

The Parish of Timperley

Christ Church and Holy Cross

Christ Church, Thorley Lane, WA15 7AN
Holy Cross, Park Road, WA15 6QG



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester

Sunday 7th February 2021
Second Sunday before Lent

Following the announcement of another national lockdown, the rapid increase in the rate of infection in Trafford, and the continued uncertainty over the new variant of COVID-19, the PCC have agreed to close both Christ Church and Holy Cross until Sunday 28th February at the earliest. This will be in line with the dates for school closures, and will give us time to monitor the situation as it evolves.

Through this time of lockdown, there will be a weekly "Zoom" service at 10am every Sunday, **with the exception of Sunday 21st February**. Zoom is very easy to use, as we are finding on Wednesday mornings. Details of how to join are on the attached letter. Please contact us for further help or advice on accessing the service. We will continue to distribute via email weekly noticesheets with readings, reflections and prayers, as well as seasonal liturgy.

We take safeguarding seriously

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of all of us. Our safeguarding policies and details of where to get help are displayed in each church and on the parish website. If you have any concerns that you or someone else are at risk from harm, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Aileen Moran, on 07948 795 962, or contact a member of the clergy. If there is immediate danger call 999.

Contact details and further information

Vicarage	0161 980 4330	
Revd Jim Bridgman	07526243702	revjimb1017@gmail.com
Revd Jenny Bridgman	07546304644	revjb99@gmail.com
Lee Wood (Ordinand)	07399186230	ld.wood@yahoo.com
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To receive this newsletter by email each week, please email Jenny or Jim.

Parish Facebook page:	facebook.com/parishoftimperley
Parish blog (for worship resources and more):	timperleyparish.wordpress.com
Parish website (for general information):	http://www.timperleyparish.org.uk/

World Day of Prayer 2021

This year's World Day Of Prayer is on **Friday 5th March**. This year the material has been produced by the church in Vanuatu, and the theme is '*Build on a strong foundation*'. There with a special service on Zoom at **2.30pm on this day**, led by Mthr Clair Jaquiss. If you would like the link, please contact Jim.

Easy Fundraising

You can now help raise money for the mission and ministry of the parish every time you shop online, through Easy Fundraising! We've recently set up an account which means by visiting the [Easy Fundraising website](#) before you shop online, we will receive a small donation for every purchase made on participating websites.

So if you're looking to shop online with companies such as Amazon, ebay, John Lewis, M&S and Argos (to name but a few),

1. First visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk.
2. go to the box "**search for a new cause**" and enter the **Parish of Timperley Christ Church** - this will take you through to the church's page
3. click on **support this cause** - this will then take you through to a new page and you need to set up your account
4. **get shopping!** And for every purchase from supporting retailers, we will receive a donation.

It is a really easy and quick way to raise money for the parish! Do spread the word!

Lent Book group

Lent is now just a few weeks away, and I'm excited to say that after the success of the Advent Book Group, we are planning for a **Lent Book group**, which will be open to members of Churches Together in Timperley and Hale too.

The book we've chosen is '*Thy Will Be Done*' by Stephen Cherry, which is based on reflections on The Lord's Prayer and it can be [purchased here](#) (as well as at other book sites!).

We will have Sunday Zoom discussion sessions each Sunday night in Lent at 7.30pm from 21st Feb. The book is split into 6 sections, and each section has 6 chapters which gives each week a day to reflect on everything that has been written. So if we start reading on Sunday 14th Feb (the Sunday before Lent) and have our first Zoom on Sunday 21st Feb, we should do all 6 sections to finish on Palm Sunday. If you're interested, please purchase the book and get ready to read, and contact us for the Zoom link for our Sunday discussions.

Colossians 1.15–20

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Other readings for today: Proverbs 8.1,22–31; John 1.1–14

Reflection written by Jim

Looking back over old photos of the kids, it is sometimes hard for me to remember which was which - they look so similar, especially at a young age! Yet despite their physical similarities, they were (and continue to be) very different in terms of personality and character. Being the spitting image of each other does not convert to acting in the same way.

The apostle Paul describes Jesus as being 'the image of God', not just bearing a resemblance in appearance, but (unlike human siblings or family members) sharing a complete likeness in the character and nature of God.

This portion of Paul's letter to the Christians in Collosae is thought to be from an ancient hymn, some very old words of praise to God. This hymn is praising Jesus by acknowledging his pre-eminence and superiority over all things – Jesus is not a created being (like an angel or a human), but part of the Godhead, simultaneously the author of creation and revealing God to humanity. And this hymn extols Christ's superiority both in the cosmos and in the Church itself: Jesus is above all created things, and is the highest authority in the church.

Christians believe that all humans are made in 'the image of God', taking that phrase from the Genesis account of creation. While we are made in God's image, and meant to imitate God, we also are aware of our own failings to be an exact copy of God. Despite what some of us may feel, we are not God – and thank goodness for that!

This passage is a reminder to me of who's really in charge – so much of life for most of us still feels out of kilter and out of control as the pandemic continues, but is it good to be reminded that God is in control. The last eleven months have helped to remind me that I am not in control of much in life: that has been uncomfortable and scary at times, to acknowledge just how little control I have; yet despite all the chaos, the One who is in control, still remains.

January seemed like a particularly difficult month, with the return of restrictions and home schooling, the awful increase in the spread of the virus and number of deaths, the lack of sunlight and bad weather, and the usual comedown from Christmas. It has sometimes been difficult to hold things together during the past month, so it's good to be reminded that Jesus is the one in whom 'all things hold together'! That is at the heart of what Jesus came to be and do – bringing together (reconciling) God and the world. So as we continue one step at a time through 2021, I

hold on to the truth that God is still in control, still reconciling the world, and will try afresh to be faithful to our calling of living in God's image.

Prayers of Intercession compiled Sue Brown

Lord, you made us and our world and you love us. We pray to you now

"Eternal Wisdom, shine in our lives that we may delight in you and your light. Scatter the darkness that is before us, enlighten our minds and dispel our ignorance, that we may know you as the true God, the Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer of all things. **Amen** *(David Adam)*

Father, we pray for the world in all its beauty - we are sorry that we are not protecting and caring for it as well as we should. Help all world leaders to be aware of each country's needs and find ways to share all resources more fairly. We pray also for every country during this pandemic that they may receive enough vaccine to cover their needs. We pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, our country and our world

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

We pray for your church and ask a blessing on our clergy, Jim, Jenny and our ordinand, Lee. Give them wisdom and strength to continue to lead your people to know and love you, who is the 'head of the body, the church'. Lord, you call us to be your witnesses in the world - give us grace to hear and obey your call. May we love one another as you love us.

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

Father, we bring to you now the needs of all those whose lives are shadowed by loneliness, worry or sickness. We think, in a moment of silence, of those known to us ... May they all know your light, peace and love for them. We pray also for all those affected, in any way by the Covid virus and give thanks for all key workers and friends and neighbours who care for the vulnerable

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

Lord, we know that nothing can separate us from you and your love. We pray for all those who have died but now live with you and have entered your light and life everlasting. We remember anyone who is bereaved - may they know and feel your arms wrapped around them holding them safe and secure

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

Lord give us thankful hearts to love and serve you. Thank you that you always walk beside us in whatever we do.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.