

**Reverend Lotwina Farodoye**

**Sermon for Christ the King Sunday**

**“A King Like No Other”**

*Colossians 1:11–20 & Luke 23:33–43*

**May I speak in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit  
Amen.**

**Introduction: The Umbrella Anecdote**

There's a village suffering a long drought. The vicar called a prayer meeting to ask God for rain. Everyone prayed... but only **one little girl** brought an umbrella. She had faith, she expected the rain to come even though no one could see it yet, and came prepared, she was the first ready to dance in the rain when it came.

On **Christ the King Sunday**, as we come to the end of the liturgical year in the Anglican Christian calendar and the dawn of the new liturgical year as advent begins next week, we are reminded that Christ is the King above every power and authority. Like that little girl, we are called to prepare, to step into the future God is bringing, with faith, hope, love and action.

---

**1. Christ is A King Who Strengthens His People**

Just as that little girl was ready with her umbrella, we too are called to prepare for the life Christ wants to give us. Paul in our Colossians reading, reminds us that our King strengthens us “with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.”

Christ equips us to face challenges, to persevere, and to live boldly as His people. The umbrella wasn't the rain itself, it was a sign of hope, trust in God, faith, expectation and preparedness. In the same way, Christ's power strengthens us to persevere, to take action, and rejoice, even when life feels uncertain.

---

**2. Christ is The King Who Reigns From a Cross**

In our Gospel reading, Luke brings us to Calvary.  
Our King is lifted up  
not on a throne,  
but on a cross.

He forgives His enemies.  
He welcomes the criminal who turns to Him.  
He shows that true kingship is expressed in mercy, humility, and self-giving love.

This is the King we follow at Christ Church:  
a King whose authority flows from compassion,  
whose rule is shaped by grace,  
and whose kingdom welcomes all.

---

### **3. A Moment to Reflect on Our Calling as Christ Church**

Because we serve a King like this, our mission as a church flows from His heart.

Last year we held a Vision and Mission Action Planning Day, and many of you were part of that conversation. We also sent out questionnaires to capture everyone in the congregation's views concerning the type of church that we aspire to be.

Together we reflected on a simple but vital question:

#### **Who is Christ calling us to become in the next five years?**

We discussed being a growing church, a church centred on worship and prayer, a church with a vibrant children's and youth ministry, and a vibrant music scene, a church with sustainable eco practices and sustainable finances, and a church where everyone feels welcomed and valued.

To help us move toward these hopes, we identified

**Eight key mission areas**, and teams dedicated to shaping the future God is calling us into.

As we mark the end of the Anglican Christian calendar today, this is a fitting moment to give thanks for progress and to renew our shared sense of purpose. We have been very busy behind the scenes across our key areas. I would like to express my thanks to all of the team leaders and teams and to all involved in every way. I'm going to share a few highlights of progress. The highlights are by no means exhaustive but give a flavour of our preparations, actions and direction.

## **Our Mission Action Plan: Progress Updates**

### **1. Young People and Their Families – *Mair Rabagliati & Tish Mousell***

- Toddler group continues to thrive. Links being made to help toddler families become a part of our worshipping community eg discussions about baptisms and sharing about church events.
- Messy Church launched successfully last month with 22 children and their families in attendance.
- Taking advantage of Halloween by giving out treats and inviting families with children to Christingle and forthcoming events showing how light shines in the darkness but the darkness does not overcome it.

### **2. Outreach into the Community – *Chris Larkman***

Progress has been made in;

- Investigating how other churches are using their buildings to become salt and light in the community and what CCWW can do.
- Building relationships with Residents associations
- Building relationships with schools, charities, and community groups.
- Exploring new outreach opportunities.

### **3. Sustainability and Eco Aspects – *Lucy & Ian Christie***

Making our church practices more environmentally responsible we have made progress in;

- Maintaining our A Rocha Silver
- Reducing our carbon footprint.
- Trade Fairly every Sunday
- Developing a calendar to promote Encouraging others beyond the wall of Christ Church in environmental stewardship.

### **4. Finance (Growth and Development of Financial Base) – *John Davey***

This committee is concerned with Stewardship planning to ensure long-term sustainability.

- Thank you to all who Faithfully continue to give to CCWW via the plate, card reader or regular giving by direct debit. You help us with our much needed running costs and we were able to increase our giving to the diocesan parish support fund as requested. This funds pays for Vicars, diocesan staff, training, safeguarding e.t.c across our diocese.
- Going forward we aim to explore grants and external funding for future projects.
- Special thanks to the families of Shirley Turner, and Martin Evans whose generous legacies will enable us to undertake some wonderful projects to help CCWW be salt and light in our community.

#### **5. Communications (Internal and External) – Naomi Lowe**

We continue to work hard in the following areas;

- Improved website, notices, and social media.
- Better tools to keep the congregation informed.
- Working toward unified messaging across all platforms.
- A weekly letter to all on the mailing list

#### **6. Welcome, Meeting and Greeting – Pat Spencer**

- New welcome materials and signage make the church more inviting.
- Hospitality teams offering warmth and care.
- Developing pathways for newcomers to connect fully.

#### **7. Liturgy, Discipleship, and CCWW Ethos – Lotwina Farodoye**

- Worship and liturgical life nurturing spiritual growth.
- Exploring new discipleship initiatives and study opportunities. We ran a lent course that was well received and bible studies continue to take place regularly.
- Ensuring activities reflect the ethos and values of Christ Church. We have updated the liturgy for our all age service making it shorter with just the gospel reading and more child friendly.

#### **8. Music and the Musical Life of CCWW – Roelof Temmingh & Sarah Hannaford**

- After a year of recruiting and interviewing 10 different people, we finally found our wonderful director of Music Roelof Temmingh.
- Music remains central to worship and community life.
- Planning initiatives to enrich the musical experience for all ages and involve children in all age services with regard to music and bell ringing.
- Revitalizing choir and instrumental programmes.
- We aim to put on concerts going forward and have begun to build a plinth to enable the piano to be central for this purpose.

### **4. Citizens of His Kingdom**

As we continue our Mission Action Plan and move into a new Christian year, we do so knowing that Christ is the King above every power and authority. He strengthens us, guides us, and goes before us.

Like the little girl with her umbrella, we are called to step forward with hope, ready to embrace all that God is sending our way. Christ equips us to dance in the rain, to serve with joy, and to grow as a community that worships, welcomes, and makes a difference.

May we follow Him faithfully.

May our plans and hopes align with His will.

And may Christ Church become ever more the community He is calling us to be a place of welcome, worship, courage, compassion, and joy. **Amen.**