



ISSUE 2 • MAY 2021

OUTREACH



Christ Church Primacy

A Word From Denise

Dear Friends

'...What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open... See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut...' Rev 3:7-8

'Open doors' describes the season that we find ourselves in, exiting lockdown and entering a more relaxed phase of life with COVID 19. The easing of restrictions across the UK see churches, schools and retailers open their doors to the public once more. For some of us that 'open door' will take courage to walk through having been isolated for so long. For some the 'open door' brings feelings of anticipation, adventure and hope to enjoy once again the luxury of shopping, getting a haircut or more importantly becoming part of a community again.

It has been exciting to see how God has been opening doors in Primacy over the last number of weeks. Members of the congregation young and old literally opened their doors to receive gifts from the Doorstep and Children's ministry teams over Easter. The Church reopened its doors so that we could worship God together, in person, from Good Friday. Lots of individuals opened the doors of their hearts to give money for the Lent appeal and some to serve for another year on Select Vestry!

Through the Cross Jesus has provided the only way for us to enter into a relationship with the Father (John 14:6). My prayer is that as Jesus stands and knocks on the doorstep of our lives, that we would welcome him and give him full access; not keep him restricted to the 'good room'. Our community needs to hear this message and as lockdown restrictions ease, so the Lord has set before us an 'open door'. Let us look for those open doors, those thresholds of opportunity with anticipation and expectancy that what God has opened no man can shut!

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Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May 2021

This year we will not be able to have a door-to-door collection but we will be fundraising in different ways. On Sunday 25th April, David Thomas from Christian Aid spoke to us about their work in Kenya. He told us about Florence who no longer has to walk 6 hours to collect water for her family and is able to earn money by keeping bees and selling the honey. You can watch a video about Florence by clicking on the link below, or copy the link and paste it into your browser. christianaid.ie/resources/christian-aid-week-church-film

Big Brekkie

Please join our virtual Big Brekkie on a day and time that suits you. We would encourage you to take a photo of your Big Brekkie and send it to Moira for inclusion in our Facebook page and/or magazine. If you are happy for a photo of yourself to be included, feel free to take a photo of you enjoying your Big Brekkie. To donate, please click on the link below, or copy the link and paste it into your browser.

caweek.ie/christchurchprimacybb

General Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to Christian Aid in past years when we have raised over £3,000 annually in the Primacy area through house-to-house collections. Please copy the link below and paste it into your browser and give as generously as you can to help provide water for people like Rose who need every last drop to survive this climate crisis.

caweek.ie/christchurchprimacycollection

Shoes & Tools

Have you lost count of the number of pairs of shoes you have or the garden tools you have – never mind all the tools in your garage?

Why not count them and use the link below, which you can copy and paste into your browser, to make a minimum donation of 20p per pair of shoes or garden tool to help people like Rose who need every last drop of water to survive this climate crisis?

caweek.ie/christchurchprimacyshoestools

Children might consider giving a donation for the number of toys they have.



During Lent, Christ Church Primacy committed to raise funds for the Bishop's Appeal. This year in conjunction with Christian Aid, Eco-Congregation Ireland and Muddy Church, the goal was to assist communities in Zimbabwe. Beehives form a crucial part of the eco-system and the economy there. As a church, we raised **£670** which will be used to build beehives which cost £60 each. Well done to everyone who took part. Thank you for your generosity!

Easter Vestry Report 2020-2021

Remarks from Denise Wilson

Christ Church Primacy has experienced a year of challenge, transition and new beginnings; but with true resilience and prayer the Church has successfully negotiated its way through.

A year of Covid lockdown restrictions has meant that the church building has been closed for much of the year. However, thanks to the work of our Glebe and Church Wardens and Colin Parker's work on Risk Assessments, when the building was used for worship, all parishioners were kept safe. We are thankful to God that the Parish has not lost any parishioners due to Covid. While the church building may have been inactive, members certainly were not. Services were quickly established online with a team of faithful people making that happen – recording, leading worship, posting links and loading the material onto social media sites. A Doorstep Ministry team was established and reached out to the vulnerable, elderly and those who were not able to join in digitally, with small gifts and a reminder that they were not forgotten.

In October the congregation said farewell to Julie and Francis Rutledge, who had answered a call to serve in Kesh. Due to restrictions the farewell was not as elaborate as one might have liked to honour 15 years of service in Primacy. However, their legacy and witness, especially that of loving and valuing each individual, remains evident months after their departure. Special thanks must go to the Rev Paddy McGlinchey who took over responsibility for the Sunday services until a new appointment was made, and who is always a welcome sight behind the lectern! Thanks also to the worship team led by Richard Carson and assisted by Jonathan Rutledge and David Conn, who worked especially hard during lockdown to bring us online worship.

Unfortunately, due to insufficient funds to support a member of clergy, the Bishop suggested posting a Community Pastor to Christ Church, for a 4 year interim period. At the end of this time the situation will be re-evaluated and the hope is that a clerical incumbent will once more be a viable option. Once agreed, this course of action precipitated a busy period for the Select Vestry, especially our faithful and hard-working Glebe Wardens, who then had to prepare the Rectory for letting. Mid-March saw the Rectory work complete and a tenant installed.

Our Honorary Secretary has made tremendous strides forward in the communication systems of Christ Church over the last six months. A new church database has been installed and updated with current contacts and GDPR consents. March saw the re-launch of the church magazine, 'Outreach'. The new Church webpage is currently under reconstruction and we look forward to its launch in the near future.

Another big change for Christ Church was in relation to the role of Treasurer. Saray Rutledge stepped down in October following five years in the role, to be replaced by Helen McGlinchey. We are so grateful to Saray for her dedication in the last three years and for inducting Helen so efficiently. We will endeavour to prayerfully support Helen in this role to which she has made a very convincing start!

March the 31st heralded the departure of David Conn as Centre Manager for CAP. After 5 years in post, he will certainly be missed. However, it was with great joy that we learned that Ashleen Johnston was successful at interview and will replace David as Centre Manager. We assure Ashleen of our prayers and support as she steps into this new role.

I thank God, and the Bishop, for placing me in Christ Church Primacy, under the supervision of Area Dean, Rev Canon Simon Doogan, who has been invaluable in my induction as a Community Pastor. On the 1st February 2021, the Church, despite all the challenges of the last year, has greeted my family and me with warmth and grace. It is evident that the Church is zealous and keen to work together to see God's kingdom established in the local community. I think the Apostle Paul sums up our attitude going forward into the next year, '... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I (we) press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me (us) heavenward in Christ Jesus.' Phil 3:13-14

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Jesus
Phil 3 13-14

Select Vestry and Church Officers

The Rector's Warden

Scott Carson
jscarson28@gmail.com

The People's Warden

Dennis Dickson

The Rector's Glebe Warden

Desie Wilson

The People's Glebe Warden

Bobby England

Honorary Treasurer

Helen McGlinchey

Honorary Secretary

Moira McVeigh
Tel: 07801 082 459

Select Vestry

Richard Carson
Brian Curran
Audrey Derby
Ashleen Johnston
Paddy McGlinchey
Ann Scott
Jill Symington

Treasurer's Report

by Helen McGlinchey

Over the last number of years, our church has struggled to break even financially. Due in large measure to a substantial diocesan grant of £18,200 during 2019, we began 2020 with a positive balance of £1,900.* By the end of 2020, the balance was in deficit by £1,500. The total income during 2020 was £47,800, and the outgoings amounted to £51,200, giving a deficit of £3,400 over the year.



During the pandemic and consequent lockdowns of 2020, overall giving fell, though standing orders increased, and many people did continue to give faithfully, despite being unable to attend church in person. Certain running costs were also reduced. Then, when our rector, Francis Rutledge, moved to another parish at the end of October, we benefitted financially by not having to pay the clergy stipend and associated costs for the last 2 months of the calendar year.

Since the beginning of 2021, we have made good overall progress financially. Works were carried out on the rectory in preparation for renting, and we now have a tenant and thus a very helpful additional source of income.

We welcomed our Community Pastor, Denise Wilson, at the beginning of February. The lay salary and associated costs are significantly less than for a rector, and we are also benefitting from a diocesan grant, designed to encourage women in ministry. We have received the first of the 3 equal instalments of £3,500. The second and third instalments will be paid in 2022 and 2023. Partly as a result of this recent payment, our account balance at the end of April was £4,500.

*figures rounded to nearest 100.

Glebe Wardens' Report

by Desie Wilson



Glebe Wardens, who must be registered members of the General Vestry, are appointed to assist the officiating member of the clergy in the care and maintenance of the Rectory and Church Buildings.

With the Rectory being unoccupied at the tail end of last year following Francis moving on to his new church in Kesh, it became the responsibility of the Glebe Wardens to prepare the property for renting out to a tenant.

Following the appointment of a local Estate Agent to find a suitable tenant, Bobby England and myself, the appointed Glebe Wardens, started to carry out and organise works to the Rectory in preparation for the new tenant.

A number of rooms including the hall, stairs and landing were repainted, all the woodwork repainted, master bedroom carpet replaced, new vertical blinds fitted to the complete property, a new fridge/freezer and electric hob fitted, the heating boiler replaced and electrical works carried out to meet current regulations. All the work was complete by the end of January and the tenant moved into the Rectory in March this year.

Both Bobby and myself are currently involved in organising minor repairs within the Church building in addition to minor repairs to the Church and Church Hall roof.

Doorstep Ministry by Carol Graham

At the beginning of the first lockdown a group came together to explore how Christ Church Primacy (CCP) could do Church; grow in our walk with God, and connect with those who were shielding.

One of the initiatives was to set up 'Hello from Primacy'. Through this service, weekly telephone contact was made with people who were shielding and/or living alone. During these calls, a good natter was enjoyed and at times concerns and worries were shared.

In August when the lockdown conditions were eased, it was decided there was no longer the need for 'Hello from Primacy'. But as we now know restrictions were reintroduced later in the year.

In response to the third lockdown Maureen, Anna and Carol shared a growing concern that some of our CCP Family may be feeling even more isolated than before, and agreed that CCP should seek to bless these dear folk.

So just before Christmas, gifts of flowers, homemade jam and a card were delivered, which were well received. It was the thought behind the gift, letting the ladies know that they were missed and loved by their wider Church Family, which meant the most, and we, the organisers, were richly blessed by the time spent on people's doorsteps.

In early 2021, it became apparent that the opening up of normal Church Life would be a much slower process. Encouraged by the response from the Christmas Doorstep Delivery, the Select Vestry agreed that this Ministry would continue during Lockdown.

Since Christmas two further deliveries have been made, and the number of people in receipt of this Ministry has increased to 16.

Behind the scenes, others have helped with: baking, making jam, designing cards, and crocheting. We are so grateful to them, for being such cheerful givers.

Our plans for the next delivery have started, so if you know of anyone who you think would benefit from this Ministry, and/or if you would like to help, please contact Maureen, Anna or Carol.





Jigsaw

by Jill Symington

The last twelve months have brought with it many challenges, but for the Jigsaw leaders at Christ Church Primacy it has meant a long year without seeing the faces of our younger congregation. This was in part a little rectified on Monday 28th March when we set out to hand deliver little bags of goodies for each member of Jigsaw.

It was such a joy to see their faces and have a few doorstep chats, catching up. The full spiritual, emotional and mental effects of a year in lockdown on our country's young people are yet to be fully realised. They were the least at risk but perhaps have paid the heaviest price of all during lockdown and they deserve our deep appreciation. We are therefore very excited to again get the chance to minister to them and to continue our journey together to reveal God's incredible, life changing love to each of these precious young lives.

With the additional support this year of Lorna Parsons, and our Community Pastor Denise helping to run and coordinate Jigsaw, I'm thrilled at the prospect of seeing God take Jigsaw to a whole new level of experience for our kids. Following Jesus is the most incredible adventure anyone can undertake. In learning to lose our old lives in Jesus we find we receive a whole new kind of indescribable life back in return. How much better to start this journey when still a child than wait until adulthood to begin it.

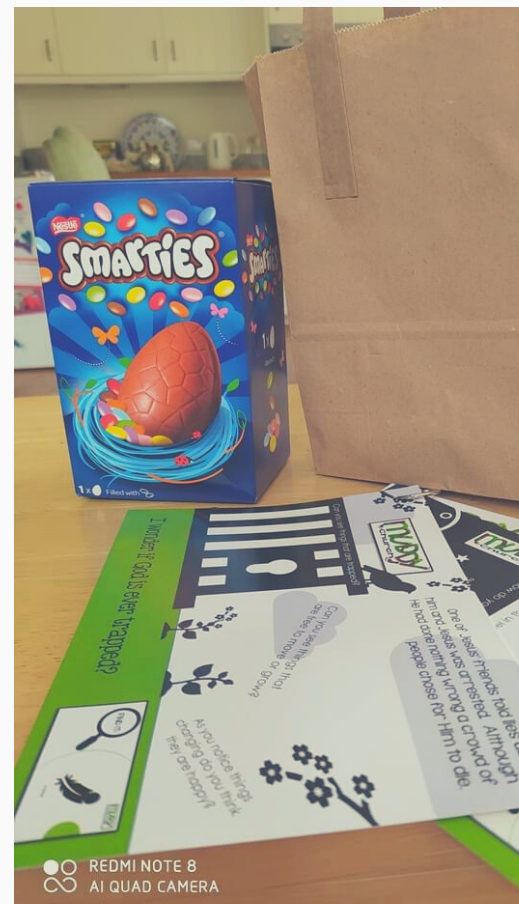
Many of our community's young people's lives have been broken into pieces, but Jesus is the only one who can put all those pieces together again and, in doing so, create something truly wonderful.

We are hoping to restart Jigsaw in May, subject to Covid restrictions. I will lead Jigsaw + for young people from P7 onwards. Lorna will lead Jigsaw Junior for children from P1 to P6.

Parents/Guardians of the young people have been invited to join a WhatsApp group so they can be kept up to date with everything that their child is doing each week in Jigsaw.

Please pray for

- Lorna and me as we lead Jigsaw and prepare to start meeting again
- the children and their parents/guardians to be kept safe and well as we meet



The Easter packs contained sunflower seeds. The seedlings above were planted by Gideon Wilson. If anyone else has seeds which grow into sunflowers, we'd love to see some photos of them on our facebook page over the summer.



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. We cry 'Come Holy Spirit Come'. Christ Church is running two events to encourage our prayer lives. The first is a virtual 24/7 prayer room beginning at 6am on Friday 14th May - 6am on Saturday 15th May. You can sign up for a slot using the following link <http://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/66d0b1>

Look out for some creative ideas around praying at home on our facebook page over the next week!

The second event is an opportunity for private prayer using different stations centred around the theme of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This will take place on Wednesday 19th May. Due to Covid restrictions this will be an event that requires you to book in, so that we can safely manage numbers and clean each station after use where appropriate. You can book in as an individual or as a bubble. Each station will have an interactive element and therefore will be suitable for children to take part too. Opening hours will be 10.00-2.00pm and 7.00pm- 9.00pm. You can book in by contacting Denise via phone, text, CCP whatsapp or email.

We pray 'Thy kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'
Amen.

CHRIST CHURCH PRIMACY

24-7 PRAYER ROOM

6am Friday 14th May - 6am Saturday 15th May		VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM
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BOOK A SLOT AT
WWW.24-7prayer.com/signup/66d0b1



New Parish Readers

Denise commissioned two new Parish Readers, John Shannon and Rory Wilson (her husband) for Christ Church Primacy on Sunday 11 April 2021.

We look forward to seeing John and Rory support Denise in her role and ask you to remember them in your prayers as they begin their new ministry.

How to Get in Touch:

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