

NEWS & CHAT - Thursday 27 August 2020

Welcome to the joint weekly newsletter of Christ Church and the Bridgwater Drive Church.

Sunday 30 August, will be our first attempt at a service on Zoom! **It will start at 9.45 to give people time to say hello and arrive by 10am.** The written service will go out with this N&C. If you are planning to join the Zoom service please print out the service or have it on your computer screen handy, so you can follow along. The first two paragraphs are instructions only and do not form part of the service! The link to join is here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82953665518>

It will be sent out again on Saturday or Sunday. You do not need to have Zoom installed, you simply click on the link, or copy and paste it into your internet browser. **If you want to call in from a landline, these numbers are given: 0203 9017895, 0203 0512874, 0203 4815237, 0203 4815240**

These are all London area numbers and **will only be free if you have unlimited UK calls** on your telephone plan, otherwise you will be charged whatever your UK phone rate is. **There may be a time delay, so it may not be too satisfactory!**

I am afraid that those of you who have been receiving a CD of the service won't get one for this Sunday – Zoom can only be recorded as it happens, and it is rather complicated to then make that recording into an audio file. I am also sorry to say that we had hoped that some people who are not online at home could go to Christ Church to watch the service on the screen there, but we tried it and unfortunately the church internet connection is not good enough for that. We are working on what can be done to fix it. For now, **CC** people – if you are not online and want to join in (rather than only reading the written version) try calling the phone numbers above, or perhaps you could go to the house of a friend or family member to watch.

BDC those of you not online, please go to the church at 10am, and I will be there to project the service on the screen (we tried it last week and it works!) **Please let Margaret know if you plan to attend so we do not exceed our number limit.** We are still 2m apart and you will need to wear face coverings, and not sing.

This is partly a trial for **25 October** when we will have a Zoom meeting with Ruth Wilde, National Coordinator of Inclusive Church, following her sermon on 18 October. Doing services by Zoom is actually quite complicated and not completely inclusive (it may be a technological step too far for many), so I do not anticipate making this a regular occurrence, but we will see what feedback we get – it might be something we want to do occasionally. It will be nice to see a number of faces rather than speaking to a phone!

A reminder that Sunday 6 September is Climate Sunday.



A reminder that Holiday Club – The Great Bread Bake material from Synod, is still available online until the end of this week.

New: Music – Gerald, and usually two colleagues, is playing the organ at Christ Church every Wednesday lunch time from about 1pm if anyone would like to drop in to listen for a while.

Tuesday Church, 10.30am EVERY Tuesday at the Bridgwater Drive Church, for a time of prayer and reflection, led by the Minister

Thursday Church, 10.30am EVERY Thursday at Christ Church. This week **27 August, Bible Study led by the Minister**, next week **3 September, Space for Prayer led by Jean.**

This coming weekend, **29-30 August** should have been **Greenbelt**. This is now taking place online – “Wild at Home”. You need to buy tickets to watch, £10 for both days, at <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/wild-at-home/>. This will include music, comedy, debate and a communion picnic at Sunday lunch time.

CC folk, please remember – this week is your last opportunity to bring/send your coins for the Lent Appeal. The money will be sent to Water Aid after 31 August, thanks!

DEVOTION

Last week on Facebook, I posted a picture of our potato plant, saying how I couldn't believe that this impressive plant had grown from one manky old potato!



A friend of mine (who is not religious, as far as I know) said – you could get a whole sermon out of that! I'm not sure I could, and I think it has been done – Parable of the Mustard Seed? But it did seem like a good metaphor for our current times.

From tiny acorns... giant oaks

From a tiny mustard seed... the Kingdom of God

From a manky old potato....

Maybe out of this strange and trying time of pandemic something new and exciting will come! (I nearly said 'bigger and better' but size isn't everything!)

TIPS & IDEAS – from 64MillionArtists

What is a problem, issue or worry you have overcome during lockdown? Use this challenge to capture the ways you dealt with your problem, and reflect on how you used your creativity to help you. Capture your story in a square. You could use any medium or material. Here's an example from the Stitch in Time Community Quilt.

"A stitch in time saves nine" – suggests a problem solved early, prevents bigger problems later on.



ECO-CHURCH & THE ENVIRONMENT

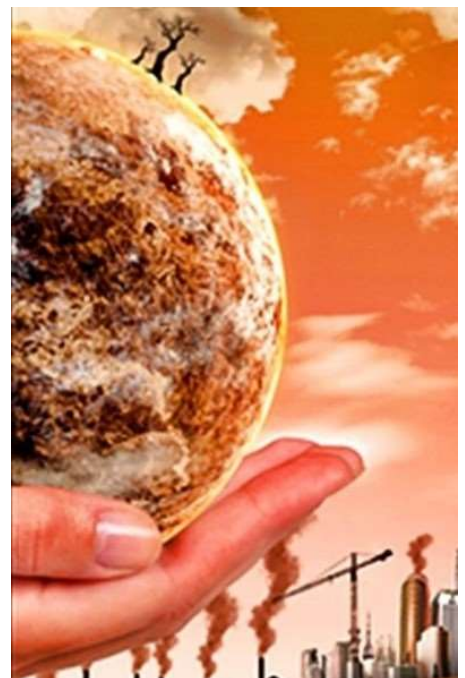
Five ways to make an impact – small lifestyle changes that could make the world more sustainable (*Money*, The Guardian, 15 August 2020). I suspect many of us are already doing some of these:

1. Buy less! Sounds obvious, but reducing your consumption is the most direct way to reduce your environmental impact. Put any savings you make in an ethical bank e.g. Triodos
2. Boycott unethical companies. e.g Amazon
3. Buy second-hand tech and clothing. I was surprised by the suggestion of second-hand technology, but each new phone or computer uses a huge amount of natural resources. Apparently, a lot of refurbished tech products are available. And/or try to make them last as long as possible rather than automatically upgrading every year or two (phones).
4. Change the way you travel (if possible) – less reliance on cars. Walk or cycle instead, public transport or car share. Obviously, this is a bit limited under pandemic restrictions, but as a general principle...
5. Reduce your meat and dairy consumption. Things like lentils and black-eyed beans are cheaper per 100g of protein than diced beef and use far less carbon to produce.

Ethical Consumer, <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/> is a great place to research ethical buying with more than 125 product guides, rating products on issues including climate impact and human rights. And a fascinating list of companies to be boycotted and why.

In anticipation of Climate Sunday, the poem *Extinction* by Jackie Kay

We closed the borders, folks, we nailed it.
No trees, no plants, no immigrants.
No foreign nurses, no Doctors; we smashed it.
We took control of our affairs. No fresh air.
No birds, no bees, no HIV, no Poles, no pollen.
No pandas, no polar bears, no ice, no dice.
No rainforests, no foraging, no France.
No frogs, no golden toads, no Harlequins.
No Greens, no Brussels, no vegetarians, no lesbians.
No carbon curbed emissions, no Co2 questions.
No lions, no tigers, no bears. No BBC picked audience.
No loony lefties, please. No politically correct classes.
No classes. No Guardian readers. No readers.
No emus, no EUs, no Eco warriors, no Euros,
No rhinos, no zebras, no burnt bras, no elephants.
We shut it down! No immigrants, no immigrants.
No sniveling-recycling-global-warming nutters.
Little man, little woman, the world is a dangerous place.
Now, pour me a pint, dear. Get out of my fracking face.



More climate change related poems here, and for if you want to hear *Extinction*, or any of the other poems being read.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/series/keep-it-in-the-ground-a-poem-a-day>

Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC)

PRAYER CORNER

I invite all of you to set aside time daily to pray for our churches and members but also for the whole nation and world. I am praying 'live' with a short devotion every day, Monday – Friday, on the Rev Naomi Facebook Page

Particular prayer requests this week:

- Della and Alan
- Sheila
- Malcolm, a friend of Di
- Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil T.
- Ernie L.
- Ernie H.
- Barbara & Richard
- Ian & Derek

We give thanks for:

Grace's birthday on the 28th

Budiriro, solar battery



Budiriro - The batteries for the borehole have now been installed and are working. So they are able to provide water to the community even when the weather is cloudy. Tatenda has also started a gardening project which he hopes will generate income. They ask us to continue to pray for them in this difficult time.

I was rather fascinated by this picture in the paper and thought it would make a great 'caption' competition. No prizes, just the glory of seeing your answer in print if you come up with the best caption!

