

## NEWS & CHAT Thursday 1 April 2021

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

**But are there any April fools included?!**

**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.**

## HAPPY EASTER!

**Maundy Thursday** if you would like to watch last year's short (20 minutes) Tenebrae service, the link to the video is here: <https://youtu.be/0zDUAKxHijY>

**Good Friday (2 April)** - there will be a 'live' reflection/short service with the minister on Facebook at 11a.m.

### Easter Sunday (4 April):

There will be a **Zoom Easter Breakfast with Communion at 8.00am on Easter Sunday**. We will start with a time of family-friendly fellowship and sharing our breakfasts (optional!) followed by a very short service with communion. If you can't manage to get there for 8am, **do join us at 8.30am for the worship!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430618330?pwd=akVpeTdZR1E5M01UTGFuZTVPUiBSQT09>

Meeting ID: 844 3061 8330 Passcode: 166927

**Easter Sunday Worship with Communion will be at 10am live on Facebook.**

### OTHER NEWS:

**Christ Church AGM – date change** – The AGM will take place one week earlier than previously advertised, on **Thursday 22 April, at 7.30pm on Zoom**, with telephone access.

The following people have been nominated for the Eldership:

Keith Berry  
Barbara Burrell  
Jenny Collins  
Tom Collins  
Thora Ker



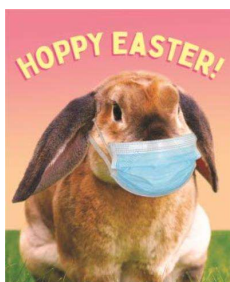
This year due to the pandemic, **all votes will be postal**. All members on the church email list will be sent a voting form with details of when to submit it by email to the Returning Officer.

Those not on email, will receive a paper voting slip to return to Jean. If you are on email, but would prefer a paper copy, **please let Jean know by 11 April**, so that she can send you one.

As in previous years, both churches are taking a **Lent collection for Water Aid's 'Jars of Change' appeal**. Now that Lent is over, please send your donations by cheque or bank transfer to Keith (CC) or Jan (BDC), or keep your coins until we can meet at church again (hopefully not too much longer).

**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>





Penny and Phil enjoying a 'virtual' coffee for the **Rayleigh Refugee Group**.

(anniversary balloons behind – still looking very happy together after 50 years of marriage!)

### Launched in the Lean-to Janet Mansbridge

Thanks to everyone who supported the **Refugee Group** by enjoying their own coffee morning at home & sending donations. Contributions received so far **total £360!**

Lean-tos have always featured in my life. The first one I remember was on the back of our bungalow in Highfield Crescent in the early 1960s. Here we kept our outgrown coach built pram, our guinea pigs, the dressing up box and a wind up gramophone with a huge brass horn and a tin of needles. Philip & I had a wooden lean-to put on the back of our bungalow in Bull Lane just before Peter was born. Here we did laundry, held parties & prepared wind fallen apples. Over time our lean-to has evolved – the original wooden frame being replaced by rendered breeze blocks & patio doors. Our current structure, painted green & filled with plants, was once rather grandly referred to as 'Janet's garden room' by the mother of one of my visiting pupils, but we prefer 'lean-to'. It means that the plants can happily co-exist with the washing machine & we don't feel too bad when it all gets rather untidy. Throughout lockdowns & restrictions Philip & I have chopped vegetables, nurtured seedlings & made additions to his model railway – all in our lean-to. We had planned to heat it up at Christmas so that Peter & Rachael could visit & have their Christmas dinner out there, socially distanced from us. But that, of course, was not possible in the end so then the lean-to looked rather forlorn, somewhere to store bulk buys & protect plants from the elements, just waiting for spring & the launch of fundraising in 2021...



## RESOURCES

A new Lent reflection from St Paul's Cathedral by Richard Springer, the Rector of St George-in-the-East, Dean of Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Ministry for the Stepney Area and Director of the Urban Leadership School at the Centre for Theology and Community.

<https://mailchi.mp/81e5bbaced77/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8248428?e=e30a1f608a>

## 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 Myanmar, and all persecuted Christians who cannot freely celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Yaaay!** The best day of all, Jesus is Risen, salvation is come for all people, for all time. Jesus – God's love in human form. Hallelujah!

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

**Particular prayer requests this week:**

Audrey	Della Bearman will be here for 2 or 3 weeks if anyone wants to send a card:
Della	Brooklands Nursing Home,
Phil and Grace	25, Lambeth Rd, Leigh on sea, SS9 5XR

David, Bill & Beth's son-in-law, and his wife  
Brian, Jenny C's brother  
Yvonne and family, on the death of her husband Tony (BDC)

**Thanks:** Ernie H thanks you for the cards he received on his 90th Birthday.

**TIPS & IDEAS**

This week's artistic challenge from The Great Big Art Exhibition. The theme for the next two weeks is **Flowers** – draw, paint, sew, crochet, or simply just plant some!

The Faith in Action Group (CC) hope to bring you some personal activities for environmental/ecological support in the coming weeks. This week three ideas from the A Rocha Wild Christian Newsletter:

**Let the signs of spring make you smile.** It has felt like the longest winter in lockdown and we are so excited for the arrival of spring! Get out and be close to creation in this season of new beginnings; take time to smell the blossom, tap a catkin, copy a bird song, find a footprint and identify spring flowers

**Take part in Earth Hour** (Saturday 27 March, 8:30pm). You can observe this year's Earth hour by switching off your lights for an hour and by signing the Voice for the Planet petition [here](#) to let world leaders know that you care about nature and that you demand urgent political action to protect our planet.

**Create an Easter Garden.** A resurrection garden is a great way to reflect upon the Easter story, remembering God's ultimate sacrifice and our eternal hope. Share your Easter garden somewhere at the front of your home to celebrate Easter Sunday with your neighbours.

**On the next page a Spring Fact Sheet from the Faith in Action Group**





### Spring Fact Sheet

The Faith in Action committee has decided to focus on a number of priority issues for 2021, one of which is the environment including climate change and more local topics. This Spring fact sheet has been produced by Elizabeth Pryor with some tips on what to look out for in your garden and further afield.

This week has seen the first real signs of spring with the beautiful sulphur yellow brimstone butterfly flying around the garden; the first newt spotted in the pond; bluetits exploring the nest boxes; bee flies and bees after the early flowering nectar plants which can be spotted on your walks in the country or even down the streets.

Flowers that might be seen in the fields or waste ground are these cheery coltsfoot, red dead nettle and celandines. whose nectar is invaluable to bees. You may be lucky enough to have them growing in your lawns or flowerbeds – they are not weeds, they are wild flowers and the bees love them and need all the help we can give them. Wildflowers are vanishing from the countryside along with the countryside itself – let's help keep its treasures.



Coltsfoot



Dead Nettle (Purple) Primula (Yellow)



Celandine



Pulmonaria (Blue with spotted leaves)

### **GARDEN FLOWERS**

Garden flowers that provide early nectar include the primulas and pulmonarias. Other good sources of nectar are provided by shrubs such as mahonia and bulbs like grape hyacinths, snowdrops, tulips and the winter/spring flowering heathers.