

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 8 April 2021

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

There will be no activities in either church building as we continue in national lockdown, including Sunday Worship which will continue online, live-streamed on the CC Facebook page, and text circulated with the weekly News & Chat.

Sunday 11 April, 10am worship with the minister on Facebook.



THANK YOU TO SUE AND JOHN for creating the Easter Cross outside Christ Church.



OTHER NEWS:

If you require a paper voting slip for the Christ Church election of Elders, please let Jean know by this Sunday (11th).

The following people have been nominated for the Eldership:

Keith Berry	Tom Collins
Barbara Burrell	Thora Ker
Jenny Collins	

Christian Aid has a new campaign for the G7 meeting in June. They are asking people to send a postcard to Boris. This link below takes you to some suggested wording and the address for the Prime Minister:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/g7-climate-finance-postcard-action>

Christian Aid Week 2021 starts on 9th May and will focus on the impact of climate change on communities in Kenya. A booklet is available which provides a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for each day of Christian Aid Week to help you focus your prayers on the climate crisis and consider how you might respond. (Naomi will be using this in her daily devotions on Facebook) If you would like a copy of the devotional booklet please call or email **Robert Dart** and he will order a supply - 01268 781258 or email robertdart@talktalk.net

TIPS & IDEAS

The Faith in Action Group (CC) hope to bring you some personal activities for environmental/ecological support in the coming weeks. This week check out lots of practical 'how to' guides like making a bee hotel, or how to attract more butterflies to your garden. <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/actions>

The Gardener's Prayer (Sept. 1933)

O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day, say from about midnight until three o'clock in the morning, but you see, it must be gentle and warm so that it can soak in; grant that at the same time it would not rain on campion, alyssum, helianthemum, lavender, and the others which you in your infinite wisdom know are drought-loving plants—I will write their names on a bit of paper if you like—and grant that the sun may shine the whole day long, but not everywhere (not, for instance, on spiraea, or on gentian, plantain lily, and rhododendron), and not too much; that there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough worms, no plant-lice and snails, no mildew, and that once a week thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven. Amen.

Karel Capek, *The Gardener's Year* (G. P. Putnam's Sons).

FOR SUNDAY

One of the readings for this Sunday is **Acts 4:32-35**. It is only 3 verses long, so you may like to read it ahead of time. I will talk about this on Sunday – Christ Church is considering becoming a partner church with the charity Acts435, named after this Bible passage. You can find out more by visiting their website: <https://acts435.org.uk/> but I'd like to share the story of one person they have helped:

Mark, a bricklayer in his 50s, found himself homeless after tennis elbow prevented him working for 3 months and he was given notice on his flat. Acts 435 were able to raise funds to equip him with a tent, a gas camping stove and a bike. Mark survived in the tent for nearly a year and was able to go back to bricklaying and eventually move back into a small flat. Acts 435 was a crucial hand-up alongside Mark's own determination to survive against the odds. Mark said, "the support has been essential in turning life round for me."



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, then shared with both church FB pages. Especially this week we pray for people speaking out about injustice.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **A different AGM.** [peaking a bit ahead of time – the AGM is on the 22nd, but it's good to pray before the event.] Much has changed for us all, but there is so much for us to look forward to as a church community. Please pray for the Lord's discernment in our decision making and God's direction for our obedience in stewarding the money, buildings, time, and talents God has given to us all, to bless both us and our wider community.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil T Sheila S

Barbara and Richard Della

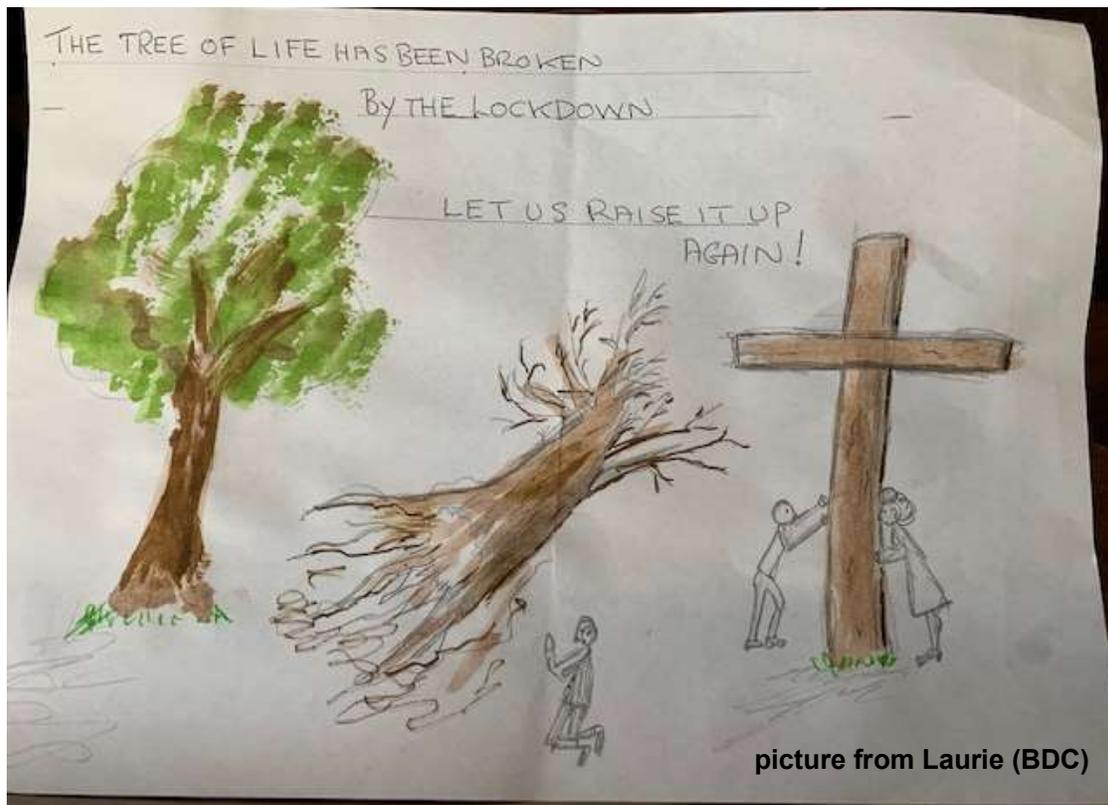
Brian, Jenny C's brother

David, Bill & Beth's son-in-law, and his wife

Yvonne, Theresa and Sonya following the death of Tony (BDC). If anyone who knew Tony would like to send memories to put together for the family, please contact Margaret.

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

Thanks: For the Easter card sent to the church by Mark and Jeannette.
To Sandy and the Messy Church team for another great Easter Messy Church.



I don't want to be a killjoy – I was looking for an amusing picture of a bunny who had eaten too many chocolate eggs - and this headline from March 20219 caught my eye:

Easter eggs being sold too early is fuelling obesity crisis, charity warns

Easter eggs can go on sale "in the first week of January", with parents and children finding it hard to resist indulging early.

The moral of the story is – nostalgia is good – don't eat a hot cross bun until Good Friday, and save your chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday!! OR, as Grace Dent the restaurant critic says more constructively talking about the hoarding that some people undertook during the pandemic:

"...full shelves haven't saved us from the sadness of Covid. Thousands of us have died and millions of us have lost our mums, our dads, our colleagues, friends and neighbours. All that frantic, sharp-elbowed shopping was really only ever a displacement activity. The virus doesn't care if its victims have got a chest freezer brimming with fish fingers or an under-stairs cubbyhole stocked up with kidney beans. It doesn't care if you have everything in to make fairy cakes. It kills people with bulging cupboards and people with hardly any food at all, and it robs others of smell, taste and appetite. If I have learned anything from the pandemic, it is that any stockpiling I have done was just a fig leaf over selfishness and existential panic, and that my needs to survive are actually pathetically minuscule..."

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One year on, as we edge towards freedom, I often think of the spare rooms, larders and cupboards across Britain still crammed with flour, rice, yeast, cooking chocolate, suet and scone mix; all those tins of processed peas and cartons of UHT that we bought to stave off a pandemic. Perhaps right now is the time for some of us to set those items free and give them to those who actually need them. I've begun sheepishly taking stuff back to the supermarket to leave in the food bank boxes. Join me!"

Full article here: <https://www.theguardian.com/food/2021/apr/02/a-lesson-from-covid-my-needs-are-pathetically-miniscule>

