

CHRIST CHURCH

Life

living to
love God
and you



April - May 2021

“Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead off you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.””
Matthew 28: 5 -7



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Thank you to all who have contributed articles for this edition of Life magazine.

*Please note that the **deadline** for submissions for the **June/July 2021 edition** will be **14th May 2021**.*

Submissions are emailed to: editor@ccbedford.org

Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

Easter reminds me of the Greeks and the Romans. Not in that they ruled the Mediterranean world that first Easter day – approximately AD 30 – but in what they thought about life after death.



Greek and Roman tomb inscriptions lament the lack of hope for any afterlife. This world is all there is. Make what you can of this life because this is all the life you'll know. Greek mythology went a little further, allowing for some form of shadowy afterlife, a sort of semi-existence. It might have contained a future for the soul, wafting about like some spirit or ghost, but the physical body was done for and finished.

That last understanding might have matched the Old Testament view of Sheol and the figurative descriptions given (cp. Deuteronomy 32:22 and Psalm 86:13) – a place of shadowy semi-existence, but hardly worth getting excited about.

Easter reminds me of the Greeks and the Romans, because their various beliefs seem to permeate so much of our culture's thinking: no hope of any afterlife to forms of semi-existence, but not a lot of certainty.

A year of excess deaths, each one a lamentable tragedy of loss and hurt, has brought this lack of hope to the surface. As I stood with a grieving family recently, I was asked by the deceased's daughter, "Is there any life after death? I want to believe."

I paused. What a question! Yes, there is life after death, and no it's not like the Greeks and Romans believed, nor like so many of our culture believe.

The Christian faith can confidently say that there is life after death, a real and genuine bodily resurrection to eternal life, because Jesus died, was buried and rose again from the dead, physically and bodily, and appeared to his disciples, to as many as 500 at one time (1 Corinthians 15:1-8), over the succeeding 40 days.

Many people at that time believed in ghosts and spirits and a semi-existence afterlife. If the disciples had claimed they'd seen Jesus as a spirit, it wouldn't have been very controversial. It's the claim of the disciples that they had seen Jesus physically and bodily that rendered their testimony unique, and their hope of eternal

life as true. They had witnessed the bodily risen Jesus: they had touched him (John 20:27), walked with him (Luke 24:15-27), eaten with him (John 21:12-13) and been commissioned by him (Matthew 28:18-20).

So, “Is there any life after death? I want to believe.” There is life after death, eternal life with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and it will be physical and bodily, as Jesus’ resurrection was physical and bodily. Our bodies, as they are now, weak and frail, broken and battered, will be transformed from perishable to imperishable, from weakness to power, from natural bodies to spiritual bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

Easter reminds me of the Greeks and Romans, and of our culture today in that there is no real hope of fullness of life after death.

But for those who believe in Jesus, who said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6) there is the hope and certainty of eternal life, bodily and physical, with God our Father for evermore.

Easter is our great celebration of this hope, and the reminder to share that hope to a world searching and longing for confidence in the future, confidence that there is life after death.

Happy Easter to you all, Richard



**Richard
Hibbert**

ALAN COTTENDEN'S ON THE FRONTLINE

An interview with...

Pat & Dennis Davies

If you've been around Christ Church for any time at all you're bound to have bumped into Pat and Dennis Davies who arrived in 1987. Dennis is the rugby-loving physicist with the whimsical smile, wide "hair parting" and delightful Welsh lilt, while Pat is a retired maths teacher (who until recently put her skills to use marking A level exam scripts for 32 years) and a keen 'cellist. What were their stories, I wondered? Read on to find out.

What brought you to Bedford?

Pat: I came to Bedford in September 1966 to take up my first teaching post, having trained as a secondary maths teacher in the Department of Education at Cambridge University. Previously, I'd taken a degree at Westfield College in Hampstead which later combined with Queen Mary College and subsequently became Queen Mary University of London in East London.

Dennis: I arrived in 1970 to take up a post as an applied physicist in the Systems Department at Hunting Engineering in Ampthill. Funnily enough, Ken Summerfield – who is now a fellow Christ Church member - worked there in the IT department. We often worked together, me specifying what I wanted a piece of software to do and him and others engineering it, usually against daft deadlines! We subsequently lost contact for some years until we bumped into each other at a Christ Church plant sale: I recognised him but couldn't for the life of me immediately remember his name: very embarrassing!



So you didn't know each other when you came to Bedford?

Pat: No. We didn't meet till 1971 and we got married in 1973. I was a member of St Andrew's Church in Kimbolton Road, a 'cellist in the Bedford Symphony Orchestra and tried to play tennis in the club opposite Christ Church but we didn't meet in any of these places. Rather, we met when Dennis moved in to the house next door to mine in Waterloo Road!

Dennis: I attended a Baptist chapel in South Wales and had tried similar chapels in Kingsbury and Potters Bar while working in London and Hatfield but without any welcome. When I moved to Bedford I decided to give up on religion (not personal faith). Soon after Pat and I met we joined Holy Trinity Church on the Bromham Road as I found St. Andrew's far too *high*. The congregation at Trinity had an average age of about 87 but it was lovely, very friendly and welcoming with a real sense of God at work. We were married there.

But you didn't stay in Bedford, did you?

Pat: No. When we got married we moved to Wootton, and joined St Mary's Church. Initially, it used to take us about 10 minutes to drive between Wootton and Bedford but the traffic got steadily heavier - till at some times of day - it could take 50 minutes! When our son John was small this wasn't too big a problem but, when he was older, we used to spend hours ferrying him backwards and forwards to activities. We moved back to Bedford in 1986.

Tell me about your upbringing and how you came to faith.

Dennis: I was born and raised in Gilfach Goch ("The Little Red Nook", in English) a valley in South Wales. At the time, it had three coal mines in it. The valley was said to be the one that Richard Llewellyn had in mind when he wrote the book, *How Green Was My Valley*. That's where the BBC filmed its televised version of the book. My Dad worked down the mines from the age of 14 and it killed him in the end, having destroyed his lungs.

There were three junior schools in the valley and one secondary but no Grammar School and so, when I passed the 11+ I had to leave the valley for school. With homework thrown in and a hidden disability, it made for long days and separated me from my junior school mates. After Grammar School, I set off to study applied physics at the Welsh College of Advanced Technology which became the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology in my final year and subsequently Cardiff University.

After a thirteen-year career in the defence industry involved in design, development and safety of weapon systems I decided to leave and enter teaching. Following some time in a number of secondary and middle schools teaching Science, Maths. and IT I took early retirement. I later drove minibuses for Door-to-Door for six years and then helped with oxygen therapy at the MS Therapy centre for eleven years.

I was the middle one of three boys and, when I was little I used to go to a Church in Wales “plant” with my older brother. When I was about 6 – it must have been – I remember being confused by the King James version of the first verse of Psalm 23. You have to admit that, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”, is rather ambiguous for a six-year-old! For the life of me I couldn’t work out why the Bible seemed to be rejoicing in not wanting the Lord! For some reason my brother stopped going to that church and, as I wouldn’t be safe to go on my own, we transferred to the Welsh Baptist Church nearer home. We went to morning service and also to Sunday School in the afternoon where I was taught by the very same lady who taught me Monday to Friday at school – a lovely lady. I also accompanied my grandmother to the evening services. I can’t point to a specific time when I came to faith but I gradually got to know God and his ways and became committed to following and serving him.

Pat: I was born and raised in Leicester, completing all my schooling there before going to university in London. When I was little, my Mum wanted me to go to Sunday School and later took me to our Parish Church to Evensong some Sundays. When I was 14 I was enrolled for confirmation classes and I remember our vicar – who was a lovely man, despite his deadly boring sermons – preparing us by talking us through the *39 articles of the Church of England*. So enthralled was I that I remember taking my French vocabulary to learn for the next day with me to the classes to provide a distraction from the tedium! Before the start of the confirmation service I was thinking, “should I be doing this”: I remember praying to God, asking him to “show me whether I should go forward or not”. I immediately felt it clear that I should go ahead. If I hadn’t, I doubt you would be reading this today.

Another important step along my journey was that a school friend subsequently invited me along to her church which had a fantastic youth club with a social evening every Friday and a discussion group after Evensong on Sundays. We also cooked breakfast in the church hall after 8 am communion once a month! At college I made several friends through the Anglican Society and the University Church with whom I took part in two summer pilgrimages. My college had a small chapel with Compline

at 10 pm Monday to Friday. I learned so much through having the opportunity to thrash out my faith very practically with others of my age and stage.

John is our only child but we have now acquired a lovely daughter-in-law Helen (who provided our photo) and two grandchildren - Tobias 14 and Evie 10 - who give us much pleasure. Unfortunately, they live in Redhill, 89 miles away – M1 and M25.

What's God teaching you just now?

Dennis: Patience! To accept his timing on things rather than trying to persuade him to adopt mine. Thirteen-and-a-half years ago I had a heart attack that could have killed me but it exposed a hidden disability I was born with, so I'm living in "extra time". I'm especially aware that my time is in God's hands. It doesn't stop me from having fun or from trying to do all I can: I know there are limits but I don't let them rule.

Pat: For me, it's learning to live day by day, resting in God's provision and – like Dennis – trusting in his timing. So we aim to serve God as best we can for as long as we can.

Do you have any favourite bible verses?

Dennis: I draw great strength from "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things." (Isaiah 45:7). There have been many disasters in my life over the years. It's easy to fall into the trap of expecting God to deliver me from all life's challenges but this passage reminds me that God is sovereign amid both the good times and the disasters. My task is to walk with him through both.

Pat: I love the opening verses of Psalm 121 that remind and reassure me of God's power and provision towards me: "I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1&2). "My help" it says - very personal.

Thank you!

Alan Cottenden



Ladies ELEVENSES Time

Saturday 1st May @ 11.00am

is your time to enjoy

ELEVENSES

A great time to ZOOM in for a coffee break while listening to an inspiring talk from our guest speakers:

Jess Walker and Sue Marshall

Their theme will be “NEW HORIZONS” talking about where God has and is leading them, as they seek to serve HIM!



The talks will be followed by Zoffee and time to chat with other ladies in Breakout Rooms.

Watch out for more information in the church notices!!



**LET'S
Get Together!**



When Santa Married the Easter Bunny



“It’s when Santa married the Easter Bunny.” My Mum used to work at a preschool and this was one of the many hilarious things that came from the mouths of the babes, along with “You’ve got slime poo!” (the child meant swine flu – remember that?!) and “I’VE GOT A BOGEY!” at full volume during a particularly quiet part of story time. “No, Freya, Easter is not when Santa married the Easter Bunny.”

Mother Dearest was right. So, what is Easter really about? Today the boy child came home with a chocolate egg and a model chick in some paper shreadings that resembled a nest. All very beautiful and the egg was yummy (I had a nibble when he wasn’t looking) but surely these things can’t be the pinnacle of and the reason that a celebration has lasted for centuries. I mean, the Tudors didn’t scoff choccy eggs at this time of year, did they?

Let’s divert our gaze from the cutesy bunnies and look at the evidence, which is a good place to start. There are three key bits of evidence to check out when we examine why Easter happens. They all centre around a few days roughly 2000 years ago...

What was Jesus trying to achieve and why is it we celebrate Easter?

Numero Uno. Jesus medically died. No, he wasn’t faking it. This was no David Blaine-esque, crazy publicity-seeking stunt. Brown bread. A Roman crucifixion is beyond imaginable pain. Jesus was flogged by a braided leather whip that would have had metal balls woven and bits of bone woven into it. This means he would have lost a lot of blood. He was then made to carry his cross to the destination of the crucifixion. Being laid down, he had huge nails driven through his wrists and ankles that would have crushed and severed nerves. Being hoisted vertical would mean that his body weight would make it hard to breathe, so you could push up from your feet and pull up with your wrists. This obviously would be horrendously painful so when you relaxed it meant difficult breathing. Crucifixion was basically a slow and painful suffocation. The other idea was to break the legs of the victim so they couldn’t push themselves up to breathe, but given they thought he was dead, they got the spear out and stuck him in the side just to make sure he was dead.

And remember, if you were a Roman soldier and you were on crucifixion duty and people weren't dying and somehow managing to jump down off the cross and Sarge found out, you'd be next. So it was in every Roman's interest to make sure Jesus really was dead.

I'm not trying to be sensationalist and I do not get a kick out of the gory. I'm telling you how it was so you understand the gravity of what was occurring.

Secondly, Jesus' buried body could not be found. You heard me right, people. Gone, missing, *disparu*. Jesus was dead. Jesus was put in a tomb. There was a big old rock in front of that tomb. This is before the days of fork lift trucks. In them good ol' days, tombs were shut with a mahooosive stone that had to be rolled by several people. So there he is. That's it, surely? Nope. Even with the variation in secondary

details between the main biblical accounts of Jesus' burial (gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), the main facts remain. A bloke called Joseph (not Jesus' papa – a different Joe) took Jesus' body and put it in a tomb. The tomb is visited by a group of Jesus' female followers on the Sunday morning after Jesus died on the Friday. They find the tomb empty.



Okay, there must be some problems with that. If they were Jesus' mates, could they have been lying about the missing body? Well that argument actually backfires on itself. Again, back in the olden days, women were pretty low on the social ladder, so much so that a woman's word in court was worthless. If you were writing an account of Jesus' life in the first century, you certainly wouldn't have included women's testimony about an empty tomb, but low and behold, the writers were faithful to what actually happened.

Couldn't the women have gone to the wrong tomb? Well, the Jewish and Roman authorities wanted Jesus dead, and most definitely for him to remain dead. If anyone tried to fool someone by pointing them to the wrong tomb then the Jewish and Roman powers that be would have just pointed them to the real one. Did anyone accuse anyone else of stealing the body? Well, the Jews could have but then there were Roman guards at the tomb preventing a theft. Could they have fallen asleep

whilst the body was stolen? Not likely. Remember how ruthless Roman soldiers were and the hot water they might find themselves in if found slacking? So far, Jesus dead, tomb empty. But the evidence doesn't end here.

Third and final. Jesus appeared. No, not in the foam in someone's beer or in the burnt bit on a slice of toast. To people! And not to a few isolated nutters who had been at the Devil's lettuce. Well, he may have, but the evidence doesn't show he did. Anyway, what it does say is that Jesus appeared to one of his closest friends, Peter, and to the rest of his squad, and then 500 people (1 Corinthians 15: 5, 6). The recorder of this evidence would surely only have included this appearance if he was confident that these folks would confirm that they really did see Jesus alive. And when he did appear, it wasn't in a haze of dry ice. There are other appearances, too: individually, some in groups, indoors, outdoors, to soft-hearted people, and to doubters. He was seen walking, eating, talking and touching (Thomas, the doubter mentioned above, touched the place where the nails had been). So, just to be clear, Jesus died, and then came back to life, and people witnessed it.

As we think about Easter, when we remember and celebrate these things happening, what does this mean? What are the implications?

Well, there are lots of implications! Let's have a quick goosey at just one.

Jesus' death and resurrection gives us hope of life beyond the grave. The Bible is clear that trusting in Jesus to be the boss of your life means enjoying the same life he did. Oh boy, haven't we seen the need for that in the past twelve months? At

best, people don't want to get sick and miss work. At worst, people are petrified to step over the threshold of the front door or shouting at the public in queues to "stay back!" I'm not saying that just because there is life after death means you can be *blasé* with your life or health. But knowing that there is heaven coming is wonderfully liberating from fears that can surround and haunt us.



Let me be clear, a life in heaven ain't just 'pie in the sky when you die'. Trusting in Jesus means a relationship with him right here and now, and in a healthy relationship there is a desire to love and serve each other. This has numerous implications for the way we live, but mainly a longing to live how God deems best. Not because he's a terrifying cosmic finger-wagger, but because we love him and know that he loves us. Zooming out, this relationship isn't just vertical: me and God. It's horizontal: me and others that believe in Jesus. Speaking personally, I never knew my paternal grandmother. I know that she loved Jesus. Those that did know her have only kind things to say about her. She is in heaven. If I'm going there too – and I am - then one day I will get to see her and give her the hug that I'll never have been able to give her till then.

“For what I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4



N.B. Obviously for this article, I've assumed that what we find in the Bible is true. We haven't had time to look at why it's credible to take such a stance, but if you have a quick internet search for 'Alpha film series episode 6' and you'll find a 25-minute video that will give you a great introduction.

Chris Burrows



Easter Extra

Maundy Thursday:

Discover The last Supper: Video uploaded onto the CCB YouTube *children's* playlist.

Good Friday:

Good Friday Family Service: Premiered on YouTube at 10.30am Friday 2nd April.

Easter Sunday:

Big Kids Gathering: Daring Disciples, Passports and Rise and Shine will be invited to gather onto one big zoom to praise and celebrate together!

Easter Weekend:

Easter Trail by SU: Can you find all of the QR codes and unravel the easter mystery? Available throughout Easter weekend (2nd - 5th April).

Easter Craft: Collect your pack of Easter goodies to make and create over the easter holidays. Collection from box outside the hub 11am-5pm March 29th - April 1st.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES THIS EASTER

Introducing Our New – Social Media Lead



Hello, my name is Benjamin, and I am the new **Social Media Lead** for Christ Church. I am also currently working as the Garden & Outdoor Activities Coordinator for the Stables Christian Centre, in Bolnhurst.

My primary role is to communicate what goes on in the life of Christ Church Bedford through our social media platforms. Social media is not new, but it is not as challenging as some people may think. Whether you are using it or not, I believe we can all help grow this together,

whether that be simply signposting others to our pages or interacting with it.

I am excited to make a positive impact using our online platforms. This means, finding ways to make our social media platforms central to everything we do. This can be a great opportunity to reach more people and make a difference. I am keen to see as many people join me in this digital culture and help me connect with as many people as possible. My aim is to use social media to help share the Gospel with those in our online community and encourage them to engage in all of the events that Christ Church offers.

Our social media platforms are:

Facebook:

@ChristChurchBedford

Instagram:

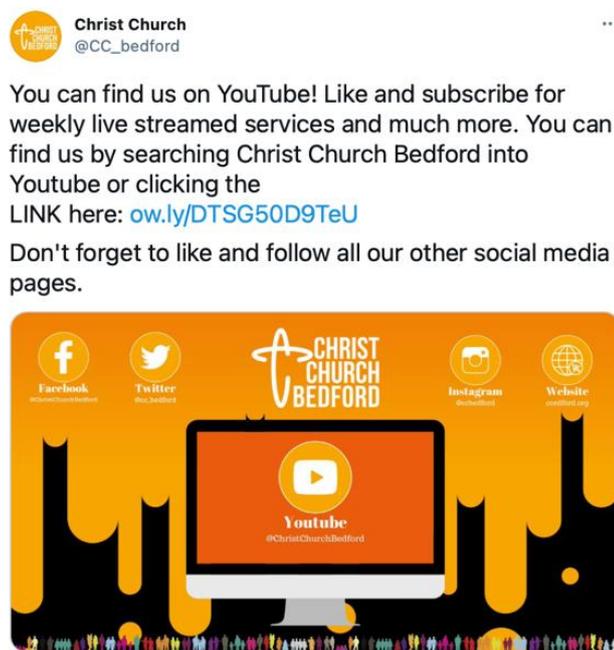
@CCBedford

Twitter:

@CC_Bedford

YouTube:

YouTube.com/c/ChristChurchBedford



If you would like me to promote things via our social media pages then please contact me at comms@ccbedford.org

Benjamin Hulme

MIG Update – YP and Jude Gayet

Jude grew up in Wootton and met YP at Cornhill Bible College. They live in Nivelles, Belgium with their 3 children: Jason 8; Mathéo 6; and Anastasya 4. They help lead a church and particularly work with the youth. This is what life has been like for them during the past few months.

On the whole, nursery and primary schools have remained open here so we feel very blessed that our children have been in 'normal' education since September. Under 12s can also continue their other activities, so they are still able to have their dance, football and tennis lessons. The boys are also learning music with YP. Jason the piano and Mathéo the violin. So, life remains busy as ever!

YP has a heavy teaching schedule this year which is all taking place in school as he teaches primary (secondary schools follow a hybrid system where the students' classes are cut in half and so they have alternate days at school / at home).

We're so thankful to see that things in the UK are looking up. We have been keeping you all in our prayers. It has been well over a year now since we have been able to go home to England, which is really tough, especially for me, Jude. We pray to be able to visit this August as we have been invited to a wedding in Belfast, but who knows... I expect they will introduce a vaccine passport, and I don't know that we'll have been vaccinated by then. Here the program is not as advanced as in the UK. For our age group vaccines are due to begin in June, but will continue through the summer. So please do pray for us to be vaccinated in time for August.

Our main prayer request at the moment is for motivation, both for us and for the church/youth/music students. Everyone is so fed up of zoom. Please pray for us to find different ways of doing things online and to be creative.

In Belgium we are blessed that we can meet outdoors in groups of four. So as a church on sunny Sunday mornings we have organised various walks/trips to parks.



The adults stay in groups of four (with masks of course) and the children all run in between. It's been a life line for the children as it's tough for them to no longer meet with others for Sunday school - for that we post material online and everyone does it within their own family. It's especially hard for only children.

For the youth we have been able to do some bible studies while walking (Deeper Dehors/Bible en Balade). This is because we are allowed up to 10 under 18s together outside provided that it is for an organised youth activity and that they have masks. The youth read the passage in advance and then we discuss it while walking. We get a take away hot drink along the way.

At half term we were also allowed to have an outdoor activity of up to 25 under 18s. So, each Belgian club held a different activity (Charleroi, Wavre, Brussels and Nivelles). We did a photo scavenger hunt which is where you give a large list of photos around town to take with your group. You get points for being funny or creative. It was a great afternoon that culminated at Mcdonald's. Give thanks that two new young people came along and pray for them to come to a zoom. Please pray for all the young people, some of whom attend regularly, some of whom we see rarely, especially since everything went on zoom.



Online we have found many games useful such as: Scribble, Among Us, Times Up! Party, Gartic Phone, and Netflix Party. Please give thanks for such online games and pray for us to find others that will motivate the young people to attend zoom meetings. Pray for us to be creative in our messages too. Last week we filmed our message as a sketch and showed it at the zoom which went well.

Lots of love and prayers to all of you! Thank you so so much for your precious prayer and financial support.

YP and Jude Gayet



Ladies ELEVENSES Time

On a wet Saturday morning in March what better than to meet for a virtual coffee and chat with 47 other ladies and to listen to an inspiring talk!

This was the first time that ladies had met since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, and although not able to meet in person, we truly valued the time that we were able to spend together via zoom.

Our speaker, **Claire Coggan** worships at the King's Arms and has been an integral part of many teams for ministry trips, courses and conferences. She is the author of "**GO: Everyday stories of Stopping to Love**" and is passionate about seeing believers stepping into their primary calling: to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God wherever they go.

In her book and in her talk to us, Claire expresses how everyday God wants us to show people his perfect love and that the amazing thing is – He has chosen to use people like us to show and tell them.

Comments from those who attended included:

"What a lovely morning, beginning to feel reconnected to everyone after this awful year!! Deep thanks to everyone in making it happen!! Can't wait to walk into church again"

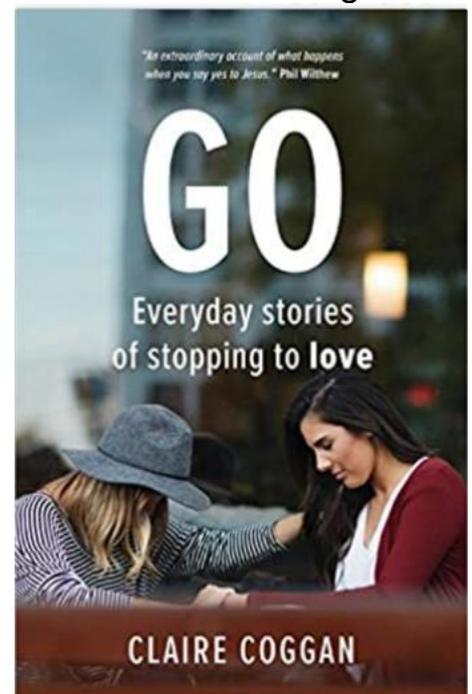
"Wasn't it a lovely time yesterday. Claire is truly an inspiration isn't she, yet down to earth and we had such a good number of ladies joining us"

"A wonderful talk and a great occasion."

"I want to say thanks so much for organising the Ladies Elevenses it was really good to gather together and to hear ways we can share Jesus in our everyday lives so naturally supernaturally as Claire shared."

Thank you, Claire for sharing with us! We were challenged and encouraged by your talk to step out in faith for God.

Ladies, look out in the notices for future Ladies events being advertised.



LADIES – A LET Easter social to look forward to:

Our next “Ladies ELEVENSES Time” is to be on **Saturday 3rd April at 11.00am** for an Easter-time social. This will be another opportunity to see, chat and get to know others in small groups. Bring a drink & if you have something you'd like to share, please have it ready with you to show, read or recite in your group ... Things special to you! (e.g. Something that blessed you, or you crafted, wrote, read or a picture.)

Watch out for the Zoom link or details for dialling in by phone in the CCB Notice Sheet!



Our theme for 2021 is ‘Unrivalled: Why we worship’ and we’ll be exploring why we worship which starts with who we worship. Every new challenge we face brings a new opportunity to tune into God and join in with his mission. Whatever comes our way, our God is unchanged, our God is unshakeable, our God is Unrivalled and we will worship him. It’s the perfect time to consider how and where we worship, whether on our own, together, all the time and everywhere, in singing, in silence, in service and in the soundscape of our whole lives. If we need to discover some different ways of worshipping together, we will!

Spring Harvest Home is far more than online teaching and worship. We're using a new platform to create the **first Christian event of its kind in the UK**. It's exciting, engaging, interactive, family-friendly and a brilliant shared experience! We're hopeful it will encourage you to worship, learn and laugh with fellow guests, ask questions and join discussions.

Tickets: A ticket is **just £55** to access Spring Harvest Home on two devices (laptop, desktop or smartphone) this year. However, with our **£75 Spring Harvest Home 21 Plus ticket**, you'll be able to watch on three devices and can take advantage of a unique offer: a one-year subscription to EC-GO as part of the deal.

Tickets for *Spring Harvest Home* are available now! We'd love for you to join us **4th to 8th April**, so please visit <https://springharvest.org/springharvesthome21> to book your place to access all the brilliant content online, both live and on demand.



SHANE CLAIBORNE	RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY	SIM DENDY	NICK & BECKY DRAKE	ABBY GUINNESS	CATHY MADAVAN		
MOJTABA	HELEN MORRIS	MUYIWA OLERAWAJU OBE	SETH PINNOCK	GLENN PACKIAM	CRIS ROGERS	JO SAXTON	
BEATRICE SMITH	RUTH VALERIO	SARAH WHITTLESTON	DOUG WILLIAMS	PETER WILLIAMS	YEMI ADEDEJI		
DR JOHN ANDREWS	JUSTIN BRIERLEY	OSCAR DANLADI	BECKY DENHARDER	DAVID DORRICOTT	SCOTT ERICKSON		
NICOLA GERRARD	DAN GOWER	MICHELE GUINNESS	PETER GUINNESS	CLAIRE GRANT	DEBRA GREEN OBE	GARETH HILLIER	HOLYHOPE.CO.UK
LISA HOLMES	KATHARINE HILL	COUNT EVERYONE IN	STEWART MCCULLOCH	SAM MILLER	KELLY MINTER	LES MOIR	IMOGEN NAY
ANU OMIDEYI	YINKA OYEKAN	ROB PARSONS OBE	PATRICK REGAN OBE	GARETH RUSSELL	JO SAXTON	SIMON SMITH	DAI WOOLRIDGE
EMMA WORRALL	CHRIS WRIGHT	MATT YOUNG	JAMES ALADIRAN	SHELDON BANGERA	DR CHI-CHI	HEATHER CHURCHILL	
MARK GREENE	NICK & ALI HERBERT	SAM & SARA HARGREAVES	GRAHAM KENDRICK	MATT MARVANE	LUCY MHONDERA		
RACHAEL NEWHAM	LADE OLUGBEMI	NOEL ROBINSON	SINACH	SAM WARD	PAUL WESTON	ARCHBISHOP OF YORK	
LOU FELLINGHAM	LUCY GRIMBLE	TIM HUGHES & GAS STREET MUSIC	KEES KRAAYENOORD	ELLE LIMEBEAR	MARTIN SMITH		
HELEN YOUSAF	MUYIWA OLERAWAJU OBE	ARINOLA	HARRY & CHRIS	TIM VINE & JOHN ARCHER	MILTON JONES		
PAUL KERENSA	JONATHAN VEIRA	RIVERSIDE PERFORMING ARTS	SAM BLAKE	JOANNA ADEYINKA-BURFORD	AWESOME CUTLERY		
RISE THEATRE COMPANY	JOE FISHER	BOB HARTMAN	LIFESPING	CHEEKY PANDAS	GOD ROCKS	BRYONY BAKER	
SARAH BENNETT	PHIL KNOX	DAN RANDALL					

ec essential christian presents

SPRING HARVEST 4TH-8TH APRIL

Home 21

FULL LINE-UP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Open Doors

CHRISTIAN QUIZMASTER!

KIDS AND YOUTH Q+A SERIES

This spring we have been able to offer children and youth in the Christ Church community the chance to ask an amazing panel of specialists questions about topics such as people matters, the environment and the Bible. We are so thankful to the willing volunteers who also took a seat on the question panel for Quizmaster without knowing the questions in advance.

Here is a bit more about the special guests who the children were so excited to interview.



Rev Alex Brown was answering questions about one of his favourite topics 'the environment'. Rev Alex grew up in Bedfordshire, and then moved to the Isle of Man way, way, way back in 1997. He leads a church called "pioneer", where we meet God whilst wading through rivers, or sitting under tarpaulins in the early evening, with lanterns all around us, or on beaches cooking fish over an open fire, or pegging it around forests.



Sam Lomas was answering the youth's tricky questions about The Bible. Sam is Assistant minister for St Patrick's Church, Wallington (South London). He decided to follow Jesus for himself at 17, going on to study BA Theology at Cliff College. He is originally from Derbyshire, enjoys long distance running, Nando's and cheesecake!



“I have a passion for seeing young people discover more about Jesus and the way He transforms hearts and minds.” **Mandey Hadley** was answering questions about caring for others. Mandey currently lives in Doncaster and works in a pre-school nursery. When she’s not at work she enjoys shopping, reading and embroidery. Mandey loves working with children and co-leads the children's work at Bawtry Community Church. Her favourite game is Uno!



Rt Rev Richard Atkinson was answering questions about friendship. Richard Atkinson has been Bishop of Bedford since 2012. He leads the Church of England in Bedfordshire and Luton. “I am passionate about the Church’s capacity to change all lives and communities for the better. I am enthusiastic to enable and equip the Church to reach out in love and service to our contemporary world, and committed to speaking up for the marginalised, poor and vulnerable.”

Ruth Hulme

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CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD

Holy Week and Easter
29th March - 4th April 2021

Monday-Wednesday 8pm
Compline via Zoom

Mundy Thursday 8pm
Holy Communion in Church and on YouTube

Good Friday 10.30am
Pre-recorded Service Premiere on YouTube

Good Friday 8pm
In Church and on YouTube

Easter Sunday 9am
Holy Communion in Church

Easter Sunday 10.30am
Holy Communion in Church and on YouTube

OUR SAVIOUR

You died upon the
Cross for me:
My praise and thanks
I give to Thee.
You suffered pain
and ridicule,
But proved You were
no reckless fool,
For now there're many
people who
Would dearly love
to be as You.

We read the story of Your life: Devoted preacher of the Word,
loyal Son to God on high;
Born to save us, Called to die.
But God the Father, up in heaven, raised You skyward near to Him
From whence You watch and wait our fate, 'til, hopefully,
we reach His gate and enter in.

We pray forgiveness
every day,
The Holy Spirit to
guide our way
Passed Satan's tempting,
evil path
Towards our
final epitaph.
A Christian's wish to
foster good;
To unite the world
in brotherhood;
To banish wrong
in every way.

We're not that perfect,
so we pray
Dear Father, Son
and Holy Ghost
Let us learn to love,
and love You most.
Creator, Rock, our Counsellor, too,
Who can save us? None, but You!

Sue Templeman



SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am and 10.30am

Wednesday & Sunday Services –

Please check ccbedford.org for Covid-19 service times



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www.ccbedford.org

**Join us at Christ Church
Denmark street, Bedford**

