

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 22 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.

Pending a revised Risk Assessment and government announcements, we are hoping to re-open for Sunday Worship at Christ Church on 23 May, but we cannot confirm this until nearer the time. Bridgwater Drive would re-open at the same time.

The same rules as last time the church was open will apply:

- Social distancing, which means a capacity of around 30 people (CC) and 12 (BDC) so you will need to 'book' a place with Pat Botfield or Margaret
- Face coverings need to be worn inside
- No congregational singing
- No socialising inside the building or in the area outside the door

The Minister will be on annual leave 26 April to 9 May and attending the Synod Minister's Spring School (online) 17-19 May, so here is a summary of worship details:

Sunday 2 May – All Age, pre-recorded service led by Sandy, on Facebook at 10am

Sunday 9 May – Christian Aid Week live service led by Robert, on Facebook at 10am

We plan to hold a 'frugal' lunch on Zoom in support of Christian Aid, **12.30-1.30pm** – more details in next week's News & Chat.

Sunday 16 May live service led by Robert, on Facebook at 10am (due to Naomi being busy 3 days the following week).

Sunday 23 May – Pentecost, Communion, Ordination and Induction of Elders led by the Minister, at Christ Church and live-streamed on Facebook.

Next week there will be a short, pre-prepared News & Chat. The following week (Thursday 6 May) Phil Gendall will guest edit N&C. If you would like anything included that week, **please email Phil – phil.gendall@talktalk.net by Monday 3 May.**

NEWS:

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

Needles and Natter - We are coming back! Unfortunately, we can't meet indoors but we will meet, weather permitting, at **10.00 on Thursday May 13th in King George's Park**. We will natter near, or at, the picnic tables. I look forward to seeing you there and hearing about articles you have made during lockdown. Joyce

Tools With A Mission - As lots of people have been clearing out during the pandemic perhaps you have garden tools, sewing machines etc for this excellent organisation. If you have an item you would like to donate please contact **Wendy Norris** in the first instance and we will work out when and how items can be collected.

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TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea from #64MillionArtists - To celebrate Earth Day this Thursday 22nd April, this week's challenge is from Nature is a Human Right! An organisation dedicated to making access to green space a recognised human right, both in title and in practice.

"11 million people in the UK are living in the nation's greyest areas, with 2.7 million not having any green space within accessible walking distance. This nature deprivation has devastating impacts on people's wellbeing: mental illnesses are 40% more prevalent and life spans 2 years shorter in these grey urban areas, versus greener rural ones."

The 'challenge': The natural world and creativity go hand in hand. Just seeing the colour green has been found to boost and awaken the creative forces within us.

Nature has many forms, whether it's a potted plant in your home, a tree outside your window, a quiet park bench you always read on, or a place you don't get to visit as often as you'd like – create an image or poem that evokes why this place holds significance for you.

Today (Thursday 22 April) is **EARTH DAY**. Check out the website for ways to get involved: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

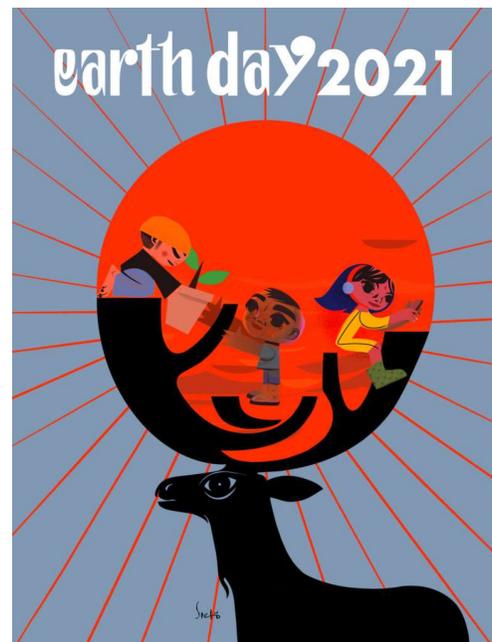
The theme this year is 'restore our earth'.

"AS THE WORLD RETURNS TO NORMAL,
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO BUSINESS-AS-USUAL.

From April 20-22, join the world's leaders for Earth Day 2021.

Together, we can prevent the coming disasters of climate change and environmental destruction."

Next week is also National Gardening Week – see more on the last page...



DEVOTION

On Sunday evening I watched *Climate Change: Ade on the Frontline* (as mentioned in last week's N&C). It showed how rising sea levels have already destroyed land and livelihoods in Bangladesh – whole villages have disappeared below water. It also showed how by 2050, less than 30 years from now, at current predictions, all of Dhaka and Bangkok in Thailand would be under water. As today is Earth Day, so we pray:

For people living with the effects of climate change now:

Leader: For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,

All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**

Leader: For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons and failed crops,

All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**

Leader: For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss and salination of vital water supplies,

All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**

Leader: For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,

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All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**

Leader: For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee

All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**

Leader: For the sake of us all,

All: **Creator God, in your mercy, recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world.**

<http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer.html>

RESOURCES

Eastertide reflections from St Paul's Cathedral by Dr Catherine Fox:

<https://mailchi.mp/585a048f10e3/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8250964?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. **There will be no daily prayer 26 April – 9 May.**

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Ministry Team.** We thank God for Naomi and our newly elected/re-elected Elders. We pray God's wisdom in their leading as we move forward into our (hopefully) post-Covid society and the future ministry and mission the Lord has for us in our community.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Barbara and Richard

Della

Irene

Brian, Jenny C's brother

Kerry M's brother and their family - especially Baby Joshua who is 4 months old and severely brain damaged due to Strep. B meningitis.

Bob H (BDC)



As Sunday is 'Good Shepherd' Sunday, a few gratuitous sheep and shepherd pictures!!



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'ECO CHAT' April 2021 Issue – on behalf of the Faith in Action Committee

April 26th – May 2nd 2021 is National Gardening Week.

This year National Gardening Week is encouraging everyone to get a daily dose of 'green' as, over the past year, it has been seen just how important gardens, green spaces and nature are to our mental and physical well-being.

www.rhs.org.uk/nationalgardeningweek

Not only did God create all these lovely plants, trees and birds for us to enjoy being among for our sensory delights of touch, sound, sight, smell and taste, he created the beetles and insects that help to keep the garden healthy and pollinate the plants and assist in their dispersal. It is up to us to care for them as well by being careful with use of pesticides and insecticides.

Beetles need our help as their numbers are greatly reduced and they play a vital role in the ecology of the garden and countryside. There are more than 4,000 species of British beetles; more than half are predatory, consuming vast quantities of invertebrates – many of which eat plants. Log and stone piles, heaps of dead vegetation and lots of plants give more beetle habitats.

For more information visit www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

Another serious aspect for gardeners to think about is the use of peat. The degradation of peat bogs is causing serious damage to the climate and horticultural use is the biggest factor.

Beneath the surface of a peat bog there lies a huge store of trapped carbon, which has been laid down over millenia. The water in the bog keeps that carbon in, but as soon as peat begins to drain – for use in compost or for farming – it begins to oxidise and this carbon starts to be released. Peatlands just in England are currently highly degraded and are emitting approximately 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents annually, significantly contributing to climate change.

As well as the impact on the nation's carbon footprint, restoring peat bogs is crucial for mitigating floods (bogs soak up rainfall, releasing it slowly), and they are important habitats for rare plants and animals. As bogs grow, the plants take in more carbon from the atmosphere and store it. Provided they are waterlogged, bogs are carbon 'sinks' so healthy bogs help mitigate climate change.

(For more information see: Want to know about peat bogs community.rspb.org.uk)



*Delicate flowering Butterwort
– insectivorous bog plant*

All these plants, flowers, insects, beetles, peat bogs, carbon sinks, are all part of God's creation and need our care.

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the lord god made them all.*

He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell,

how great is God almighty who has made all things well.