

Despite lockdowns, track and trace programmes, social distancing, compulsory face masks and all the rest, the Christian Church worldwide continues to adapt, develop and grow. As it harnessed new technologies in the past- paper books in the early centuries AD, printing presses in the 16th Century, so digital media and the internet is fuelling a new way for the Church to communicate the message of Jesus with others. People with questions can be answered online. People from closed countries, often immensely hostile to Christianity, can find fellowship, prayer and teaching. People unable to leave their homes for a multitude of reasons can worship with other believers in their community. Yes, we have to be discerning. Yes, there is a whole world of nonsense and unhelpful material out there, but we should also thank God that we can harness technology for the sake of the Gospel and make connections with people from whom we would normally be separated. We are blessed that after our live Sunday services a video is available to watch online later in the day. Small groups can also meet via Zoom. Many others take advantage of teaching and worship available from other churches and organisations. Praise God that the Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow and spread, just like yeast in a batch of dough.

**SMALL GROUPS**

We have a number of small groups that happen throughout the year to help us grow in our discipleship and faith. They cater of all different types of people, from a huge range of different backgrounds. Learning together in fellowship and being accountable to one another is greatly valued- you will be warmly welcome in one of these groups!

Monday evening

Bible studies will resume on 28th September, 7.30 - 9.00pm on alternate weeks. These will be on Zoom. We will be using the study guide 'Sharing Resources' in the BRF series 'Holy Habits' discussing how our faith works out in our daily lives. All welcome, please contact Mary or David Bainbridge on 01367 250347 or bainbridge1973@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Men's Group

This group meets alternate Tuesday evenings and they presently looking at Daniel. See David Corris or Will Graves for full details.

Ladies' Group

Meets Monday afternoons for teaching, fellowship and prayer. Presently looking at the 'I am' sayings in John's Gospel. Kate Cinnamond is the contact person for this group.

Thursday evening Group

A time of encouraging one another as part of a Bible study and prayer group. See Richard Akroyd or Geoff Holmes for further details.

'Christianity Explored' course

We all need a refresher course at times in the Christian faith- who is Jesus? Why did he have to die? Can we really believe the Bible? What is the Church all about? 'Christianity Explored' is a 7 week, tried and tested, DVD-based course based on Mark's Gospel. We will meet together by Zoom, watch a really well produced video, and then explore the issues raised in a group discussion. It is completely free and everyone is most welcome. It will happen on Thursday evenings, starting mid-October. For further details and Zoom login, please contact the Vicar.

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Sunday 27th September at 10am. Please bring non-perishable food for the Swindon Food Collective. Please see their website (<https://www.swindonfoodcollective.org/food-items-needed-urgently>) for an up to date list of what they urgently need.



Bible Sunday Sunday 25th October. A good opportunity to thank God for his Word to us and to think about our own discipleship in reading the Bible.

8am service From Sunday 4th October we will re-start our Holy Communion services at 8am. This said service uses the wonderful language and teaching of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

APCM Straight after the 10am service on Sunday 18th October. An important time as a church family to look back over the previous year, giving thanks, and looking ahead. We also elect churchwardens, and members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and Deanery Synod.

RE-ORDERING PROJECT

Because of the recent pandemic it seems sensible to defer the launch of our Inspire project until Spring 2021. We continue to move ahead with all aspects of planning and consultation- structural engineers, audio-visual systems, flooring, heating, lighting etc. We want to ensure we have the very latest advice on all these different aspects of our wonderful church building. Our architects, Chedburn Codd Conservation Architects, have developed a design to include all facilities that the PCC required within the existing church building. Their drawings clearly demonstrate that objectives will be met and a transformation achieved whilst protecting the historical features of the church and, importantly, creating a welcoming and flexible place of worship for generations to come. Please do pray for Nigel Jones and for all those involved in the project.



PRAYER MEETINGS



MONTHLY Parish Prayer Meeting, Mondays at 7:30pm via Zoom: Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7

WEEKLY Prayer Meeting, Wednesday at 9:30am via Zoom (email us for details)

And finally...

We are still living in a time of great uncertainty and it seems we hardly know what another week will throw at us. As Christians we are assured that we are 'in Christ' – we participate in his sufferings and in his glory; we benefit from all Christ has won for us through his death and resurrection. Our beginning and our end are in His hands, the hands that still bear the wounds of his compassion and love for us. As we go through the 'I am' sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel in our Sunday services, we are reminded again that Jesus is God for us. Let us encourage one another, in many different ways, that God has not abandoned us, but he offers us forgiveness, hope and love in His Son, Jesus, who is truly 'the Light of the World'.



Every blessing in Christ's name,

Andrew Cinnamond