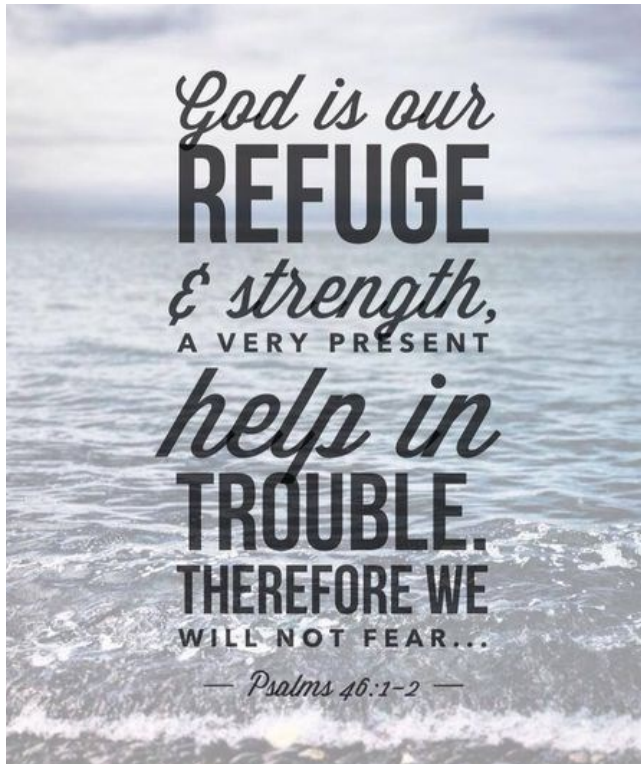


ASPIRE



April 2020

Christ Church Haydock URC

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

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ELDERS

Neil Fairhurst—Church Secretary (01744 635163)

Ray Clare—Treasurer (01942 724809)

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Joanna Cunningham

Debbie Bold

YOUTH PASTOR

Sandra Morris

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YOUTH ELDER

Jo Nelson

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning 10:45 a.m.—Family worship

1st Sunday evening of the month 6:00 p.m.—Communion

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Brian Taylor Mike Nelson Jo Nelson

Please feel free to email anything you would like published in
the magazine at the following address:

haydockurcmagazine@gmail.com

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A word from the Editors

It is difficult to know what to say in these very uncertain, confusing and worrying times. I don't think any of could have predicted impact the Coronavirus has had on us, our Church, our community and our world.

However, in all of this, we can hold onto two very important things:

Number 1 – God is in complete control. He is our faithful protector and He has got an amazing plan for each and every one of us in all of this. God's will be done. We can trust in Him.

Number 2 – Our Church community. Over the last few days and weeks, it has been incredible to see how the members of our church have pulled together, served each other and been there for each other in this difficult time. We are all supporting each other, ringing each other, keeping in touch with one another, shopping for each other and praying for each other. Together we will get through this and we will come out at the other side a stronger church, even more prepared to go to battle and win hearts for Jesus.

For those of you with Facebook, Malcolm is doing regular worship sessions on the Christ Church Facebook page and he will post a message to the page each week. For those of you without access to Facebook, Neil and Brian will be bringing round hard copies of Malcolm's message each week.

If any of you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact us. Becky Taylor is heading up our support team and she can be contacted for help on the number below:

BECKY TAYLOR – MOBILE: 07788 279286

There is also an article included in this month's magazine about Christians and the Coronavirus. As it says, in all of this we do not need to be anxious but seek first the Kingdom of God.

We pray that you will rely on your faith in God and trust in Him during this challenging time.

God bless, take care and stay safe

Brian, Mike and Jo

xxx

Sunday 5th April 2020

Go the Extra Mile



When you decide to serve others, you will be required to give more than you expected. This will happen because you will see the need is more significant than you first thought, but also it will be to make people happy that will never be happy. Jesus encourages us to go the extra mile. in serving others. It is humbling, but it glorifies God and opens the door for the Gospel to be preached.

2 Corinthians 11:7-8

“Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God’s Gospel to you free of charge? I deprived other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.”

Sunday 12th April 2020

Too Big for Your Boots



My grandpa used to have a saying that he used on his grandkids when they were getting too much attitude. He would say, “you’re getting too big for your boots.” It meant that we were getting a little full of ourselves and needed to be brought down a few notches. Everyone runs the risk of thinking too highly of themselves. It’s when we act on that arrogance that things go really wrong.

2 Chronicles 26:16

“But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.”

Sunday 19th April 2020

Choose Your Battles



There is a popular saying today, “Not every hill is worth dying on.” The basic gist is that you need to choose your battles, not every argument or disagreement is worth the time or energy you need to put into it. There are some spiritual principles too. Paul tells us that we don’t war according to the flesh but in the heavenly realm with divinely powerful weapons.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”

Sunday 26th April

An Opportunity to Give



We have an unprecedented opportunity to give to those in need. With millions of people losing their jobs and out of income, we are being presented with a great need that we can fill in a straightforward way. Food banks are in need of donations, neighbours need utilities paid, and small businesses need our support. A small gesture with a willing heart can go a long way to minister to someone who is hurting. Don’t do it out of obligation but out of your love for your neighbour.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.”

Christians and the Coronavirus

Do not be anxious and seek first the kingdom of God.

I want to speak to you today about the virus that is currently and quickly changing the landscape of our world. More specifically, I want to think together about how we, as Christians, are called to respond in times like this.

Now, obviously, we are called to be wise and responsible. We should carefully consider all the recommended precautions from the World Health Organisation and the Government officials.

As Christians, we should demonstrate sanity, sympathy, and take one day at a time. And of course, we should pray. We should pray for those affected, for the tireless workers caring for those who are affected, and for the international authorities who are working around the clock to prevent, contain, and eradicate this virus. As Christians, we are called to all those things.

There are two main things that God has put on my heart for us today. They're two things that Jesus teaches us here in this passage. And they're two things that have stabilised and inspired me over this past week and I pray will do the same for someone here today. How do we rise to this occasion as Christians? Well, like always, Jesus lights our way.

FIRST: JESUS SAYS, 'DO NOT BE ANXIOUS.'

Just in case we were dozing off when he said it the first time, or got distracted when he said it the second time, he says it ***three times*** in Matthew 6:25-34 —"do not be anxious!" But also the word that comes right before each time he says it is important too. Verse 25—*Therefore*, I tell you do not be anxious. Verse 31—*Therefore*, do not be anxious. And Verse 34—*Therefore*, do not be anxious.

Now, you see what this means? It means a Christian's peace is always meant to be a rational peace. It means we don't have to somehow dig deep and muster it up ourselves. It means that we're meant to know something that logically and spiritually removes anxiety. Now, I understand that we can all be anxious, but remember, as Christians we always have a "therefore" and that "therefore" is the peace from God that surpasses all understanding.

SECOND: 'SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM'

Now, what does this mean? And how do we do it practically? Well before we try and answer that, I want you to see the helpful connection that Jesus makes for us here.

In Matthew 6 verse 32, Jesus connects our anxiety with our seeking. Watch this, he says, "The Gentiles" – which was short in their day for the people who don't know God—he says, they're the ones seeking after all of these things: Health, wealth, and material possessions—the physical tactile things of life. That's all they want and that's all they talk about. And that's why they're anxious about it.

Our anxieties reveal our priorities. We get anxious about the things we put our hope in. That's why Jesus says where your treasure is, your heart will be also. In other words, what you're hoping in, what you're investing in, that's what's going to have a grip on your heart.

So, what does Jesus do? He says, let me give you something else to seek after. It's almost like he says, "You want to be anxious for something? Be anxious for this. You want to seek something? Seek this! Seek first the kingdom of God."

CONCLUSION

Let me close by telling you the story of Tom Chisholm. Thomas Obediah Chisholm was born in the mid 1800s and at a very early age he struggled with debilitating health concerns. His impaired health affected almost everything he did and it caused him to fail at almost everything he tried.

Thomas was a Christian who loved to write poetry. And one day in the midst of his ever-changing, disappointing life, he sat down and wrote a poem about the faithfulness of God. It was a simple poem penned in faith that's now sung across the world as a favourite hymn—"***Great is Thy Faithfulness.***"

Remember, dear friends, eternity is long and life is short. And come what may, God is our Father and great is His faithfulness. During this difficult and uncertain time, may His faithful character His and eternal kingdom transform the way we see everything else.

Trust in God, do not be anxious and seek first His Kingdom.

THANK YOU

To all the flower ministry, Thank you so much for the lovely flowers,
From Mrs Vincent

FINANCIAL REPORT— FEBRUARY 2020

BUILDING ACCOUNT

Income

Building Fund box	£5.00
Donation (Anonymous)	£2000.00

Expenditure

Steeplejack Inspection and Report	£3452.40
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Balance as of 29/02/20 **£18619.88**

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income

Offertories	£1525.70
Donations for Youth Pastor Work	£100.00
Youth Pastor envelopes	£100.00

Expenditure

Cleaning Items, toilet seats & tea towels	£41.47
New kettle	£17.00
Various Annual Copyright Licenses	£531.18
Rest Routine Items	

Overall Income in February 2020 **£1727.65**

Overall Expenditure in February 2020 **£5189.72**

Balance as at 29/02/20 **£5860.91**

(Includes £876.58 for Youth Pastor & Youth Mission Work)

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCOUNT

Income

Donation for heating & lighting from Young at Heart	£250.00
Room Hire	£168.00

Expenditure

Sanitary Hygiene	£55.10
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Balance as at 29/02/20 **£5852.65**

Ray Clare & Wendy Conboy