

# CHRIST CHURCH WARE

Issue 67 WE'LL MEET AGAIN

Christ Church Ware Magazine Summer 2020



Christ Church Ware  
Jesus led, Spirit empowered, Grace based.

[www.christchurchware.co.uk](http://www.christchurchware.co.uk)

# Church online - behind the scenes



from  
**Sian Woodward**

*Ever wondered what is involved in creating a church service online? With more than 5,000 views, and ten hours of content broadcast, here's a peak behind the scenes to reveal some of our secrets!*



This was the first online service on 22nd March when the team were still allowed into the church. Three days later, John emailed the church to let them know that not even he was allowed in the church building any more.

Zoom to Sam at his home. Sam controls all the elements of the service, feeding them into the live stream at the right time, with John linking them together. It is easier to pre-record the other elements to reduce the risk of something going wrong! John can't actually see and hear the service as it's being broadcast. Whilst hymns and readings are playing he does get a time-check of "30 seconds left", but then it's hand-signals and a huge exercise in trust to start speaking at the right time!



Above: *The Lord's Prayer at Easter.*

You have seen over 100 contributions from members of the Church family on screen, from Bible readings to recordings of the Lord's prayer and intercessions, and it has been a particular pleasure to be able to include so many families in these - thank you! These are coordinated by Darran, edited by Sam W and titles added by Josh Davies and Sam. We always try to include the church logo designed by Catriona Baker as a 'channel ident'.

We knew that the Church family would appreciate sung worship from our own church family, but this opened up a lot of challenges. The first was around online licensing and copyright, and getting this wrong could result in the cutting of the live stream mid broadcast! The second challenge was how the bands could record when social distancing.



*that a test-upload to YouTube to check copyright hasn't flagged any issues.*  
6. Sunday morning at 9am - Sam and Darran join a zoom call with John and check over the technical setup and running order. Sian manages the Facebook comments in the livestream, monitors livestream quality to feed back to Sam, and updates the website with the livestream feed.  
7. After the service the recording of the stream is edited by adding in the higher-definition original-footage of the pre-recorded segments, and then the whole service is uploaded to YouTube and the Church Website, for the large number of people who view the "catch up" videos, rather than the live stream itself.

*Above: Editing the video and music sent in by our worship leaders and bands. This is a challenging and time consuming task for all involved, but such an encouragement to the church community.*

*The Core Communications Team -*

*Above right: l-r - Sian & Sam Woodward, John Hookway. Below right: Darran Mustoe. Unseen is Catriona Baker, who has kept the website up to date.*



This first service was 30 minutes long, had no sung worship, and John did everything - read the Bible, preached, and prayed.

The images of the empty church shown before and after a live stream broadcast were some drone footage recorded by Ed Wells before Christmas (you can see the candles!), with guitar playing from Jessie Dipper.

The core part of a service is John talking to us live, although there is a 30 second delay as part of the streaming process. He connects via

*Below: Sam's "operations view" for a broadcast: L-R - running order, Facebook Live, sound, stopwatch, OBS software and John on Zoom video calling software.*



In the first week of lockdown, Talitha Hookway recorded a set of songs at home (special thanks to John Castle for mixing them) that we could use in our first few services.

More worship was required quickly, and musician families locked down together like Martin & Sam Rich, Heather Robinson's family and Ben Pearce's family, or individuals like Stuart Hopking and Jessie Dipper, began home recording. Other bands were socially distanced, so had to record their tracks separately. Songs had to be built by editing these tracks together. Ben Pearce's band and Chris Woodrow's band sent in their separate recordings, while Alec Spence's band put their finished recording together themselves. It's wonderful to have several different groups of musicians in each service!

By 10th May, John was allowed back into church, but only with his family. So all the equipment for Sunday services was set up by John and his family, with Sam & Sian and Darran directing other aspects of the service from their respective homes. A return to the Church location has required us to improve the lighting and upgrade the Church's broadband connection to support a clearer picture.

In addition to the Sunday services, the extra Easter Services and a special service for Ascension Day, we also pre-record a mid-week message from John. These are recorded via zoom every Tuesday evening, edited to include scripture passages and then released on our website each Thursday at noon, with announcements on social media. Series so far have been "Promises in the Bible" and "Characters of Faith".

Here's the timetable for producing services:

1. Several weeks before - Darran contacts worship leaders to coordinate worship songs. He also contacts people to read the Bible and lead intercessions.
2. Tuesday evening - John and Sam record and edit footage for the weekly Thursday message.
3. Thursday - the intercessions for the week arrive along with any planned testimonies. As far as possible Sam removes camera-shake and inadvertently recorded background sounds, along with blurring out anything in the back of the picture which would be a distraction to see.
4. Sam spends weekends editing as much of the content for the following weeks as possible.
5. Saturday - The service content is finalised mid-way through the day, and uploaded to the computer used for streaming, assuming



*Left: John preaching without shoes!*

We had not been prepared for the scale of the response to "online Church". Not only have we seen a consistently larger online congregation than had been expected, but we're hearing stories of many people who wouldn't normally "come to Church" regularly attending, including people from the town and extended families from all over the country, and even overseas. The encouragement of hearing the congregation's appreciation for the services has been wonderful, and news of at least one salvation was cause for celebration.

# Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives



from  
**Kay Hanney**

*Kay is involved in various church activities, serving God in all sorts of ways. We invited her to share something of her life journey...*

As I look back over my life since I became a Christian I can honestly say I have been overwhelmed by the grace and mercy of God through the years. In 1983, I was training to be a nurse in Sheffield and became a Christian, God was at work in a powerful way, outpouring His Holy Spirit with signs and wonders during those years in Sheffield.

In 1984 I was baptised in a service where the presence of God swept over my friends, family and work colleagues. Many had a revelation of a Jesus they had never met before. The prophetic song that was sung over us and words from the verse from Luke 15:7 which tells us there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents has been something that has stirred my heart from that day.

I finished nurse training and moved to Nottingham to study midwifery. Soon, in a time of rebellion, I decided to work on cruise ships for a couple of years. Towards the end, I did some agency work in London and was assigned to the HIV ward in UCH. Little did I know that God was at work...

This was the late eighties and supporting young men with HIV was a shocking and moving experience. I re-joined the ship but felt very clearly God calling me to work with people with HIV/AIDS so resigned, moved to London from my home base in Sunderland and started a slow, painful journey of repentance and crawled back to God with a new sense of purpose.

At a church meeting, a friend suggested I went to an afternoon tea hosted by St Barnabas to hear someone called Patrick Dixon who had set up a charity as a Christian response to HIV/AIDS, ACET. As I listened to the talk, I was blown away by a deep call and conviction. I went and spoke with Patrick who suggested I

contact the office the following day to sign up as a volunteer. I did not know at the time that he went back to the office and told them he'd found the nurse they'd been looking for! Praise God for that.

I worked for them in Edinburgh and London, mainly as nurse on the home care team, working with people at the end of their life providing 24 hour palliative care at home, supported by volunteers from churches. Many of the young men had been disowned by their families; another group were Ugandan women who had fled with their children. Most of their husbands had died of AIDS or had been murdered during the years of unrest.

There are so many testimonies to relay of how Jesus worked to reconcile families and bring healing. I remember sitting through the night with Martin, a young man in his early 20's abandoned by his family who looked at me and said "I just need to know someone loves me" I told him that I did but more importantly he had a Father in heaven who did. He gave me permission to pray with him, and he died peacefully in the early hours of the morning - just the two of us in that Holy moment.

I joined a team of intercessors that met every week for three hours to pray for the whole area of HIV/AIDS. There were so many strongholds, so many captives to set free and being in the group taught me the power of warfare and perseverance in prayer that I had never encountered before.



**Kay Hopps,**  
**ACET Home Care Nurse**

**"I felt a specific calling to work with people with HIV in 1989. I was working as an agency nurse and was asked to cover two nights on an HIV Unit. I was shocked to be faced with 16 men who had AIDS - I'd never fully understood the devastating effect of the illness. My most memorable experience at ACET was when someone cried after I'd spent three hours cleaning their kitchen. They were overwhelmed by what they saw as a practical display of love."**

One afternoon I was invited to a prayer ministry event. It had been a really difficult week. Nine of my clients had died, men and women all in their 20's or 30's. I felt overwhelmed and deeply sad. As I stood, anonymously waiting to be prayed for, the visiting speaker, whom I had never met, laid hands on me and prayed that God would break the power of death and remove the burden I was carrying to set me free to continue in my work, and He did!



God's next step for me? On a visit to Sheffield I heard a missionary couple talk of their work in Thailand and how the HIV epidemic was spreading. God stirred my heart and I had a sense He was calling me to go to Thailand. A couple of months later during a team meeting, the CEO announced that ACET had been approached by Christian Outreach to second a nurse to Bangkok for six months to set up a programme for women and children with HIV/AIDS. I thought my heart was going to stop! The Holy Spirit filled me with a peace that never left me, all through the preparations, training and for the six months I was there even though it was a challenging time. He is faithful.

God speaks to us, sometimes it feels like a whisper, don't dismiss it. If we search for Him and respond to His call then He will take us on adventures we would only have dreamed of. He will be with us every step of the way, never leaving or forsaking us but showing us His Kingdom here on earth.

## Your Magazine

*We are all in the same boat aren't we? "Normal" isn't what it used to be and probably won't be for some time; we know what we don't know. More importantly, we also know what we DO know. God has not changed and He has certainly not been caught by surprise.*

*In this edition we have tried to fill the pages with things that might surprise you - things that perhaps you don't know about fellow church members. The aim of every article is to encourage and inspire the reader that God uses perfectly ordinary people to do extraordinary things in His name.*



*We are especially grateful for the assistance of the featured people this time around because they have been willing to share the ups and downs of their journey with God. At one point, someone said to me "I can't be in the magazine because that is only for the special, holy people." If that were true, we would have blank pages!*

*As we look ahead to the next magazine in September, we remember that "we do not know what we do not know." What will normal life be like then? If you take hope and inspiration from this issue, please step forward and offer to tell your story; I can assure you that self-appointed "holy and special" people need not apply!*

*The easiest thing to do is to drop us a line at [magazine@christchurchware.co.uk](mailto:magazine@christchurchware.co.uk) and then we can have a chat. Although the next deadline is around the end of August, you cannot contact us too soon. We look forward to it!*

*Get in touch at:  
[magazine@christchurchware.co.uk](mailto:magazine@christchurchware.co.uk)*

*Next Magazine deadline is around the end of August, but the earlier we receive your input the better!  
Publication early September.*

# Bruce (and the) Almighty!



from  
**Bruce Crowther**

Some people grow up in a 'Christian' household - this was me to some extent. Some become a 'Committed Christian' - working hard to live by the law and be of service to those around you - I've been in this space at times certainly. Or perhaps a 'Created Christian' - where something beyond yourself has changed the pathway of your life and influenced the person you want to be. I believe I'm the latter.

Singing and music were always big for me. My family were in the church choir - in South Africa there were no robes and formality - just a bunch of us practising songs and singing them on Sunday - I loved it!

It was not until I was fourteen that I was introduced to Christianity as something you chose to receive, rather than something you did. My Dad had been promoted, and we moved to Johannesburg. At my new school one of the boys asked if I was a Christian. I said I was - big mistake - because the news really excited him and he began to pester me non-stop with things that he'd learnt from God.



I went to the Student Christian Association with him and things came to a head at an SCA camp. I told him that I didn't think my Christianity was the same one as his, hoping that he'd cool off - it didn't work! He then showed me that I needed to make a commitment to Christ as Lord and Saviour - he had a bunk beside mine, and wouldn't let me sleep until I'd agreed to accept Christ

as Lord of my life - it was the easy option! He announced to everyone during the morning meeting that Bruce had accepted Christ into his life. I was hugely embarrassed - now having to explain to everyone that I had thought I'd been a Christian before, but in fact I hadn't been.

Life didn't change hugely, but through SCA, church and the church youth group, I learnt more about being a Christian and was confirmed at age 17.

My faith was significantly strengthened while I was doing National Service. I'm a bit embarrassed about this because the South African Government was unjust in its laws and treatment of God's people. The reality was I had to choose between two years of national

service or six years in prison. It was to be one of the most difficult, unhappy, eventful and meaningful times of my life.

On day 1 (January 1984), my father dropped me at a rugby field in Johannesburg. We were put on a train to Pochefstroom, about 140km away and received kit of brown overalls, a No1 haircut and allocated into platoons. Throughout our twelve weeks of basic training, we were kept constantly busy, short of food and sleep, and were not allowed to be seen walking!

By day five, I was convicted that I had not yet told anyone of my faith. By this time it was difficult to suddenly say "I'm a Christian", difficult to object to offensive conversation, difficult to read the Bible as I could not do this privately. I began to search for another Christian, firstly by looking for people praying before their meal. At mealtimes 500 of us filed into the mess hall which had seating for 250. As a result we had to sit, eat and leave quickly, run to wash our metal tray and back to the dormitory. As a result, when I saw someone pray, I could not catch up with them. I became despondent and complained to God.

The following day I was in a meal queue when in front of me I heard: "Praise God for this food! And Lord please make it taste better



than it looks!" I laughed and realised that God had answered my prayer. His name was Shaun. He told me that he and some others were planning a time of praise and worship the following day. We met and ended up singing choruses outside on the side of a busy pathway through the camp. Nothing could have been more embarrassing and I faced loads of questions from my platoon about what I had been doing, and I was forced to declare my faith openly. I had not slipped gently into the pool - so God pushed me into the deep end!

After six weeks of basic training, we commenced tests and interviews for nine months of officer or non-commissioned officer training at Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. Shaun and I had both been selected for officer training. When we arrived, about 600 of us were formed up on the parade ground. Gradually we were divided into companies, then platoons and then dormitories. At each stage, Shaun and I waited anxiously to be separated while the relevant commanding officers read their lists of names. We ended up in the same Company, platoon and even in adjacent beds!

At the most difficult time, God gave me a spiritual companion, an encourager and a friend. Shaun was a Pentecostal, charismatic, bible believing 'rock' type of Christian, whose favourite scripture at the time was Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength".

Throughout my life, when I have been tempted to doubt, these times have become for me evidence of the inescapable reality of God's active presence. "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"! Eph 3:21&22.

# Discipline

In early 2020, William spoke at the Seven service about his journey with God and his fresh determination to follow God. We asked him to share a little of his story with us...



from  
**Will Hall**

I am a young person who is passionate about Jesus and as a result of this, I am living for Him and working on becoming more of a disciple for Christ after all He has done for me. Living my life for Him is the least that I could do. However, being disciplined is easier said than done. As Christians we are all called to live disciplined lives. In **Hebrews 12:6** it says this "because the Lord disciplines the one, he loves" and this verse has been real in my life. When I mess up and I pray about it, in time God will help me to find the root of the issue and cut it out.

For example, I used to go to lots of parties with my mates. Whilst the music was not the best some of the conversations and chatter were not the finest either. I would act differently, not just because of the alcohol and music but because of the people that I was associating myself with some of the time. I felt God telling me that this was not good for me and I felt convicted when I went to the parties. I held on to that conviction and I feel that I am better for not attending parties, not to deny that I want to attend these events, but it just shows how God is helping me to discipline myself.

Currently it is not easy to stay disciplined. It is hard, and it seems unpleasant at the time. For example, lately I have been struggling to stick to my schedule and not staying up too late. This means that I am not utilising my time well and getting activities done during the day that I am supposed to be doing and later on I regret not following my schedule. Discipline and discipleship have many perks. You feel better about the activities you are doing and have fewer regrets and you become more productive. Being disciplined means you find yourself reading the Bible and praying more. Each day allowing God to speak to you more. This draws you closer to Him. I have found this to be one of the most rewarding perks of adding more discipline into my life.

**Hebrews 12:11** - No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful later. However it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. This is saying something we can all agree on. Having no discipline and doing whatever you want seems good at the time. This has gotten the better of me before now and I am sure it has gotten the better of other people too. I have learnt that being disciplined can be difficult, but looking back I have found out having discipline in your life is very rewarding.

I plan to continue my journey of discipline and discipleship throughout my life, as right now I am nowhere near where I want to be. Although I have come so far from where I was. As I continue my journey, I want to be more disciplined so I can grow and mature and be a productive disciple for Christ. I am holding on to this verse of scripture to help me on this journey.

### Please pray for me:

- that I can continue in my pursuit of discipline
- as I start Bible College in the Autumn
- that a barber's will open soon so I can get a haircut!



# Jesus take the wheel?



from  
**Martin Rich**

*Martin is a great example of an ordinary person doing extraordinary things, in more than one way! For today, he shares on one of his passions...*

I've always loved going quickly. My mum recounts that I used to practise high speed laps around the family home in my baby-walker (presumably memorising the racing line) and once tried going down the stairs in it (my first major crash). Childhood memories are full of watching stock-car racing in Manchester and several trips to the British Grand Prix to watch Nigel Mansell slug it out with Senna and Prost. Little did I dream then that one day I would be on the other side of the fence.

My racing career didn't actually start until my late 20s following a chance encounter with a racing driver on a friend's stag-do. A few months later I left the Silverstone Race School with a racing licence, my first trophy and a plan to race Endurance Sports Cars and get to the world famous Le Mans 24 hours. (Oh, and a wife who was regretting not reading the small print...)



One of earliest highlights was back at Silverstone, sharing the paddock with the world's best drivers and racing in the Porsche SuperCup immediately before the Formula 1 Grand Prix. I still have the drivers' book from the weekend with my name on page 2, whilst page 1 is headed by a certain Michael Schumacher at Scuderia Ferrari.

I never had the pleasure of racing against him, but can claim to have beaten two F1 world champions. The first was Jacques Villeneuve



at the Spa 24 Hours in 2009. We were competing head-to-head when it started to pour down (which it does a lot at Spa) – he crashed out and I didn't. The second was Mika Hakkinen in Zhuhai, China, when I was racing in the 2011 Intercontinental Le Mans Championship for the Lotus factory team and he made a guest appearance.

That season with Lotus in the Evora was a real gift from God and undoubtedly a career highlight, not least as it also included my first Le Mans 24. It was every part the unbelievable experience I had hoped. I had the privilege of starting the race and took the time to really 'be' in the moment as the cars streamed across the starting line – the flag, the Rolex clock, the grandstands rammed with spectators, the noise... I'll never forget it.

A few years later I was doubly-blessed to be back at Le Mans, firstly in a Ferrari 458 alongside former-F1 driver Shinji Nakano, and then three weeks later in a 1953 C-type Jaguar. Blasting down the Mulsanne straight full-throttle in the middle of the night, ducking slightly to keep my head below the C-type's windscreen, I was reminded of how much "state-of-the-art" had moved on in sixty years. Brakes and headlights worked better, that's for sure.

Last year saw a full season racing a prototype in the European Le Mans Series, as well as a few outings in a 1963 E-type Jaguar. Right now, of course, racing is curtailed, but who knows what the future holds?



# Chapter & Verse 'But we had hoped'



from  
**Mary Salter**

How often have we thought and said those words in recent weeks! We had hoped to get tickets to Wimbledon, or meet our friends at New Wine, or take the family to Disneyland, or say our final goodbyes to Dad in hospital... but it was not to be. Covid-19 put an end to our hopes. For some of us, events have been postponed for months or maybe a year but for others the opportunity will not come again. Feelings of sadness and disappointment will remain. Where is God in all this?

"But we had hoped . . ." were also the words uttered by two downcast and despairing disciples as they trudged back to Emmaus from Jerusalem after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. They had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel, being a prophet powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. (Luke 24: 19, 21.) Then a stranger joins them, apparently ignorant of all these events. He listens, patiently asking questions to draw out their disappointment and accompany them in their experience of sadness and pain. Their sadness had overwhelmed them to the extent that their minds were closed to God's purposes. They knew it was the third day since these things had happened. They were amazed that the women found Jesus' tomb empty and the men had confirmed this... but they still didn't get it. The fact that Jesus had repeatedly taught them to expect this had been overlooked.

The stranger has heard enough. He challenges them. What has happened is no cause for despair and disappointment. It fulfils prophecy as found in the Scriptures and is all part of God's plan. All this had to happen, as he goes on to explain, and as he does so their perspective begins to change and despair changes to hope. Do the two disciples then offer him a bed for the night just as an act of hospitality? I think not. They are hungry to hear more and over the meal he reveals his true identity as he breaks the bread before leaving them. No longer in despair, they are filled with new hope and energy and cannot wait to get back to Jerusalem to share this joyous news with the other disciples.

Jesus walks with us too, as much through times of uncertainty and fear as when life is good. Yet all too often when life is going well we can be under the illusion that we are in control. In tough times God more often reveals himself to us in our pain and confusion. David Newman, Warden of Launde Abbey, tells of his disappointment at repeated

rejections when applying for a new post. "I just feel stuck", he admitted to God while at a conference for clergy. At the closing service of Holy Communion and commissioning, a colleague anointed him, adding these words "May God lubricate your way so that you are no longer stuck!" What a reassuring sign that God had been walking with him after all through those tough times and understood his struggles!

Those two disciples walked only seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus but their spiritual journey was so much greater. They moved from confusion and hopelessness to renewed vision and hope restored. Our risen Lord will always be our Companion as we walk along life's road, however winding and unclear our way. Let us ask him to encourage us as we do so and to open our spiritual eyes to sense his presence with us day by day.



*"Road to Emmaus" by Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255-1319)*

*Tempera on wood*

*Dimensions:  
Height: 51 cm (20 in);  
Width: 57 cm (22.4 in)*

*Collection:  
Museo dell'Opera  
Metropolitana del  
Duomo*

*As I write this personal postscript we have been in lockdown for over twelve weeks. The first weeks included the bonus of discovering Zoom! Recently, the impact of Covid-19 on the nation's life has hit me and made me question where I put my trust. It has led me to ask God to re-purpose my life and to learn to see myself as God's beloved child, no more and no less. Strip away any other definitions of who I am. To be beloved by God is enough. Such a relationship is also the solid basis for hope and trust in Him. We had hoped . . . and we will again.*

# Virtually Virtuous



from  
**Jess Cole**

Although we cannot physically be together at the moment that has not stopped us having fun together in children's church! All our children's groups have been meeting via Zoom sessions on a Sunday morning. We catch up with what each other has been doing, play some games and have teaching time before praying together. Praise God for the wonders of technology- and the mute button!

Obviously, meeting virtually has been very different and comes with its challenges but it has helped us to stay connected. As a team we have had to get creative with how we can still have fun playing games. One of my favourites is the scavenger hunt where children get sent off to find a certain object – anything from a pencil to a shoelace or a toilet roll- and the first one back wins. A good way to burn off some energy and get a bit competitive. Sorry to the parents who have random objects lying around the house after!



Above: In Bubbles we looked at the story of the precious pearl. After the session Rowan and her sister, Marlow, had a go at the craft activity.

"We made pearls from the things in our craft trolley. We painted the carton and made a pearl out of icing and sprayed it with mummy's glitter spray. The Pearl helps me think about heaven because it is special and beautiful." Rowan

**Please continue to be praying for the families in our church and in our school community at Christ Church:**

- For good health- especially pray for those that are shielding and those that are pregnant.
- For those children returning to school and those not yet able to.
- For parents continuing to balance home schooling/childcare/work.
- For our head teachers and teachers.



It is a time that I look forward to each week as it is so wonderful to see everyone. I would also like to say a massive thank you to the team who have joined me in running these sessions, without them it wouldn't be possible.

I have been sending activity sheets to families and these are also available on the church website. Feel free to share with family and friends.



We've really enjoyed being a part of services on a Sunday, the children enjoy seeing the different families doing their parts of the service. They love the crèche and Bubbles zoom. The boys don't often make it to the end of the full service too but they enjoy doing crafts and having a drink and snack while we listen. Harry is sad we can't meet up and that Bubbles isn't running as normal. They do find it strange, as do we all!

It's been a really tough time for us as a family, full of blessings, but also a lot of juggling beyond what sometimes feels manageable. We really appreciate and thank the church family for the prayer we have received through this time.

Brett Family

# A time to sew together (Ecc 3 v7)

Many of us during this time of lockdown have found comfort in different forms of creativity. For me it has been working with various threads and textiles. I have found space and time to be still and to reflect, finding an oasis in the midst of the difficulties of current circumstances. This reflection was prompted by embroidery..

As I sit working Lord, absorbed in the activity, you use that time to teach me many things. I am eager to get started, but there are preparations to make before I begin else the canvas will be difficult to work, will become misshapen and the finished item will be spoilt.

start again? How often is life like that? How often are we unsure of the path to take, but after much effort, the pattern on the canvas begins to emerge and the difficulties and frustrations suddenly take on meaning. I take a few moments to stand back, and things become clearer.

The colours are varied, many hued, side by side, complementing each other. The whole is so much more than the individual strands making up the design. Every part is needed. This is what you want for us. We can achieve so much more when we work together. All too often there are divisions – between each other, between our communities, between our nations, separating us from you.

Errors are made, my work is not perfect the end result not always as intended. But in spite of the mistakes the work is finished; they are part of the whole. Thank you Lord that you accept us as we are, faults and all and that you give us a 'clean canvas' to start anew.



from  
**Sheila Dane**

*John 14:16*

*"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever."*

*This one full of promise, and has particular meaning for me.*

*The embroidery also symbolises the Cross and the coming of the Holy Spirit.*

How often do I dash head-long into life without taking time to prepare – to lay the foundations through prayer and reflection – putting up barriers to your Spirit's guidance?

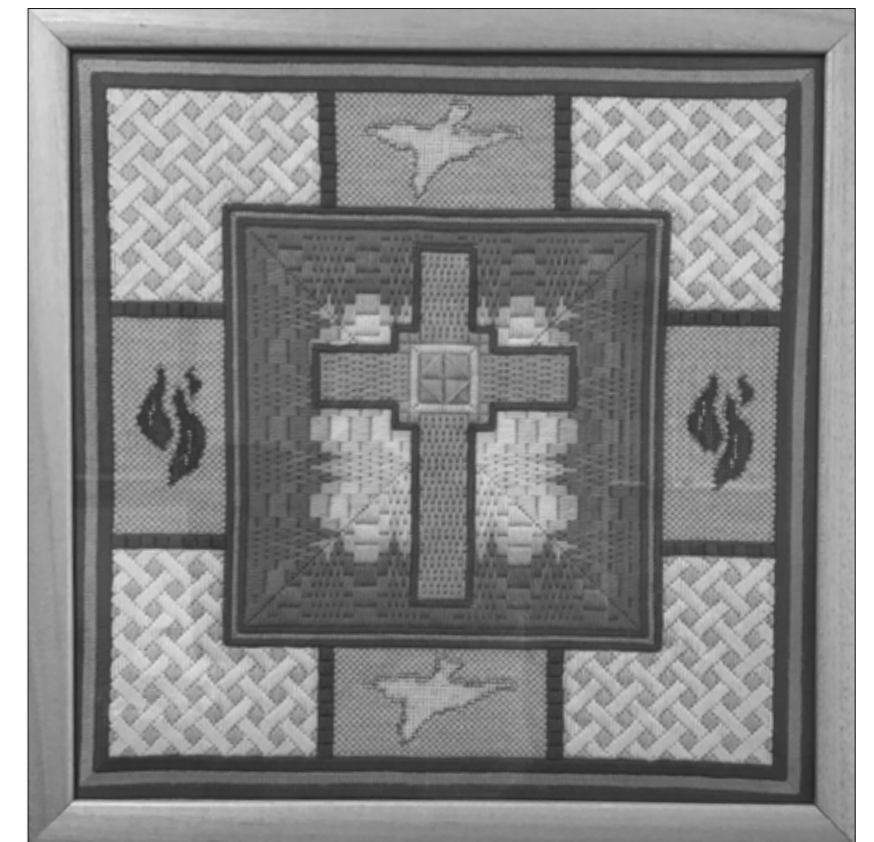
The Bible says we are all made in your image. We have the skills and the abilities to create, albeit in such an insignificant way compared to the wonders of this world you created.

As I start the design, the pattern is unclear. Is this right? Should I use this stitch, should I use that colour? Should I go back and

*Colossians 3:23*

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."*

*This verse has always meant a lot to me throughout my Christian journey.*





# MISSION NEWS

## Sri Lanka

Charlotte is the daughter of Rob and Ruth Boulton and has been following God's call on her life in Sri Lanka for several years...

With our first reported case of Coronavirus declared in mid-March, Sri Lanka was quickly sent into extreme measures to contain the virus. Brought into the country by Italian tourists, the first patient was their tour guide, whose symptoms were discovered after the departure of the party. Every school, tuition centre, and non-essential business was closed. A week later, with a total of 102 confirmed cases, the whole country was placed on lockdown.

Sri Lanka's workforce is heavily made up of "day labourers" paid for the work completed. Families have no ability to save as each day's salary is used immediately so the curfew meant unable to eat for days at a time and also unable to leave their homes.

In response, an online fundraiser was set up and within a week, over £10,000 was raised to provide food parcels. God's provision to meet the needs was overwhelming, but also the opportunities which arose to spread His love, and build bridges with new communities, government offices, and the doors it opened in the midst of the panic is surely amazing.

The closure of schools majorly impacted the island. Very few people, including students, and teachers, are educated in technology nor own the devices taken for granted in the western world. Schooling could not be provided until the curfew was lifted on May 12th for "essential purposes".

The government quickly contained and prevented it from spreading across Sri Lanka. We have seen eleven reported deaths, and a total of 1,735 cases. There are strict curfews, which, if broken resulted in arrest. The Sri Lankan government has also begun accepting positively-tested patients from abroad into the hospitals here to reduce the strain on neighbouring countries including the Maldives, India, and UAE.



### Please pray:

- Continue to keep Sri Lanka in your prayers, asking God to provide wisdom to the leadership of this country on when to reopen schools, to hold the upcoming general election, and giving transparency to its citizens.
- Personally, I would love for you to pray my visa; I have almost completed three years here, and am faced with having to return to the UK if a door for a new visa is not opened.



## Rwanda

The connection between Christ Church Ware and Tearfund Rwanda began a year ago, when I had a visit to Ware and preached at church. Later in the year, a team from Christ Church visited our work in Rwanda (below).

The work that Christ Church supports here is in the Bugesera District where Tearfund and our partner in supports 4,020 families with a total number of 16,080 Individuals.

The Coronavirus pandemic has devastated the entire country; the poor though have felt the brunt of the pandemic even without having been infected. When the first case was identified in Rwanda, preventive measures were announced with guidelines issued for social distancing. A week later cases increased and a general lockdown was declared. This meant that wageworkers and petty trader dependent on daily wage or income would not be able to work and therefore unable to put food on the table. The wageworkers and daily income dependent people who form 60% of the population of Kigali and their children were facing certain death if they did not get Food Aid. Tearfund was able to respond with emergency aid for with food supplies that could last six weeks to about sixty thousand families around Kigali. The effect of COVID19 were so severe in the city of Kigali not so much from the spread of the virus but from lost incomes and



precarious livelihoods. Even after the Virus is contained, the knock on effect of the measures to prevent local spread will last for a while and recovery will need a substantial investment.

We have seen God's hand in all this, within days of the lockdown were able to raise a modest amount. This enables us to purchase the much-needed food supplies for those in need; we were able to pay for airtime on Christian radios. We shared awareness messages, messages of Hope and were able to mobilise key church leaders to use mass media to send messages of hope to Christians as church gatherings are among the public gatherings not allowed even now.

My team and I are extremely grateful to Christ Church Ware for the friendship and the love of Christ that you have continued to share. God Bless You.

## Jamaica

QUARANTINE ON BOARD - Flavio and Cinzia fellowshipped with us whilst studying at All Nations Christian College for three years. Alongside their children Nair 12, Lucas 5 and Marco 1, in 2016 they joined with Overseas Missions on board the Logos Hope ship. Flavio updates us from the moored ship outside Kingston Jamaica...

As I write in early June, this is our 80th day of Quarantine, our hearts are with you in the UK as we read of the disruption that COVID19 is causing. Our ministry is also disrupted. Following the initial cases in Jamaica, as a preventative measure we closed our book fair and cancelled all of our onboard events since Thursday 12th March; we also cancel all our onshore outreach ministry teams in Jamaica.

All our scheduled future ports were cancelled, including our long waited European visit starting in Ireland this May. Personally, it was very difficult to us, as we were part of planning since November last year but in all, we know our God is never taken by surprise and He is still Sovereign in all circumstances.

We are thankful the ship has been Covid-19 free. With no contact with the outside world, social distancing is not actually part of our daily life on board. Our school on board kept open (to the joy of parents and their kids). We have all had to adapt of course and make good use of this "free" time. We have set up a lot of ministry training opportunities and also increased prayer and pastoral care to support our community on board. It is likely we will be docked in the Caribbean for a few more months.



### Please pray:

- For our family to know God's plan for our future.
- Financial resources – that God will provide for us.
- For Overseas Missions and how to adapt to whatever the 'new normal' is going to be.





# MISSION NEWS

## Birmingham

For the past 2+ months we have had to work remotely, as have a huge number of people. The "Women of Worth" group that runs from St Johns House switched to WhatsApp, which as you can imagine is not quite the same! We always had a WhatsApp group set up, but it has now come into its full potential. Each member of the volunteer team who helps run the group was assigned a few contacts to be in touch with, a bit more intentionally. The whole group continues to be a place for practical requests, prayer requests and general friendship and support. We miss not being able to be together and do craft, and the conversations that arise from this.

We have celebrated birthdays and children's exams and achievements as well as lamented the fact that we can't all be together.

It's been an isolating and lonely time for some older ladies, and an overwhelmingly busy time for those with pre and school aged children.

Ramadan was from the end of April to the end of May. Ramadan is the Islamic month of fasting all food and fluids during daylight, in order to please God and earn his forgiveness (simplified explanation!). This finished with what would normally be huge Eid parties and celebrations with much food and many presents (a little like many of our Christmases). However this year it was fairly low key for many families, with no gatherings.

We pray every year for God to do a magnificent work in the Muslim communities during Ramadan, as it is such a significant spiritual time for them, often where we hear of dreams/visions of Jesus as they seek God in prayer. *Please pray for those who may have had a dream/vision, to have the courage to talk to a Christian they know about it.*

We had a pastoral issue with one of the women as soon as lockdown was announced, which proved a challenge to aid. She was kicked out of her brother's house where she'd been staying, by her sister in law. This particular lady has some mental health issues, including anxiety and depression. It was difficult to support her without being able to meet face to face as I usually would in this situation. None of the safe houses/refuges were taking anyone new in, even though it was illegal to be kicked out during lockdown. However I'm glad to say she's safe and well and has been staying with distant family members since then, but *there is still a need for permanent safe accommodation for her.*

In other news, James was furloughed for the month of May and his return date is being reviewed weekly. Unfortunately lockdown has brought some challenges to his role of



networking and coordinating a number of churches and organisations. There's only so much you can do via Zoom! However the Foodbanks and other outreach projects are still running.

However, sadly a major funding donor for his role has been unable to sustain their support so when James does go back, it seems he will be doing mostly fund raising. *Please pray he is given favour and the funds are provided quickly, so he can continue to do the job he was getting stuck into before lockdown. Thanks.*

Our family has obviously been affected by lockdown with homeschooling three kids at three stages in limited space and with limited available time (as I'm still working via internet) and technology! I am also shopping weekly for my parents (both over 70 and my dad is shielding) and also for my brother (who is currently living with them - the place where he lives: sheltered accommodation for adults with learning difficulties (he has fairly severe autism) has shut during lockdown). So to say we're busy is an understatement!

Nevertheless, we've got into a bit of a routine and generally it's all OK, although it does have its tough moments, and I have an all together new appreciation of my children's teachers!

### Please pray:

- for Toby (just turned 12), Zac (just turned 10) and Lucy (just turned 7) as they all miss friends. Especially Lucy as she only started at her new primary school four weeks before lockdown and so hasn't had time to embed friendships and is sad about not going back to her old school after lockdown.
- Please pray for us all for a good rhythm of life and a balance of work and play. Also for James and I to find space and energy to invest in some marriage time (when the kids are around all the time and don't settle to sleep quickly in the evenings!!)



## Postcard from...

*Ruth and Paul Lapworth, members of Christ Church during their time as students at All Nations, 2007-2009...*

After several years in Senegal and Coventry, we are now living in Reading, where Paul is Associate Pastor of Wycliffe Baptist Church. Recently, along with pastors all around the world, he has had to quickly learn how to do church digitally. Although our church has had its share of painful situations, we have also seen an outpouring of generosity, creativity, prayer and care for one another, our local community and our town. In lockdown God has enabled us to reach a bit wider through our on-line services and people have joined our Alpha course from as far away as Japan. The one activity that hasn't stopped happening on site at church is FoodShare, an initiative that reduces food waste from local supermarkets by distributing it to those in need.

I, Ruth, also have a new role as Finance Manager for Innovista, a mission organisation that focuses on training and mentoring young Christian leaders across Europe, Russia and Central Asia. It's a part-time role, so I'm planning to finally embark on some accountancy training in June.

Having the whole family back together again for an extended period is an unexpected bonus we hadn't imagined happening ever again. Simeon is home from Lancaster University; Emma is keeping herself busy despite A levels being cancelled and is hoping her overseas gap year plans can still go ahead; and Lucy soldiers on with her online schooling.

### Please pray:

- Recruitment of the right people for key roles at church
- Wisdom for how to help the church through a gradual transition from lockdown to a new 'normal'
- A better balance of work and rest.



## LILY ROSE Care Services

**Help and Support at Home**  
Shopping, cleaning, gardening, befriending and much more.

Advice and assistance in completing forms including carers allowance, attendance allowance and applying for power of attorney.

Just call 07967 217 340 or email [info@lilyrosecare.co.uk](mailto:info@lilyrosecare.co.uk)



**LILY ROSE CARE SERVICES**

**Interested in working with us?**

Please call David Abbott on 07967 217 340.



**Judith Greaves** MBACP  
Counsellor and Psychotherapist

Professional and Confidential Counselling Therapy

St Andrew's Centre, St Andrew's Street, Hertford, SG14 1HZ  
07910 724495 [judithgreaves@gmail.com](mailto:judithgreaves@gmail.com)



# Decision Time



from  
**Sue Illott**

Those of you that can think back that far might be able to remember where you were when you heard the news that Elvis Presley was dead. I was 13 years old; it was August 1977 and I was on my way to Haywards Heath in Sussex on a holiday camp for young people of my age.



It was during one of the evening talks, that the Bible message that Jesus died, is alive and wanted to be my friend, resonated with me. I made a decision to begin a relationship with Him and a promise that I wanted to find out more and follow Him. It wasn't really emotional, just a choice that seemed to make sense to me.

“God has not promised skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through”

As a child I had already experienced something of the awesomeness of God. I remember a poem we read in class when I was about seven years old along the lines of God being a great designer and something rang true with me (such that I remember that poem all these years later) – this world, the stars, the seasons, even the beauty the intricacy of a spider's web seen on a frosty morning, it couldn't have all happened by accident.

Either at the camp back in 1977 or shortly afterwards I was given a book mark with another poem along the lines of “God has not promised skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through”. This poem has been the backdrop of my faith; that being a Christian doesn't make me immune from life's difficulties nor from the pain I feel for others who are suffering, but offers a spiritual dimension to help me see the bigger picture and to lead me to the promise of heaven. The poem concludes “but God has promised grace for the trials, help from above, unailing

kindness, undying love”. This has certainly been true for me.

One of my most cherished bible verses is in Isaiah 43. It came to me at a time of uncertainty for Dave and myself when we were faced with Dave's redundancy. It reads “*when* you pass through the waters, I will be with you and *when* you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. *When* you walk through fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.... Do not be afraid I am with you”. I love the reality of the “*when*” – no ifs, buts or maybes – there will be times like these, but they come with the promise of eternal security and love in our Heavenly Father's arms.

*When you pass  
Through the waters,  
I will be with you  
and when you pass  
Through the rivers,  
They will not sweep  
over you. When  
you walk through  
fire, you will not  
be burned; The  
flames will not set  
you ablaze...  
Do not be afraid  
I am with you.*

# Brave New World

We are grateful to all of the musicians who have provided us with worship songs for services during Lockdown; it has been a privilege to be in their homes as they perform. Heather and her two children, Max and Daisy, have played their part and music has a very special place in their home, albeit in a way that even a few of months ago they could never have imagined.

Whilst many of us have at times resented the invasion of technology into the minutiae of our lives, that same technology has allowed Heather to continue to teach music from home, as well as help to provide some of the music for the streamed Sunday morning church services.



As a singing and piano teacher, Heather has always enjoyed face-to-face interaction, feeling this to be a wonderful and uniquely special part of her job. Never could she have thought that the years of training and professional practice would, at a stroke, be turned on its head, due to the impact of Covid-19.

However, given the trauma created by the sudden lockdown, it would soon become apparent that even then blessings were never too far away, albeit not so obvious at the time. Rewind back to January, Heather had agreed to do some online vocal coaching for a friend's daughter, now living in St. Albans, having initially met many years earlier at Christ Church's Midweek group.

Unable to travel over to Ware due to a busy rehearsal schedule but needing help with vocal technique, a date was made despite the apprehension of providing lessons online, little knowing what a huge blessing this would later turn out to be. This was to lay the foundation for something much bigger, whilst also providing assurance that even during a time when physical links had been pulled apart, it was still possible to be able to continue to teach throughout this lockdown period.

Then began a deep dive into the depths of on-screen tutoring, accompanied by the feeling of being fast-forwarded into some sort of brave new virtual world. With little time to prepare, ways of delivering piano and singing lessons were changed and adapted, all the while, that previous online teaching experience serving as a reminder that even

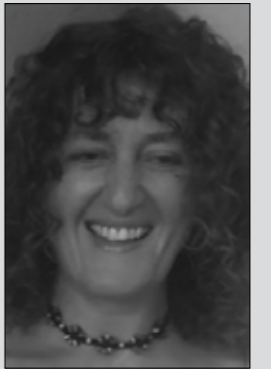
through a flat screen, it was at least still possible to continue to provide a highly personalised style of teaching, in spite of the limitations of technology.

Consequently, when the call came for help in providing songs for the streamed church services, it already seemed relatively straightforward, as well as being a lovely thing for the family to be able to do together.

Taking a leaf out of his mother's book, Max has similarly transferred his maths and science tutoring online, in the absence of A-levels, gigs and, well pretty much everything... His time is now focused on building his own online tutoring, alongside writing and recording music.

Perhaps most surprising of all is how enjoyable teaching in this way has turned out to be, with a feeling that it has been nothing short of it a privilege to still be able to personally connect with the students. It is also a huge comfort knowing how everyone has adapted to this situation, taking things in their stride, remaining positive whilst continuing to look ahead.

In this time of uncertainty, the absolute joy that music provides is very much alive and kicking, still doing what music does best - bringing people together – and never more important than during this unprecedented time of separation, and for that we are so very thankful.



from  
**Heather Robinson**

# Looks flat, doesn't it? It's not!



from  
**Rosie Watson**

“ You could stop this!” trying to out-yell the wind, reminding myself as much as God of Jesus’ ability to stop the storm at a word.

As we discovered on October 9, 2002, having made the strenuous climb up Skeleton Gorge to reach the reservoir at the top, from whence we planned to stroll across in the glorious sunshine to the surely visible cable car and descend down in good time for supper. So why did the last cable car hooter find us miles away with not enough light to attempt either of the other two descents and having to resign ourselves to spending the night under a bush on the said mountain?

Don't ask!! Nor why we had omitted to tell the hotel staff of our intended itinerary. Nor why my husband, Paul, a Type 1 diabetic had come without his insulin!

What began with a sense of unreality, as if we'd stepped into the set of a 'B' movie, then became a peaceful acceptance of spending the night under a bush albeit inadequately dressed. A rather academic conversation ensued. We wondered how we were going to explain our folly to our children afterwards. We explored the medical profiles of hypothermia and hyperglycaemia, one of the latter being the patient's need for water and to pee at regular intervals, necessitating a loss of precious heat we had generated in our 'Table Mountain Embrace'. Paul assured me the stars were magnificent, but I had taken off my glasses at this point so had to take his word for it. Our somewhat academic acknowledgement of a worst case scenario did not undermine our sense of peace and we both prayed aloud, committing ourselves into the care of our Heavenly Father.

What happened an hour or so later, seemed to suggest that the same Heavenly Father had lost the plot: clouds blew up; a fine misty rain turned to a heavy downpour, then came thunder, lightning and hail. What was worse was a shrieking wind which screamed its way

up from below, venting its venom sometimes directly at us, sometimes to east or west. The din was huge, like the noise of wet sheets drying in the sun, caught in a gust – only this wasn't a summer's day and this was no mere passing gust! We (well, I) shouted at God. “You could stop this!” trying to out-yell the wind, reminding myself as much as God of Jesus’ ability to stop the storm at a word.



Again and again we 'called out to Him in our distress' and still our cries were not met by a lessening of the chaos. But they were met by the call of a bird, a one second, low-pitched whistle of a call, sometimes repeated, sometimes just the once.

We sang (It's a long way to Tipperary/ Rock of Ages/ Pack up Your Troubles/ Lead us Heavenly

Father). Repeated the words of Psalms 23 and 121, shivered, held each other more tightly and waited for the night to pass, slaking our thirst with the water which poured off our faces, shivering so hard against the rocky ground that we discovered afterwards we'd bruised our backs. Through all this, the bird sang, a single low call. It was as if God were saying 'No, I'm not going to stop this storm but I am going to be with you.'

As the dawn came and we could see Paul's watch – 5.30, we set off again in the swirling mist and rain and shrieking 60mph wind. Once again we prayed – we'd got through the night, but now death was no longer an academic possibility.

Visibility was down to less than two metres but we located a path, which we remembered from the map, (imagine the relief of finding a rare signpost pointing towards Kasteelpoort) and so began the descent beside a rockface, the path overgrown with early spring undergrowth, into the full force of the wind.

By this time Paul was beginning to feel really ill from lack of insulin. Quote from journal: 'This was probably our lowest point. Paul

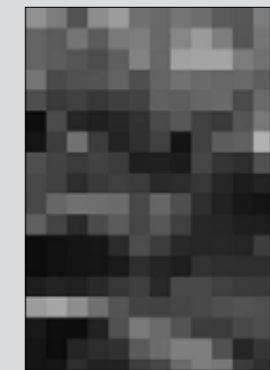


begged me to find him some shelter – saying he had to rest. We found a huge rock – but it afforded little respite. Another pee. A bout of retching. His face was spectral, aged, full of terror, grey – his body shaking. It was up to me and I didn't know whether I was up to it. We had to keep moving. I got up and was promptly blown off my feet across the path – I decided to reverse on hands and knees and to offer Paul my right hand.' Somehow we made it slowly down, encouraged by the bird's call (alias God) and at 8a.m. by a brief cessation of the wind and clearing of the mist, giving us a glimpse of the sunlit bay below and some housing.

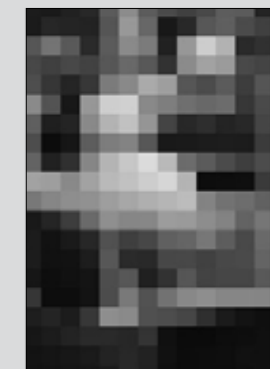
Over three long hours late, on the edge of 'civilisation', we asked for a lift to a telephone box from a lone lady by her car and she promptly offered to drive us straightback to our hotel. As the warmth of the car's heater reached us and we began to stop shivering, we became aware of an awful chill at our core. Back at the hotel, an insulin injection, a hot bath, two bowls of room-service soup and a few hours sleep and we began (literally) to return to most of our senses. And to give thanks to God for our survival. (It took several months for my white fingers to recover!) And we were able to watch the Southern Right Whales bask inshore, with their calves the next day.

## Ready to Respond

Dozens of people have stepped forward in the current conditions. Two such volunteers are Tommy and Jacob who both provided prayers on video for the Sunday Service. We asked them why...



*I was happy to pray to show God how much I love him. I like praying because if I am feeling down or angry the Lord will help me get out the unwanted emotions. After a prayer, I always feel better. JACOB*



*The reason I chose to do a prayer walk, was as people can't go outside as often, it was a wonderful opportunity to pray for our town as we walked, the school, church and shops. The best bit is that you can be close to all the places you wish to pray for. TOMMY*





# CAP goes telephonic

*Question: What do you do with a face to face debt counselling service when you can't meet face to face?*

*Answer: Change your model to use telephone appointments and video calls so you can still help people who are struggling! And in the meantime, support your existing clients by providing places of virtual community and creative methods of transferring documents.*

In mid-March, when all face to face meetings were suspended, we also had to suspend our appointments. However, we were definitely not left without anything to do! Many of our clients were facing changes in circumstances all of a sudden, as many of us are, so there was a lot to do to support one another as we adapt to changing situations. Up at head office, as CAP moved all its staff to home working, lots of processes had to change! The first priority was maintaining existing clients which was achieved very quickly and without disruption.



from **Sam Rich**

The next priority was working out how to move clients who were part way through their three appointments onto the next stage of their journey to debt freedom. This meant setting up online document transfer systems as well as ways to send out documents to our clients from a central location. None of it was simple, but that was overcome in April.

And then, since May, we are able to start taking new clients again! Unfortunately these appointments have to be by telephone, or WhatsApp or GoogleMeet which means it isn't going to work for everyone but we pray that it will work for many so we can keep providing this valuable service to our community. Now more than ever, we need to support one

another in times of financial difficulty and to remember that, however bleak a situation may seem, there is always hope and always a solution.

In fact, in the last few weeks, two of our clients have become debt free. In their own words, "I can breathe again!" Jesus was all about bringing freedom for the captives and I hope that we can do the same with the debt counselling service we provide in partnership with Christians Against Poverty.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with debt, call 0800 328006 as soon as you can. You do not need to struggle alone.



If you, or someone else you know, are struggling with debt, phone

**0800 328 0006**  
to make an appointment

"CAP is fantastic, I came across its work a few years ago and what they have done is staggering."

Prince Charles, HRH the Prince of Wales.

**Please pray for us:**

- For those without easy access to the internet
- For us as we offer a telephone service instead
- For the new start for our debt free clients



# Virtually Together

*David is well positioned to comment on how Christ Church has adapted to the COVID-19 lockdown. He is a member of our PCC, is part of our Ministry Advisory Committee and has a background within the NHS as a District Nurse and nursing lecturer.*



from **David Briggs**

"Firstly, I must say our online facilities have given us a wonderful opportunity to share in Christ whilst we cannot use the Church building. My reflections are structured around the purposes of a church- Worship, Ministry & Evangelism, discipleship and fellowship- as described by the Global Christian Centre, 2001.

### WORSHIP

Some describe Worship as desiring God and we can show reverence and adoration for Christ in so many ways. The church is about its people as well as its buildings and we have all taken concepts away with us after a church service and applied them in our daily lives. Worshipping Christ does not start or end at the altar. I often thank God on a good (or even a bad) day; referring to the last sermon. Whilst introducing new ideas for worship, online services reinforce my opportunity to praise the Lord and, for me, that is important.

What is different online is that I don't have the opportunity to discuss their contents with other people afterwards. On the other hand the online material allows me to view it several times, apply it to my own situation and to view it on a day-to-day basis.

### MINISTRY & EVANGELISM

I really like the phrase 'churches grow broader through ministry' and Christ Church's online activities allow it to reach out. New followers in many locations, near or far, can be reached. The internet has meant opportunities exist for 'reaching the parts that other communication channels may not'. Evangelism is about spreading God's word and The Church Times (2020) discusses how this particular channel can be used to attract younger people into the church.

Equally as important for me, there are occasions when I cannot get to church, but I could have listened to the word from Christ Church itself; preached online.

### DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship for me is about acting in Christ's image. The question is to what degree can you do that via a web link? I often need help in this and I have used church mentors on many occasions. I am not sure I have ever found processes like this as successful through the use of internet. I learn most from people I am physically with; who may become role models for me. I suggest mentoring or being mentored may be a lot more difficult online.

### FELLOWSHIP

As a final reflection, I want to introduce the issue of fellowship, for it is in this area; I have learnt the most about Christ Church being online. Fellowship is the friendly association with people who share ones' interests. They can support a person in receiving God's word, they can support prayer but can they do this online (such as through Zoom) to the same degree as in person? To an extent; possibly, but being online, for many people like me, will never replace a fellow parishioner's physical presence.



9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

### CONCLUSION

The media team have, so effectively, at Christ Church demonstrated the value of online services, both in a situation where churches have had to be closed due to COVID-19; but also in other aspects, as well. These include livestreaming church services into parishioners' houses, including those people that can't leave home. Many parishioners will have learned from this experience and have ideas as a result of it. I am sure that PCC members would love to hear any views you have.

# Love Ware? Love the World!



from  
**Sam Woodward**

*World-record breaker, opera singer, patented inventor, international speaker, community action animator, and Church techie; Sam Woodward's life and career doesn't fit into one box. We ask him more...*

Einstein once said that "God does not play dice", but I'm ever more certain that He'd be an unbeatable chess player: It's the way He's always several moves ahead, even when we can't see why! Why has He put us into a particular place, or given us a specific set of skills, or, like finding a treasure in an old 80's video game, why has He gifted us with something which He'll later require us to give away, all for His glory?

My life's trajectory has been to some unexpected places, and with hindsight God's hand has been in all of them, and His gift to me has been some incredible adventures along the way. Forest Gump described life as being "like a box of Chocolates" and I have to credit God as the Master Chocolatier in my journey.



*Near right: Singing at Glyndebourne (1990 Festival Production of Die Zauberfloete = The Magic Flute).*

*Right top: Jim Henson's Creature Shop.*

*Right middle: On "Record Breakers" with Cheryl Baker.*

*Right bottom: Inventing.*

The entertainment world has always drawn me in, so at the age of 12 I successfully auditioned for a role in a Glyndebourne opera cast. Touring with a professional company I learned about stage presence and connecting with an audience; skills that would take me around the world later in life as a speaker and presenter and, with John's encouragement, would also enable me to discover a passion for preaching, here in Ware. However, the doorway to this had been singing as a cathedral chorister from a very young age, which also gave me an appreciation for the Psalms, and that so much theology is made memorable through anthems and liturgy.

My voice didn't retain the quality necessary to continue singing professionally after it broke, and so I found the already-familiar backstage world fascinating, turning to technical interests and working in theatres in Eastbourne before moving to London, where I joined the film industry after being a student, doing electronics for Jim Henson's Creature

Shop (back in the days when movie creatures were more often real than CGI).



Developing a hobby into a small business, I made a name for myself in the field of pyrotechnic ignition controls, and in 1997 took part in a fundraiser that included launching an unprecedented number of fireworks



rockets simultaneously. The figure of 39,210 stood for many years as a world record. I then developed one of the early systems for synchronising pyrotechnics with other show-equipment, such as lasers, using a technique called timecode. This was back in the day



before this was more commonplace in larger shows (now I'm using it frequently on theme-park spectaculars). However, at the time, that invention enabled me to find work on son-et-lumiere events including the 10th Anniversary of Independence for Kazakhstan, and a show in Tripoli's Green Square in 1999, (before there was a British Embassy in the country).



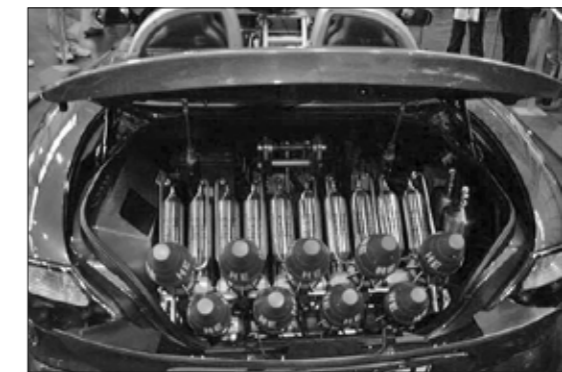
This expertise led to opportunities in stadium concert touring, and being part of a road crew (and touring with an artist at #1) was also an invitation to share the Good News with the almost-unreached people-group of black-T-shirt wearing weirdos, one of whom



I had become. I was amazed at the openness of my techie colleagues to discussing life's big questions. I learned that if you are working to honour God by being good in your field, then he will bless you by opening up that platform, in order to share. God was also sowing additional seeds there, as I gained experience necessary to be able to later share my skills, and my accumulated inventory of equipment,

in production for Ware's evangelistic Escape Festival!, following on from leading LoveWare:LiveWare events in the town.

In between working on live events, I also freelanced on film sets, in the Special Effects department, where my electronics skills contributed to blockbusters including Tomb Raider and Bond. Then, when getting married



to Sian, and desiring a more stable lifestyle, it was the Bond experience that led to our move to Ware, being interviewed by a local company whose managing director was fanatical about the genre, and therefore keen to interview me – a wildcard candidate for the role. That led to two decades adapting my entertainment skills to the more sober world of architectural lighting controls, culminating in being able to freely source the system installed for the Church refurbishment. Had God not placed me on that film set I wouldn't have ended up serving at Christ Church.



*Left top: Pyrotechnics in Libya.*

*Left Middle and bottom: On tour with Robbie Williams.*

*Near left top: Jaguar Boot from James Bond.*

*Near left bottom: CEDIA Home Technology Association, Training Volunteer of the Year 2018.*

I'm now back working in entertainment, on automation systems for flying acrobats, moving spectacular stage-sets, and theme-park effects. As the Covid-19 lockdown changes the shape of the live-experiences world, I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store next, but confident in the knowledge that He's already put the pieces in place and that His plans have been worked out many moves ahead.

# Emerging Influencers



from  
**Josh Davies**



and  
**Talitha Hookway**

*Talitha and Josh have been participating in a course called Emerging Influencers, run by Tearfund, all about using their influence and skills in the pursuit of justice.*

**TALITHA:** Justice is an extremely prominent issue within society and it can often seem like an overwhelming word. However, within Emerging Influencers, we have been exploring how to use our influence for justice. We each have 2 tracks, alongside our main sessions and individual mentor sessions, which explore justice in a particular area of our influence. The first track I participated in was creativity. Within these sessions, we explored how our creative outlets can be used to convey powerful messages in the name of Jesus. After all, we were created by a creative God!

As well as the course, both Josh and I participated in The Climb challenge for Tearfund. People in poverty are among the worst affected by COVID-19 due to a lack of healthcare, sanitation and being unable to gain an income due to social distancing measures, preventing them from working. To help raise money for Tearfund's work in these countries, we both gathered a team of people together to climb their stairs to the equivalent height of a mountain. For me, that mountain was Mount Kilimanjaro. Over a week, I climbed this mountain and my team, who took part in the challenge too, managed to raise over £1000!

Overall, Emerging Influencers has been an incredible experience where I have learnt so much about how to use my influence for justice in our world.

**JOSH:** When I first heard about Emerging Influencers, I questioned whether this was something I would be interested in. I very nearly didn't apply for it, but something kept on telling me to go for it, and so I did. I'm quite a quiet person who isn't very vocal with their opinions (as my RE teacher kept on telling me!) and so I was hoping to grow in confidence throughout this course, but also truly understand what justice is and how it relates to God and everything in between.

We have had a variety of great main sessions from amazing speakers on topics such as "Theology and Justice", "Leadership and influence", and "Using your digital influence". These sessions have been great at showing us how justice is linked in with everything we do. One talk that particularly stood out to me was by René August, who spoke about biblical lenses in pursuing justice. She was absolutely amazing and left me inspired to read the Bible and work on my relationship with God and justice.

The first track I was part of was the leadership track. These sessions have focused on identifying where we are called to work and be active and what sort of leader we are, but also what leadership is and what it really entails. It was really interesting to see where the foundations of leadership are rooted within scripture and also understand what my leadership qualities are and how I can use them to go about seeking justice.

If you would like to donate to either Talitha or Josh's climb challenge, then these are the links:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/talithahookwayclimb](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/talithahookwayclimb)

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joshstheclimb2020](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joshstheclimb2020)

**EMERGING INFLUENCERS**

Emerging Influencers is a six week leadership programme for 17-23 year olds that connects you with like-minded game changers, helps you develop a theological understanding of justice and equips you to positively impact people living in poverty facing the coronavirus pandemic.

[weare.tearfund.org/emerging-influencers](http://weare.tearfund.org/emerging-influencers)

# Songs of Praise

There are many worship songs that are beautiful to me but the one that springs to mind is "This is Love." I was at New Wine 2019 when I first heard it; it filled the arena with total love – I could feel Jesus there. Listening to the lyrics just says it all to me, how Jesus died to save us from our sins and how He rose and now has the victory.

He did that for you and for me, for everyone. This is Love. Thank you Jesus.

Oh the mystery  
You crossed the great divide to show Your love for me  
As You hung upon the cross and spilt Your blood for me

And now I see  
My sin that held You there it has no hold on me  
For You rose again and now You have the victory  
Forever I will sing

Thank You, thank You, thank You for the cross  
And how I love You, Jesus, You have won my heart  
This is love, this is love

All of me  
I give my life to You, receive this offering  
It's all I have but You deserve my everything  
Forever I will sing

Majesty, Majesty  
You laid Your glory down for me  
Majesty, Majesty  
You laid Your glory down for me  
Majesty, Majesty  
Amazing love how can it be?  
Majesty, oh, Majesty  
Forever I will sing

Thank You, thank You, thank You for the cross  
And how I love You, Jesus, You have won my heart  
This is love, yes, it is, this is love



from  
**Jan Farrow**

# Lily and her lockdown with God

*On one of the Youth Zoom calls, Lily shared with us that she had been memorising some Bible verses. We felt that we could all learn from her...*

"I memorised Psalm 23. The reason I did this at first was because I didn't want to do my spellings at all and my dad said "alright then you can do something else." I wasn't sure of what it was going to be. I didn't know it was going to be a really long Bible verse of Psalm 23. And Psalm 23 is a very long Bible verse if you didn't know.

I thought "ohhh this is going to take FOREVER but then I realised that actually it only took an hour and it actually helped me in my Bible. It's a really, really beautiful verse to remember when you are sad and if you need to use it. I thought one hour was a very long time so I tried to forget it the day after but then I realised I couldn't forget it!

And it really helps. Whenever I feel down I

always remember that verse, I don't have to look it up, I remember it from my head and it's amazing and I am so glad that I actually memorised it and I am SO glad that I didn't do my spellings!

*We were so grateful for Lily's advice that we asked her to talk about her favourite church song too...*

One of my favourite worship songs is **Every Giant Will Fall**, by Rend Collective. There are many reasons why I love this song, firstly it has an amazing tune which makes me feel happy and hopeful. I love the words of the song because it expresses to me lots of things about God and who He is. God can do anything in this world and with His help and our prayers everything is possible.



from  
**Lily Abbott**

# My Playlist



from  
**Dave Willis**

Dave loves music, so much so that when we asked him for his favourite playlist, he initially gave us over 30 songs rather than the 6-8 requested- and created new categories! God loves a trier, so we have given him a page and a bit...

**FIRST SONG BOUGHT/LOVED** - My teenage years spanned the Sixties so I was brought up on guitar driven rock music. The first record I ever bought was by The Shadows called *Wonderful Land*. I was very quickly note perfect playing on my badminton racket or large hairbrush.

However the real game changer was the Beatles in 1963 with *She Loves You (yeah yeah yeah)*. I still have that much saved up for (6 shillings and nine pence) 45 and it still plays on my turntable. It was on incessantly at home and my mum would say "turn that din down... call that music? Do they mean yes yes yes?"

**MY WORSHIP SONG** - I became a Christian in 1969 so was brought up on hymns and Youth Praise. I love loads of the more modern worship songs too. I've narrowed my choice down to three including *In Christ Alone* and Matt Redmans *Heart of Worship*. I've settled on the fantastic 1863 hymn *Before The Throne Of God Above*. Great anthemic tune and wonderful Bible based lyrics including "My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart" which bring me out in goose bumps every time.

**MY WOONG SONG** - Pam says I have to include this as back in the early 70's I could actually play it on my guitar to her and continually annoy her housemates with it! A little known sad romantic song by the Hollies (another of my favourite bands) called *Fifi the Flea* off the 1966 album



"Would you believe". If you listen be prepared to blub....

**FIRST DATE SONG** - Pam & I started going out in 1975 when I was in my 1st year studying medicine at Charing Cross Hospital. We students used to get cheap (info not shared with Pam at the time obviously) tickets to Hammersmith Odeon just up the road. I took my new girlfriend to her 1st ever live music gig to see her current favourite Cat Stevens. It must have worked as we are still together 46 years on! We have chosen *Moon Shadow* from that time- it always reminds me of those heady days of young love!



**MY DANCE FLOOR SONG** - Tricky as anyone who has seen me on the dance floor (a rare event in itself) knows that I have at least three left feet! However I have been seen making some moves (albeit strange ones) to *Jumping Jack Flash* by the Stones, B52s *Love Shack* or Bryan Adams *Summer of 69*.

**AIR GUITAR SONG** - My long shortlist includes Dire Straits *Sultans of Swing*, Fleetwood Mac's *Big Love*, Bryan May on my 1st Queen 45 *Now*



*I'm Here* (amp up to 11), the brilliant Rodrigo y Gabriela doing Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*. Keith Scott on Bryan Adams/Tina Turner duet- *It's only Love*.. I know I know, I'm stalling and HAVE to choose so it is my beloved Eagles *Hotel California* with the fantastic duelling guitars of Joe Walsh and Don Felder.

**GOD MOMENT SONG** - A few years ago someone close to me was going through a spiritual crisis- wondering whether it still worth following Jesus. Just at the right time a Christian friend lent them a CD called *The Beautiful Letdown* by Switchfoot and God spoke to them through the lyrics of the track *Meant to Live* and that person decided to press on with their faith!

**SPECIAL MOMENT SONG** - We went to Simon and Garfunkel's farewell concert in Hyde Park July 2004. My father (my big hero) had died a few weeks prior and I was feeling very low. It was a beautiful summers evening and the music from my favourite singer/songwriter Paul, wonderfully lifted my spirits. I love all of Mr Simon's songs but today I'll choose *Me & Julio Down by the Schoolyard*.

**FINAL SONG** - I want my friends and relatives to leave my funeral in the knowledge that I am all right as I am with Jesus; hopefully they can be comforted by that as well knowing Him for themselves. I always had *All Right Now* by Free as my option - I even played it in the band at our daughter's wedding. However I am now going for *Here comes the Sun* by the Beatles. Great music and the same message-smiles returning to their faces/ it's all right...

# Postcard from...



*Time flies... a reflection on a year in ministry.*

Well, what can I say? It's been almost a year already and so much has happened in the time since we parted ways and continued on our separate journeys. You have journeyed into your new church building and all it has to offer (and I really must make time to visit).

I have journeyed into ministry with Rebecca, Sophie and Daniel. And what a journey it's been – a good journey I hasten to add! We were richly blessed in our time at Christ Church Ware while I trained for ordained ministry. From one Christ Church to another... For the last year (almost), we have been at Christ Church Bedford, getting to know a new town, a new community, and a new congregation. Rebecca continues to work in Stevenage, and the children are starting to settle into new schools – never an easy move to make. But we are here and we are doing well.

Christ Church Bedford has been good to us and I have had plenty of opportunities to put into practice all the things I learnt from my time in Ware (I even smile when I preach now!). I have had to learn the difficult task of preaching and leading all age services (which is actually much more fun than it sounds); managed to be an angel, shepherd and wise man(!) all in the same service; and fortunately, no one has had to hear me sing (yet!).

I was surprised to find funeral ministry to be one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling aspects of ministry. Being able to walk with people in their times of greatest need is such a tremendous privilege and one that just seems to confirm the life I've been called to. I am really looking forward to being priested later this year and the thought of presiding over Holy Communion makes me all the more conscious of my dependence on God, to fulfil the life of a priest that he has called me to.

We continue to pray for all our friends at Christ Church Ware, and wish you all every blessing now and in the future.



**Please pray:**

- Us to continue to build relationships within the church, and in the community.
- My ongoing training and ministry here at Christ Church Bedford
- For Sophie as she transitions from Year 6 to Secondary School in the summer.



# The Last Word



from  
**Rev. John Hookway**

What incredible times we are living in. In my role, I have the privilege of seeing how much love and care is being shown by our fellowship toward each other and our wider community; exactly what our church is here for. People have taken the responsibility to phone round and check on people and my own family even received a pastoral call which absolutely encouraged us. Meals are being provided, support and love shown in all kinds of ways and we are simply helping each other.

We have had to find new ways to be together and the list of people to thank is very long! The Sunday Services, Zoom call hosts, contributors, musicians... I could fill the page with names. I'm proud and delighted with what we have done together.

Life is different and our attention has been on new things and new information. Whether you have been busier or quieter, it is an opportunity for priorities to be reoriented to God and those closest to us. The opportunity exists to connect with both in new ways and deeper ways.

I encourage you to keep in mind that God is with you. Resting in Him is an important part of a Christian life and does not mean "doing nothing". Personally, I have had fresh opportunities to read the Bible for my own pleasure, to notice the wildlife in the garden, to hear afresh the birds singing, to recreate the space and to simply be with the Lord. I hope you have too.

Behind the scenes, we have been working hard to understand and follow the guidelines for churches and adapt. That impacts our services of course but also the way we support the community. I'm grateful that CAP and other support has continued but I have also officiated at a number of funerals in a way that is different for those experiencing loss but our hope in Jesus remains.

Loss and lamenting is a part of life and I recognise that "loss" at this time can mean so many things; birthday parties, end of school celebrations, business opportunities or simply missing people are just a few examples. Again, turn to God and share your loss with Him. In God's hands, our pain can be transformed.

Of course, we have also "lost" our ability to be physically together as a church and the fact that we do not know precisely what will happen next adds to the uncertainty. My mind turns to Habakkuk 3:2 where Habakkuk found himself in a period of uncertainty and needed God to speak, to re-order and to provide. In scripture, The Spirit always brings; hope, new life and recreates out of disorder.

God will bring us through and bring us through stronger. We miss you and are praying for you.



**Christ Church, New Road, Ware, Hertfordshire. SG12 7BS**

**Vicar:** Revd John Hookway (01920 487267- ext 204)

**Associate Minister:** Revd Norman Richards (01920 487267)

**Operations Manager:** Martin Dudley (01920 487267- ext 200) **Treasurer:** Sam Rich (01920 487267)

**Church Wardens:** Cheryl Bevan (01992 538257) & Bob Barker (01279 842821)

**www.christchurchware.co.uk email:office@christchurchware.co.uk Parish Office:** Open Mon-Fri 9am-12:30pm (01920 487267)