



Sunday Snippets

12th January 2020

Prayer for Christian Unity

During January, we will be celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Resources to help you pray and reflect on this during the week (18-25th January) can be found on this web address: <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/WPCU-2020-English-pamphlet.pdf> In addition to this, everyone is very welcome to join in with any of these Christian-Unity focused events:

Thursday, 16th January – Year of Vision 2020 – CtiP (Churches Together in Plymouth) – 7.00pm at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

Saturday, 18th January – Liturgy for the Word with the Roman Catholic Neocatechuminate Community of Plymouth - 5.30-7.30pm at Christ Church, Estover followed by food.

Monday, 20th January – Morning Prayer in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 9.00am at St Edward’s Church, Eggbuckland followed by coffee.

Sunday, 26th January – Unity Service @ St Edward’s Church, Eggbuckland – 9.30am.

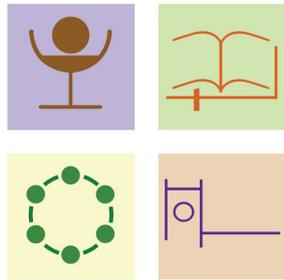
Sunday, 26th January – Unity Service @ Christ Church, Estover – 10.30am.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
**CHRISTIAN
UNITY**

Wanted – Blue Paint

We have also received a request from Sue Lake who says she is “on the scrounge for any leftover exterior blue paint.” It’s required for a project she is undertaking with the children at school. Any shade of blue will do as long as it’s suitable for outdoors.



**PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME**

Parish Giving Scheme

The start of a new year is a good time to consider how best to contribute to the expenses of maintaining our Church presence in Eggbuckland. Many of our members have now signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme which allows regular monthly payments to be made by Direct Debit, Gift Aided if appropriate. If you are interested in further details of what is a most effective but simple system of regular giving, please speak to Mandy Collins, Peter Anderson or Rev Chris.

Date to Note for Quiz

Fans

The next Christ Church Quiz Night at the Elm Centre is on Friday, 14th February commencing at 7.00pm. Further details nearer the date.



Magazine Deadline

Thank you to those contributors who have already submitted their copy for the February Parish Magazine. Those who have yet to do so are reminded that today is the deadline



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Saving the Planet

Whilst watching the local Television News this week, Janet Bettison was reminded of her participation in our last summer's church litter pick in and around the village. Janet and husband David concentrated their efforts in the immediate vicinity of the church, chip shop and Prince Maurice and were amazed at the number of cigarette ends they retrieved. What Janet says she did not know, which the TV piece highlighted, is the toxicity of 'fag ends' and the harm they can do to the environment. She therefore asks that smokers should make every effort to dispose of them in a non-harmful way. Perhaps they should imagine they are in the Plymouth City Centre where litter dropping (which includes cigarette ends) can result in a substantial on-the-spot fine.



Only Joking!

A Texan was visiting Paris for the first time. Arriving at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, he turned to his wife and said, "They're not very clever, the French. They built this gadget well over a hundred years ago and they still haven't struck oil."



Sermon Series

This month's sermons are based on the Book of Malachi. This has brought to mind the following article that the late Muriel Marshall wrote for the Parish Magazine in March, 2012 headed "Where Shall we put Malachi?"



The preacher was delivering a long, boring sermon on the Old Testament prophets; finally, he came to Malachi. "Now, where shall we put Malachi?" he asked. A weary voice came from the congregation: "He can have my seat. I'm going home."

To be serious, the mention of the last Book in the Old Testament, which is introduced as 'An Oracle, the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi', prompted me to read this Book in depth and to acquire some knowledge of the prophecies and of the man himself. Little is known of Malachi. It is believed he lived around 455 BC and to quote from Unger's Bible Dictionary, "A Persian Governor was in authority in Jerusalem." The Temple had just been completed, religious zeal had waned, personal piety of the priests had degenerated, foreign marriages flourished.

The prophet's concern is to remind priests of their unfaithfulness and to renew their covenant with God. There is much laxity, immorality and corruption and God is displeased with the inferior altar sacrifices, thus giving Him second best but the Lord will come to judge His people. He will show his mercy by sending a messenger, he Elijah, to prepare the way.

So our God is true and just. His mercy is everlasting but we cannot treat His as second best and with contempt. We remember the words He spoke to Moses. He commanded, "Thou shall have no other gods before me – for I the Lord God am a jealous God."

So where do we put Malachi? I find the Book challenging with the word of the Lord to Israel as spoken through Malachi very clearly and concisely written with great sensibility and easy to read. It seems to me to be very relevant at this present time, when so many neglect to hear our Father's 'voice' and turn from Him, refusing His truth and love to worship false idols.

Muriel Marshall