGULAR EVENTS

Emmaus Bible Study groups on Mondays (at 10.30am weekly in the Turret Room), Wednesdays (2nd and 4th evenings) and Thursdays (28th April, and then 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10.30am in the Lounge).

REGULAR EVENTS (TERM TIME ONLY)

- Mondays** Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Contact Group Scout Lead John Rockett: jdrockett@hotmail.co.uk
- Tuesdays** Tots Plus in the Christ Church Halls 9.30am. Contact Jo Robertson: joanneholmes@hotmail.com
- Fridays** Rainbows, Brownies & Guides. Contact Ruth Strudwick: ruthstrudwick@gmail.com

SERVICES FOR MAY 2022

All Services will be led by our Minister, Revd Neil Coulson unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 1st May

10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday 8th May

10.45am Family Worship

Sunday 15th May

10.45am Parade Service

Sunday 22nd May

10.45am Family Worship

This service will include the baptism of Violet Fairbrother for which the Revd David Rees will be kindly joining us to officiate

Sunday 29th May

10.45am Family Worship Family Worship led by Richard Jurd

Richard is a URC lay preacher & member at Lion Walk, Colchester.

Sunday 5th June

10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Martin Camroux

Martin is a retired URC Minister. He was a Convenor of Church and Society for the URC and is chairperson of Free to Believe, the URC liberal network. Author of 'Keeping Alive the rumour of God' (Published 2020).