



Christ Church
Newsletter

June 2021

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My plans

by Millie Double

Hello everyone! For those who don't know me, my name is Millie and I've just finished my final year at 6th form, where I have been studying A Levels in Spanish, Maths and Drama. Alongside this, I have also been taking dance classes several times a week, singing lessons, and piano lessons, so it's been a very busy year for me, despite the pandemic. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you my plans for next year, as there are going to be some big changes for me.

In addition to everything else, over the past year I have also been auditioning for places on Musical Theatre courses at drama schools. However, due to the pandemic, I couldn't go to the colleges in person- I had to send in videos of me introducing myself, dancing, singing and acting, which took quite a while to film! After much waiting, several rejections, and a lot of hoping, I am pleased to say that I have a place on Bird College's Musical Theatre Foundation Course. This is a one year course which starts in September, and I'll be moving to Sidcup, Kent ready to start- although I still plan to come back home as regularly as possible! I'll be training in singing, dancing and acting, preparing me for another

round of auditions next year, with the aim of gaining a place on a 3year degree course in Musical Theatre for the following year at either Bird College or another drama school. From there I am currently planning to audition for musical theatre West End productions- although who knows where I'll actually end up!

My training at Bird College is something I'm really excited to be starting, although it will be a huge leap for me, as the hours will be a lot longer than I'm currently doing for my extra-curricular activities. I will also be meeting new people and (hopefully!) making new friends. This is something that I have already begun to do, thanks to a Facebook group set up by the college, which has allowed me to find out who will be on my course and then branch onto other social media platforms to get to know them a bit better. Although I am a bit nervous about what next year holds, I am also so grateful for this opportunity and am looking forward to the year ahead

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When I was in Patagonia

by Andrew Wood



Many years ago my father, Bishop Maurice Wood, wrote a Lent book and one of the reviewers said that

despite its strengths it suffered from rather too many stories of the 'When I was in Patagonia' type!

However in Psalm 139 King David writes 'Where shall I go from your Spirit? or where shall I flee from your presence? if I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me.'

Recently I have been pondering on how, in quite a long life, God has met me in places far from home and has taught me things I might not otherwise have learnt. I hope you don't mind me sharing some of these with you, even if they may seem rather ordinary and unexciting. In April 1966 as a senior cadet in the CCF at school I was on Adventurous Training in the Lake District, a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Everything we needed was packed into an army kitbag and we slept in small bivouac tents, which weren't terribly waterproof. One morning after I'd spent the night with water running through the tent and feeling rather sorry for

myself, I went over to speak with one of the officers, a member of the school staff. He was sitting in the Land Rover and I noticed that he was reading his bible with his Scripture Union notes. This brought me up short because I had packed all sorts of things for the week but had not thought to put in my bible. I wondered how it was I thought I could go through a whole week, possibly even meeting some danger on the mountains without listening to God through his word. I determined not to do that again but ever since I have been struck by how the Lord could use the good example of a fellow Christian to show me what he wants me to learn.

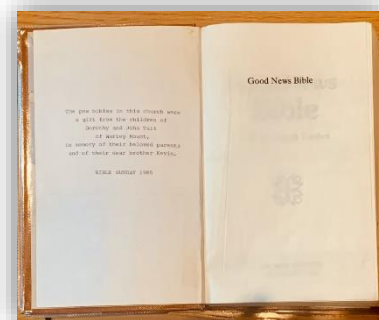
A year later I was spending a term in Kenya teaching at a secondary school while I was waiting to go up to University. One of my classes was giving me considerable trouble and I found myself feeling quite angry with them for not buckling down and learning what I wanted to teach them. One morning in my bible reading I came across Romans chapter 5 verse 5 (actually we have just recently covered this chapter in the weekly fellowship

group over Zoom.) It reads 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' There

and then I prayed for the Lord to fill my heart with his love for the class with whom I was having difficulty

and he did just that. From that moment my relationship with the students improved and we were able to progress together with the learning that they needed for their later lives. There have been other times in my life when I have needed to confess my anger and even hatred to God and ask him to fill me afresh with his love, but this was the first and most memorable time that I learn that lesson.

I'll finish with another story from my time in Kenya. The school where I was serving was mainly staffed by missionaries and had a strong Christian emphasis, which included a worship service on Sunday mornings. One morning the Archdeacon of Nakuru came to preach and he read the story from the gospels of the foolish man who built bigger barns to store up his bumper harvest crop. The Archdeacon read this from the Good News Bible explaining that it was a new translation designed to be read by those for whom English was a second language or who were not familiar with the sometimes involved and intricate language of the King James



version. I really enjoyed hearing this story afresh in that new translation and was delighted when many years later, on Bible Sunday 1985, the Tait family donated the Good News Bibles for Christ Church which we still use today!



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23rd MAY 2021

by Sylvia Partridge

Rev. Stuart Hull opened the meeting by saying he knew how difficult 2020 had been for everyone, but that the Church family had supported each other by on-line Services, phone calls, parcels and letters. We had also supported the wider Brentwood area through the Community Hub with donations of goods and finance.

As we were now coming out of lockdown restrictions he was pleased to report that Kidzone had re-started and we looked forward to other groups and activities starting soon.



John Kettlewell joined the meeting from Ireland, via zoom, to give the financial statement. He reported that although he had earlier predicted a large deficit for 2020, due to increased giving by some members, better than expected dividends from the investment of funds from the sale of Thorndales and a lower expenditure, we in fact only had a very small deficit on the year. We did, however, not manage to pay the full amount due to the Diocese (Parish Share) or our

preferred option of 10% to Charity. For us to meet our Parish Share in full we would need a 26% increase in regular giving.

Again, 2021 was still difficult to judge with the current situation.

Stuart then explained the financial difficulties of both the Deanery and the Diocese. He said that they were running at a huge deficit and would need to cut their costs, which would mean a loss of clergy. Benefices were judged on a 'green, amber and red' basis. Currently we are judged as 'green' but this would be re-viewed in 3 months' time. We must maintain this to ensure we keep a full-time clergy member in the future. There is a real possibility that if we dropped to amber or red, we could lose the incumbent.

Church Wardens – Suzanne Galliers and Louise Kearns were elected.

PCC members – Heather Bradshaw, Alison Coates, Brendon Horrocks and Harry Stimpson were newly elected to the PCC.

The full PCC now consists of:- Stuart Hull, Suzanne Galliers, Louise Kearns, John Kettlewell, Olive Kaw, Heather Bradshaw, Alison Coates, Brendon Horrocks, Barbara Moore, Sylvia Partridge, Harry Stimpson and Mark Townsend.

At the end of the meeting there was a vote of thanks for Stuart and Suzanne for all their hard work and leadership throughout the year. Thanks were also expressed to Brendon for all his time as Church Warden and to all those who had worked so hard to keep the Church active during an exceedingly difficult year.



Do you have an article for the next Newsletter??

If you would like to be part of a future addition of our Newsletter, please submit any articles to the following email:

admin@christchurchwarley.org

Please could we ask that any articles are no longer than 500 words. Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Christ Church

by Chris and Ellie Goldsmith

Its eight years since, in answer to God's call we left Warley and Great Warley. We moved to Truro for Chris to take up his new appointment as Bishop of St Germans – Assistant to the Bishop of Truro. After a few months, Ellie was able to become Team Vicar in a Benefice near Truro, looking after two country churches.



These were very happy and stretching opportunities for which we are grateful for the preparation our time in Brentwood gave us.

Ellie retired in May 2019, just a week before Chris was offered a new role as Director of Ministry for the Church of England, based in Westminster. We moved into our new home in Tatsfield, Surrey, just before that Christmas, and not

long before the first Lockdown. So we have been 'home alone' for much of the time here!

Sometimes we have been able to have the family in the garden. Jonathan and Laura have two girls – Felicity nearly 7, and Isabel just 5. Abigail and Alex have Annabel just 5, and Sophie 2 and a half. They live in Tooting, about 45 minutes from here, and the children go to the same school. They bring us unending joy, often it has been outdoors in local woods and parks. Theirs and our appreciation of creation has grown and sustained us so much during Lockdown. This is one of the lessons the pandemic has taught us.

For Ellie there has been time to ponder the best call for new ministry in the light of various health issues including recently diagnosed Parkinson's Disease. Journaling Coronavirus Reflections has been helpful to recognise God in the ordinary and to see that disease does not have the last word. But it is not straightforward being restricted, and with an unknown future – something actually we all live with.

For Chris the time has been particularly demanding as he leads the national team which

encourages vocations to ministry of all kinds, discerns with all Dioceses those who God is calling and provides training to equip people for ministry in God's church. He is drawing upon all his experiences including all that we learnt together with you in Warley and Great Warley.

We have joined the local Church, St Mary's, and 'Zoom' in to the Service on Sundays. We also lead a midweek Lectio Divina group, which is wonderful; every week God joins us!

We hope you are aware of God being with you whatever your circumstances are and being able to share some of this comfort and joy with others in your family and community, as well as in Christ Church.

This update comes with our love and thanks, and God's blessings

