

Dear Friends of Christ Church,

Welcome to the Easter 2018 newsletter for Christ Church. *For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. (1 Peter 3 v 18)*
This is the good news of Easter.

Now you see them,

Graham Shaw, Christ Church vicar, has gone on a sabbatical break for 3 ½ months. He left straight after Easter morning service and flew to Central America for some back packing; one way to relax!! Graham will be back in mid-July refreshed and re-envisioned. That's the plan anyway!



In addition we have said "Goodbye" to Steve and Liz Pendlebury, who have moved to Sheffield after about a year at Christ Church. Steve was formerly vicar at St Pauls and St Luke's in Chester.

Easter Services



In what has become an annual tradition the Easter season started with both 9.30 and 11am services being held outside in the sunshine. The services followed the events of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem with our almost real donkey bravely modelled by Dan and Denzel two of our interns this year. We followed events through to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with a celebration all age service on Easter Day with Easter egg hunt.

Renewed Space 3

Part of our vision at Christ Church is that of renewing the space, which God has provided us with. So we have begun a 3rd phase of this renewal, which is focussed on the main church building to provide the much-needed facilities for a growing congregation and repairing the existing church fabric to make it a welcoming and adaptable space. We are pleased to have appointed an architectural practice, Purcell, to work with us on the project. This is just the beginning of a quite lengthy process, the first stage of which will be to refine our vision and produce an outline design for the works and we will try and keep you in touch with developments. As you might expect this will be a great faith challenge for us so we would be grateful for you to stand with us in this.



Student Ministry

Student Ministry has continued to grow and in January we had our annual student weekend away, which was a wonderful time to study the book of Daniel together and a great time of fellowship as well. A couple of new initiatives have started this term, including a Connect Group, and a Study Café - both at the Mission House. The Student Connect Group is a student-led small group and is part of a wider re-invigoration of Christ Church small groups. The Study Café is aimed to provide church members (both students, self-employed or those who would normally work from home) with a space to work with a healthy, God-given perspective. It runs every Wednesday during Term-time, from 9am - 5pm, with set times for prayer and lunch together. Both of these initiatives are designed to continue to grow and support our student community, as well as build them up in faith and knowledge of the love of God.

Christ Church
Study Cafe



Open Mic Night



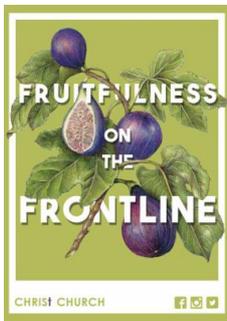
Following on from last year's social, the spring term open mic night proved a massive success. Planned by Andy and presented by Dan, in what can only be described as a penguin style top hat and tails ensured the smooth running of the evening, as several individuals bravely stepped up onto the stage to perform their acts. We were treated to amongst other things singing duos, classic guitars, concert pianists, and comic sketches 'that couldn't steam to spray their worms correctly!' There was also a true or false marine wildlife quiz, written up by Barney, that got everyone involved. After a lot of standing up and sitting down eventually Rachael Egglestone triumphed and walked off with the fish! a decorated cake!

Congo link

As you may know Christ Church plays an active part in the link between the Chester Diocese and the Dioceses of Aru and Boga in DR Congo. Conditions there have deteriorated this year with armed groups and militias active in the countryside so that villagers from the rural areas are taking refuge in the cities. This has put great pressure on the churches. In considering the budget for this year the PCC decided they wished to make a gift to Congo of £3k and invited the congregation to take part. In the event £4.5k was given, which together with £1.5k from the PCC came to £6k. But there were 2 further donations so that **a total of £13k** could be sent. We are delighted with this and celebrate it as a sign of God's goodness. For more about the DR Congo link you can email abc@chester.anglican.org to receive news/updates.



Summer



Hopefully it will feel as though Summer is here soon!. Our theme for the coming term is fruitfulness on the front line; so preaching will be on **'what you will doing this time tomorrow'**.

We will be having a **baptism and confirmation service at the River Dee** in May and Bishop Keith will be officiating. Apparently he is keen to get into the water!

Christ Church is also joining the party at the Big Church Day Out in June.

GDPR

Just a quick reminder that data protection law in the UK is changing and we will need your consent for us to continue to send you these newsletters. We value being able to keep in touch so please let us know you are happy for us to continue. Just email us back with the message "Yes please". Our Privacy Notice is on the [giving page](#) of our website.

How can you help?

It would be great if you could pray for us at times remembering particularly Graham being away on sabbatical and the extra work for others through this period. Keep in touch via the website (www.christchurchchester.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or in person. Another way that you could help would be financially. As we work with university students and are in a more deprived area of Chester, we have limited financial resources. If you would be interested in investing in our work, please have a look at the [giving page](#).

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