

THE NORTH

*Living like Jesus,
advancing God's
kingdom*

2023





CHRIST CHURCH EXMOUTH

29 North St. Exmouth, EX8 1JZ

<https://christchurchexmouth.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchexmouth>

Weekly Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/604716d954c4/newsletter>

BANK DETAILS

Christ Church Exmouth

Sort Code 40 20 32

Account No 41528688

<https://www.give.net/christchurchexmouth/>

Minister: Bishop Josep Rossello

Leadership Team: Bishop Josep, Laura Empson, Simon Pike and Patrice Rossello.

Church Council: Bishop Josep, Julia Lowrie (Minister's Warden), Jon Liggins (People's Warden), Maggie Liggins and Simon Pike.

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK
CHRIST'S POWER OVER EVERY NEED.

NEW SERIES

In the coming months Christ Church will be studying Mark's gospel on Sunday. Mark's gospel contains much wisdom and teaching that is relevant to the Church today; not only for new Christians, but also for those who have been a disciple

of Jesus for a season or a long time.

Justin Harris, senior pastor of Faith Bible Church in Naples, Florida, provides three compelling arguments for preaching on Mark's gospel.

<https://www.9marks.org/article/gospelofmark/>

SEEKING CHRISTIAN WRITERS

If you believe you have a writing gift and are engaged with the Purpose, Vision, Mission and Core Values as well as the doctrines of Christ Church, we are searching for authors to participate in a variety of projects, such as writing for "The North" newsletter or Christian devotionals for Advent and Lent. If you want to pursue this calling. Please get in touch with Bishop Josep.

Living like Jesus

Being a disciple of Jesus involves holding to the following basic beliefs and lifestyle.

First, we confess Jesus Christ as our Saviour and repent of our lifestyle, worldly opinions, and wicked ways, knowing that we are forgiven, loved, and accepted by the Father in Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit. We become part of a local congregation of disciples via *Holy Baptism*, and we celebrate our spiritual unity through the *Lord's Supper*.

Second, we belong to our Saviour. Following the *Lord* entails living like Jesus. How do we live as Jesus taught us to? Simply said, we live like Jesus when we obey what Jesus said and do God's will, just as He did. By doing so, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as our *Lord*.

Salvation is not the end of the Christian life; rather, it is the beginning, just as our natural birth is not the end, but only the beginning. Yes, we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (*justification*); nevertheless, this is not licence to do anything we choose.

Conversion is the reality that we change our life's directions and priorities. Jesus calls us to be in the world but not of the world, which means that our lives will be set aside (*holiness*) and we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world, a city on a hill.

It is now more vital than ever to distinguish ourselves by refusing to enter the large gate that the world takes, which leads only to sadness and hopelessness, and instead trying to travel the small path that Jesus and the early Church took.

In fact, figuring out how to live like Jesus Christ isn't always as simple as one might wish. Thankfully, there are numerous *Scriptures* that instruct us on the subject, as well as other *apostolic teaching* we can follow to help us reach the purpose—or at least attain it—of living like Jesus.

ROMANS 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then, you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Paul says not to follow the world, but to be different. Christ's disciples should look unlike everyone else. If we don't act like the world, we can also live in a way that tests and approves what God's will is. When we don't live for personal gain and selfish goals, we can live more freely for Christ and be ourselves in Christ. A good Christian saying is to live in a way that if you were ever accused of being a Christian, there would be enough proof to put you in prison.

EPHESIANS 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

The disciples of Christ are different from the rest of the world. We should be kind, compassionate, and willing to forgive. We look at people with love and take into account their pain, hopes, and story, etc., instead of just seeing them as tools or steps to climb to get ahead in the world. Also, the call to forgive each other is brave and shows how to live like Christ. It doesn't say to forgive them after they beg for your forgiveness and say they won't hurt you again. No, it says to forgive them as Christ forgave you. Just as we didn't deserve Christ's

forgiveness, but he gave it to us anyway, so should we forgive people who might not deserve it.

HEBREWS 13:5

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

People all over the world are unhappy. In fact, the whole point of advertising is to make us all think that we are not happy with our lives as they are. We need a new church, car, house, job, etc. We believe that what we have isn't good enough and that we need to buy more. What the world doesn't understand is that the love of money and opportunities only wears us out and keeps us from doing what we should be doing, which is serving God every day by living like Jesus. So, one way to answer the question, "How do I live like Jesus?" is to be happy and satisfied today.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

This passage describes how the entire Bible is beneficial in training us to live for Christ and preparing us for the process. The process of learning how to live for Christ after salvation is not instantaneous. Instead, it is a life-long process in which we learn

more and more about what it means to serve Christ with our lives on a daily basis.

Everything is summed up in the simple idea that learning how to *live like Jesus* isn't easy, but it's worth it.

Advancing God's Kingdom

God's kingdom is God's dominion, rule and reign—a fact that, when fully understood and embraced on a daily basis, may transform our life.

It is so important that when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He first instructed them to pray for the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 6:10). In fact, Christ has brought the Kingdom of God to the world. The Gospel is full of Christ's emphasis that His coming brings the Kingdom of God to men. It is not of this world, as it is the visible community of Christ's disciples living in communion with God, the Trinity. For that reason, the Church is the visible manifestation of God's kingdom on earth.

THE KING WE ALL NEED

Jesus is the promised Messiah to

Israel, the anointed King of God. He is both Saviour and Lord of Heaven and Earth. God fulfilled the promise He made to Abraham, David and the fathers of Israel through Jesus. He is seated next to His father's throne, at God's right hand in Heaven; the place of all authority, dominion, and power. Today, he reigns over governments and nations as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Christ, the Almighty Lord, is building His Church (the house of God and the restored house of David) to be a living demonstration of life under Christ's government and the instrument of His kingdom purpose to disciple all nations and fill the earth with the glory of God the Father.

For that reason, Jesus is the King we all need. He is not an indifferent king,

nor is He a brutal tyrant. Jesus is the perfect King, ruling with authentic love and divine justice. He is a wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:2-7).

THE HOPE OF ALL THE WORLD

The world is divided and at odds, and even the Church has lost its way. There is yet hope since the Lord has promised to retain a holy remnant until the coming unlimited revival.

The earth is the Lord's, and all cities and nations belong to the King and His Church. Before the Lord appears on the last day, the Church shall possess the cities and nations, filling the earth with the glory of God. However, in order for this to happen, the Church of God must be reformed and revived so that it can function as one Body, a Holy Nation and Kingdom of Priests.

Jesus is both a Saviour and a King who can save us and rescue us from the kingdom of darkness. His dominion and authority are marked by peace, healing, justice, and righteousness. What the world needs right now is an encounter with Jesus and the faith that it will be redeemed when His kingdom fully manifests.

TO REDEEM THE WORLD

Our salvation is more than a free ticket to heaven or a pass to a nice life. While Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided us with eternal life and the hope of a fulfilled life, He also called us from darkness to light in order for us to declare His greatness to the world (1 Peter 2:9).

For this reason, God invites us to join Him in His purpose to redeem the world by advancing His kingdom.

We fulfil His purpose when we preach the Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus and His apostles; baptise in the name of the Trinity all the households that receive the Gospel; impart the gift of the Holy Spirit to them through the laying on of hands; teach them to obey everything that Jesus commanded the apostles; establish local congregations in every locality, and raise God's government on the Church through councils and bishops and presbyters, not only locally, but regionally, nationally, and internationally.

We have witnessed throughout history how Christ's disciples, driven by a desire to overcome the evil and advance God's kingdom, have

changed society and kingdoms. Slavery was abolished, injustice was combated, hospitals and orphanages were established, unborn babies were rescued, families were restored, and the Kingdom of God was made visible. We've seen the gospel demonstrated as the Church advance God's kingdom, preaching the gospel for the redemption of the world and the discipleship of nations.

Today, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is now our turn, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to defeat our own giants and effectively advance God's kingdom in the midst of this current darkness.

We are ambassadors of His kingdom on earth. Let us live like Jesus and advance God's kingdom.

Ukraine Mission

In October 2023, the next mission trip to Ukraine will take place. We intend to bring a team with us. In order to have a lasting impact on the churches in Ukraine, we believe that a variety of ministry areas are vital.

- Mission among the children and youth, i.e., football and food.
- Mission among women, i.e., fellowship and biblical teaching.
- Mission among pastors: a pastors' conference.

If missions is an area in which you would like to be active, you may join us this year, not only to Ukraine but also to other countries. Please consider carefully taking a step of faith. Come and have a chat with Bishop Josep.

Please, do not allow money to prevent you from carrying out God's will. When we act in faith, money follows our vision and mission. We are committed to find creative ways to help those that may have limited resources.

126 Years Ago

Christ Church, Exmouth, was founded 126 years ago in the hearts of a few devout Christians. That is usually the beginning of any work of the Holy Spirit. He grasps some of God's servant(s), discloses the need to them, tells them how that need might be met, and then uses them as instruments in His hand to carry out His purpose. As was the case with Christ Church. It was born in prayer. Its origin was the work of the Holy Spirit in response to a profound need, and it has remained so throughout its existence, from its beginning to the present. It has witnessed much of the work of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling His purpose of blessing Exmouth and beyond, which is its sphere of witness and influence.

In 1895, a group of faithful evangelical members of the Church of England met to discuss the difficult situation produced by the growth in ritualistic practises and unbiblical innovations in the local Parish Church. When neither the Vicar nor the Bishop listened to their request, they felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to establish a church able to hold firm the faithful Word and

biblical worship. They wrote to Bishop P. X. Eldridge, Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the United Kingdom, with this intention.

On April 10th, 1896, they assembled in the Assembly Room of the Beacon Hotel as the Lord led them. It was an energetic assembly inspired by the Holy Spirit, and a new church, Christ Church, was born. Then, it was called Holy Trinity REC.

Public Services began in the Public Hall (now the Savoy Cinema). In the same year, the Wesleyan Methodist grew Christ Church (est. 1872), Holy Trinity REC purchased the church and became Christ Church.

Bishop Eldridge consecrated Christ Church on January 22, 1897, and the Rev. G.J. Lascell was appointed as its minister. The powerful appeal to the unbelievers to come to Christ was a remarkable aspect of this first service. The first minister stayed for six years, during which time the spirit-filled pastor cared for the flock and created a strong church and centre of evangelical witnessing.

The record shows that of the 252 sittings in the church, 238 were taken within three months of the church's opening, while not a single sitting in the gallery went unoccupied. As a result, the church approved the building's expansion a year after the founding meeting.

The first year was a great time of testing, of faith trials, and of witnessing the Lord, like He did in the early Church, add to the church on a daily basis. We read in the Vestry (Church Council) Minutes that we have "great thanks to Almighty God for the blessing which has been granted to the congregation in the establishment of this church."

The church was growing all the time. Extra seats had to be fixed to the pew ends in 1903, and extra chairs were bought for the majority of the services. It is stated that in those days, it was necessary to get to church early in order to obtain your usual place. Christ Church continued to grow constantly. In 1903, extra seats had to be fixed to the pew ends, while extra chairs were bought in for most of the services. It is said of those days that it was necessary to come to church early in order to secure your accustomed seat. Christ Church grew to 400 communicant members,

accounting for about 5% of Exmouth's population at the time.

Christ Church was founded on revival. It has witnessed the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout its history, the Gospel which is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes and confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Such purpose has been carried on through a passion for foreign missions, as seen by Christ Church's early establishment of a Mission Society.

God has blessed Christ Church with faithful disciples who have remained true to the Lord no matter what. They are too numerous to name, yet it is through these, God's workers, that the church's witness has been preserved over the last 126 years. Throughout its history the church has witnessed much of the tide's ebb and flow. There have been times when the enemy of the church has struck us, but in every trial God has had the servant of His choosing who has been used by the Lord to give wise counsel and spiritual guidance through which His will has been made known. We thank God for His favour.

We honour those who have made possible Christ Church's witness

beyond Exmouth, and God's mission has been carried out to numerous people of the world (Jews, China, Africa, the UK, India, Malawi, USA, Spain, among others) since the beginning.

Our story reveals that every activity and manifestation of the church's life and witness has been the ongoing ministry of prayer. There have been those who have prayed the prayer of faith during weekly services, children's work, missionary activities, and work among young people. From the first day till now, the work has been started in prayer and has been continued in answer to prayer, and all the unknown days that lie ahead will be fruitful for His glory as the church family spends much time at the Throne of Grace.

So, in this year that God has brought us, we raise our Ebenezer and sing Hallelujah to Him Who is "capable of making all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work."

This article was based by previous work by Rev E. J Maddock and Rev Richard Allen.

THE MARKS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church has developed various historic traits over the years. Those are spiritual marks of God's purpose for this church family. It is clear by exploring, reading, and studying the history of Christ Church.

- The gospel of Jesus Christ, which sets people free.
- An unwavering commitment to evangelical beliefs.
- An openness to the Spirit and a longing for a spirit-filled church.
- Prayer has always been at the centre.
- A simple and biblical form of worship.
- An evangelical zeal for salvation.
- A heart for young people and children.
- A passion to do missionary work both locally and globally.
- Being faithful spiritual witness, even in the midst of new and unprecedented crisis.

May He keep us in wisdom and strength, and may He use us mightily in the days ahead... till the Lord comes.

THE MINISTERS

OF CHRIST CHURCH OVER THE YEARS

1897 – 1903	The Rev. Geo J. Lascell
1903 – 1910	The Rev. H. S. Gregory, M.A.
1911 – 1921	The Rev. W. Houghton, B.D.
1921 – 1928	The Rev D. Robinson, M.A.
1928 – 1936	The Rev Philip H Scott
1937 – 1944	The Rev F H Easton
1944 – 1948	The Rev Eric John Maddock
1948 – 1957	The Rev William C Watkins
1958 – 1966	The Rev Gordon Roberts
1966 – 1971	The Rev Arthur Ward
1971 – 1979	The Rev WE Smyth
1979 – 1981	The Rev Michael Collins
1981 – 1993	The Rev David Page
1993 – 2003	The Rev Richard Allen
2003 – 2004	The Rev Kevin Stuart Banks
2005 – 2011	The Rev John Graver
2012 – 2016	Russell Fenn
April 2019	Bishop Josep M. Rosello-Ferrer

Let the presbyters who rule well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 5:17)