

# Church News

2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

A recent newspaper headline read: *“The earth could hear itself think: how birdsong became the sound of lockdown. When the pandemic hit the songs of the birds offered joy and hope.”*

Should we be surprised to read this?

No because we read of nature’s song in the Bible.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands”*

Psalm 19 v1

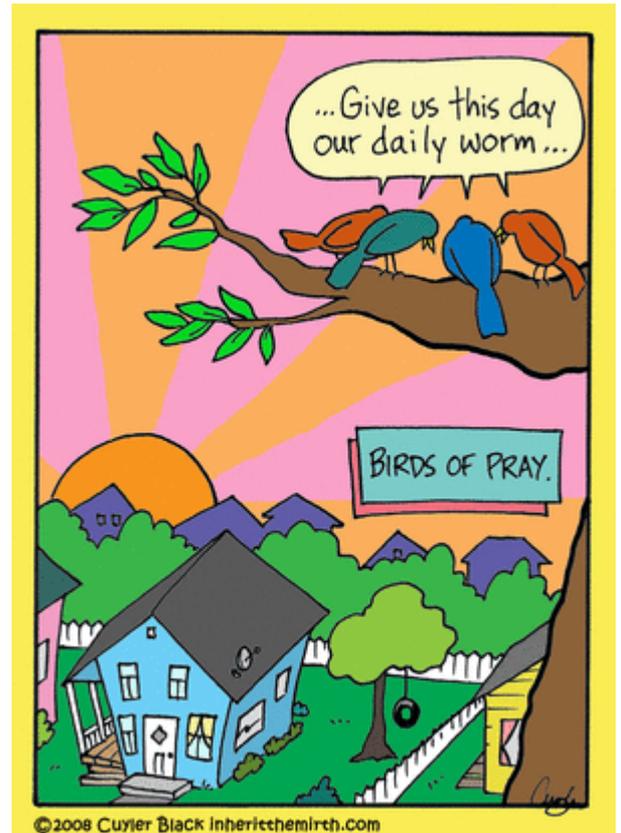
Creation was made to sing the praises of our Creator God. So if we stop long enough to observe and to listen we will see and hear the glory of God in creation. Psalm 148 tells us that all creation is summoned to praise Him: including *“the small creatures and flying birds”* (v10) Indeed Jesus said if ever the praise to God stops then the rocks themselves would cry out. (Luke 19 v 38) For the whole of the universe was made from love and redeems us by the love of Jesus revealed in His death for us. We were created to give thanks and praise for His love and to praise our maker and redeemer. As we see the blossom, the new spring growth and we hear the birds singing I pray God will give us a reverence and awe for all He has made.

May we forever worship and praise not creation but the Creator. He alone gives us eternal life, joy and hope through His son Jesus our Lord.

Let *“All that has breath praise the Lord.”*

Psalm 150 v 6

*Gail Brooke*



## COVID 19 Update

We are open for communal worship from 11am at Christ Church each Sunday. As we go forward when we find that the number of people wishing and able to come exceeds our safe capacity or it is deemed safe to do so, we will look to recommence services at St Saviour's as well.

The number of seats available is limited due to social distancing. Please book your seats by using the link: <https://prayin.io/bie-txg-yzu> or email or phone the office, Dave or Margaret and ask them to complete the booking on your behalf.

Please note that although people who are classed as 'vulnerable' for health or age reasons should consider the risks which may be attached to attending a service ***there is no prohibition on their doing so*** – it is entirely a personal decision. In order to comply with the guidelines for safe opening the following will apply:

- We must observe high levels of hygiene before, after and throughout the service - all attending are requested to use hand sanitiser (available at the door) or wash their hand for minimum of 20 seconds prior to entering the church
- All attending **must wear face masks** for the duration (unless exempt due to age or health conditions)
- **We have to take individuals' details** (name, contact telephone number, etc.) each time they attend and retain the information for 21 days after the service. In the case of infection these would have to be passed on to track and trace.
- As far as practicable we will observe a one-way flow for movement inside church.
- We will maintain the 2m social distancing between each household bubble
- There will be **no Sunday School**, all children will need to sit with their parents and stay with their parents the whole time they are inside the church (no running around) and parents must accompany them to the bathroom should they need to go and ensure that hygiene standards are maintained
- There will be no singing
- There will be no refreshments or chatting after the service

And of course, anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, has been asked to self-isolate having had contact with someone who has tested positive, or is feeling unwell, should not attend.

Our sermon is also available (as video or audio file) on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyfZeMWItDiPU3ggBoLDLTw>

We will continue to be open for private prayer at 7pm on Thursday evenings, but this is to be in silence, and we will continue to observe all the necessary precautions.

You may find the links below of interest as we remain unable to come together for teaching, discipleship and support:

Bible App at <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/> : gives you tools to seek God's heart daily: listen to audio Bibles, create Prayers, study with Friends, explore 2,000+ Bible versions, and much more

Online church: [www.clayton.tv](http://www.clayton.tv) (for morning worship plus much more)

Daily Hope: **0800 804 8044**. Free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections 24 hours a day

## ***Pastoral Care***



We are continuing to try to keep in touch with all our church family and you are doing a fantastic job of being there for each other. If, however you could do with some help or would appreciate some regular contact (you may be feeling ‘forgotten’), please do get in touch; just leave a message on the office phone or ring Margaret or Kim. Thank you.

### ***APCM – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.30pm***

Booking your seat for the APCM is now open. Please go to the prayin.io webpage and use code: xmr-ddx-hyh.

This is an important meeting in the life of the church as we appoint our wardens and PCC lay representatives for the next year; whose role will be to guide the church family as we move forward. We will be looking to appoint 5 lay representatives this time; so please consider and pray about whether this could be something you are called to, to serve the church. Nomination forms are now available from Christ Church or the Parish Office. Please complete the form and return it to the Parish Office in advance of the meeting (all nominations, proposers and seconders need to be on the parish electoral roll).

**The revision of the electoral roll closes today.** Please ensure you are on it if you wish to vote at the APCM (a copy of the current roll is on display at Christ Church if you need to check it).

### ***30 days of Prayer for the Muslim World***

**30 Days of Prayer** started on 13<sup>th</sup> April (the start of Ramadan) and aims to help Christians to respond with love to Muslim people. It inspires us to make friends with those of other faiths & cultures and prayer helps Muslim people meet Jesus. Please keep praying for our Muslim neighbours.

### ***Advanced warning – Garden tidy up!!!***

Due to Covid we have not been able to have a grounds tidy up for a while and it shows. With the easing of restrictions, we feel that we now should be able to meet up to carry out the necessary maintenance and tidying up, so plan to meet on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May between 10am and midday. All jobs will be restricted to groups of no more than 6 and all work will be outside. Please bring any tools etc with you and we may even be able to serve some refreshments!!! It would be good to see you then, please join us and join in.



## Readings:

This week: 1 Timothy 2.8-3.1a      *Church family, Godly living*  
Next week: 1 Timothy 3.1-13      *Church leadership, Godly living*  
*Please take time to read ahead*

## **Private prayer**

Christ Church is open for private prayer each Thursday evening at 7pm. Please feel free to come and take the opportunity for a quiet time of prayer.

## **Zoom Bible Study**

If you have a tablet, computer, or smartphone you're warmly invited to join a Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom which Heather and Steve Burtonwood are running at 7.30pm. Sessions last for approximately an hour and a half. We have begun to study John's Gospel over the past two weeks. At the present time 11 people attend this fellowship but the Zoom caters for 100! Don't be shy - give it a try. Just send an email to [steveburtonwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steveburtonwood@yahoo.co.uk) so that we can send you a zoom link.

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**The Parish Office** is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings. At other times Cathy is working from home. If you need to contact her please ring on 01706 849128.

**Christ Church and St Saviour's**

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