

## NEWS & CHAT Thursday 27 May 2021

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

**Both churches are now open for Sunday Worship, with restrictions. While the online service will remain 'joint' each church will have its own service as pre-pandemic. For the foreseeable future, the online service will be live-streamed from the church where the minister is leading, but always on the Christ Church Facebook page as it has been from March 2020.**

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

- Social distancing, which means a capacity of around 30 people (CC) and 12 (BDC). Please 'book' a place with Pat Botfield (01245 320212, pat.botfield@btinternet.com) or Margaret.
- Face coverings need to be worn inside
- No congregational singing
- No socialising in groups of more than 6 inside the building or in the area outside the door

**Sunday 30 May**, the Minister will lead the service at Bridgwater Drive, where it will be Communion, and the service will be live-streamed from there on the Christ Church Facebook page (as usual BUT **at 10.30am**). Joyce will lead the service at Christ Church (not Communion).

**Sunday 6 June** (Environment Day) the Minister will lead the service at Christ Church and the service will be live-streamed from there at 10am. Margaret will lead the service at Bridgwater Drive at 10.30am.

### NEWS:

Please contact Sandy (07511 950633 or email) if you would like to help out with the **Baby and Toddler Group** which has started on Monday mornings.

**Helen and Robert are walking 300,000 steps in May to raise funds for Christian Aid.** If you would like to donate, please go onto the just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robert-dart1> or contact them if you are not online. They have now walked 260,678 steps and raised £160 so far.

### The Big Knit is back!

Two years ago we took part in the Innocent and AgeUK big knit. We made small pompom hats for Innocent drinks and money was raised for AgeUK. They are asking us to knit or crochet more of these for a new campaign. Patterns can be found at [www.thebigknit.co.uk](http://www.thebigknit.co.uk). No internet – no problem just contact me and I will get a pattern to you. Joyce

### Tearfund Day of Prayer for the Environment:

To mark World Environment Day Tearfund are inviting people to join in a national day of prayer.

**Prayer in the Park is a prayer event uniting people and churches across the UK as we celebrate the beauty of God's world, repent for the damage we've done, and seek God's heart for a sustainable future.** Just days after the event, world leaders will meet for the G7 summit in Cornwall to discuss how to build back better from the coronavirus pandemic and create a greener and fairer future for all. And in November, world leaders will gather for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to discuss how to tackle the climate crisis.



Decisions made at these gatherings will affect us all, now and for generations to come – especially those living in the poorest communities across the world, who are already being disproportionately affected by climate change.

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

**You can take part in Prayer in the Park by going out into nature to pray in a local green space, beach, or park on Saturday, June 5.** Do whatever works for you – whether that's sitting in your garden or going on an adventurous hike, praying alone or with others (making sure to follow coronavirus restrictions). If you would like to use their resources for the day, you can download them here:

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign/prayer-for-the-climate/prayer-in-the-park>

## TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea from #64MillionArtists is provided by again by the mental health charity CALM:

**The Museum of Us:** What are the objects and artefacts that you would find in a museum about you? What are the moments and stories those things capture? How might those objects, memories and experiences connect to another person's story?

**Collect the objects or things around you that help to capture you as a person.**

You could choose anything from your favourite tea, to an old photograph, to your favourite book. Perhaps they are every day, ordinary things - or perhaps they tell extraordinary stories. **What do they mean to you?**

**Arrange your objects into a display. Capture your display in photographs, words, or in a sketch.**

I have rather a lot of things on my desk, some from my childhood, some gifts, some bought more recently, so I collected some of them together. Though I think calling it a 'museum of me' is probably stretching it!



**How Change Happens 'house group' sessions continue on Thursdays at 7.30pm on Zoom. All sessions will be led by Naomi.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8334513513?pwd=OTN1UjFhZlNwQlF3OTZheUlwbnDRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 451 3513

Passcode: 112886

**Session 3 (tonight) When does change happen?**

**Opening interactive activity 'The Pitch' – see last page of this N & C.**



### Discussion questions:

Think about a few policy areas that are important to members of your group and discuss these questions:

1. What might a window of opportunity look like for this policy area?
2. What is the policy's overall image?—How do the public perceive this policy area? How do politicians perceive this policy area? How does the media cover this policy area?
3. What are the current dominant facts and values that are involved in shaping how this policy area is perceived?
4. What are the facts and values that we *want* to shape the way this policy area is perceived?
5. What might our faith have to say about this policy area? How can we frame this in a way that would appeal beyond the church without losing our distinctively Christian voice?

**This event is for anyone from BOTH churches  
and we hope some friends from Bridgwater Drive will join us.**

## RESOURCES

Reflections for May from St Paul's Cathedral by Corin Pilling, who is the UK Director of [Sanctuary](#), equipping the Church to support mental health and wellbeing.

<https://mailchi.mp/03df5cbf39c3/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251000?e=e30a1f608a>

**An interesting item that came to my inbox (email).** I often sign petitions from an organisation called Avaaz: Avaaz, meaning "voice" in several European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages, launched in 2007 with a simple democratic mission: organize citizens of all nations to close the gap between the world we have and the world most people everywhere want.

Avaaz empowers millions of people from all walks of life to take action on pressing global, regional and national issues, from corruption and poverty to conflict and climate change. Our model of internet organising allows thousands of individual efforts, however small, to be rapidly combined into a powerful collective force.

**They recently conducted a survey to find out what people thought their top campaigning priorities should be, and here are the Top Five:**



**Are these our priorities as a church? How does this tie in with our study series on making change happen? Should we be publicising more Avaaz campaigns and encouraging people to sign their petitions?**

**To coin a phrase – What Would Jesus Do?!**

## 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. This week we pray especially for ministers and church leaders as they navigate the return to meeting in person.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Onwards.** In Isaiah 43: 19b God says, 'I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland'. In our town, in our families, maybe even in our church, there are arid places inside those who do not know the Lord Jesus. He came to 'seek and save the lost'. God aches with love for them, and He has given us the utter privilege of calling us to partner with Him in reaching them, enabling His rivers of life to flow into and through them too. Are we ready to leap forward into God's new way, in faith and prayer and action?

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### Particular prayer requests this week:

The funeral for Barbara Burrell will take place at **11.20 a.m. on Tuesday 1 June** at Southend Crematorium. Due to the continued limit on numbers, only family can attend. The service will be available to view online:

Website <https://www.obitus.com/>  
Username wuqe9636  
Password 677377

If you are not able to watch live, once the service has finished, it will be available to view on the website for up to 28 days. However, it can take up to 3 working days before the video is available.

Please continue to pray for Richard, Robert, Edward and all the family.

Della  
Brian, Jenny C's brother  
Tim, Bob W's nephew  
Beth  
Joy

Audrey  
Peter C  
Irene  
Eve  
Rachel S & family

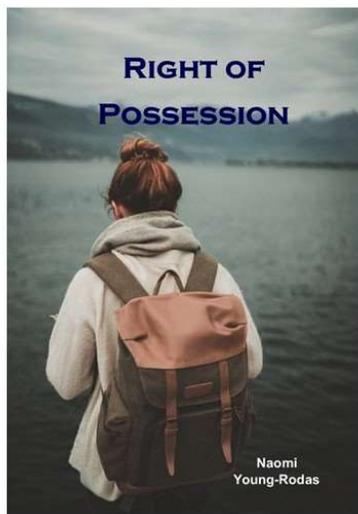


**Happy Birthday to Sally for 3 June!**

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**This would be a shameless plug, except any profits will be given to charity! My second novel (written some years ago) has just been published by TSL books.** It is very different to the one set in Guatemala (*If It Falls*). It is available for £8.68 from the TSL website: <https://tslbooks.uk/product/right-of-possession-naomi-young-rodas/>

If you would like a copy, but don't want to order online, let me know and I can order copies. Best to order in bulk so it would take a bit longer, but would only cost £8. Thank you! Naomi



"It was just a slap that first time. Just a slap ... He never hit me on the face again. He didn't want any marks to be seen. Everything had to remain perfect on the outside."

Told in the first person, in the style of a conversational diary or letter, Isabel describes the lengths she has to go in escaping her abusive husband, including a death – but whose? Flashbacks tell the story of how they first met, moved in together, married. Only the love of her eccentric best friend Anna can save her.

#### Pre-publication review:

"*Right to Possession* portrays very well how much domestic abuse is conflictually monotonous, the predictability and intensity of the love, then violence, obvious to all but the victim. The terrible destructiveness of domestic abuse to such a wide circle of people, not just the protagonists was palpable, as was the desperate difficulty for victims to escape the circle of abuse, and also how conflicted and imprisoned the abuser is within themselves ... [in the later part] I was so glued to the book that I actually stayed up until well gone lam one night to find out what happened and finish the book!"

Originally written some years ago, in 2021 following heightened awareness about violence against women, and the huge rise in domestic abuse and stalking, *Right to Possession* really comes into its own. A perfectly timed release of this death with a twist!

#### About the author

Naomi Young-Rodas published her first novel with TSL in 2020 (new edition from the 2008 original). She has an MA in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University and has previously had poetry published in numerous anthologies. She has lived in Switzerland, Guatemala and the USA and is now a minister of the United Reformed Church in Essex.

#### Category: Fiction

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By: Naomi Young-Rodas

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Opening activity for the house group on 27 May. If you are not attending the sessions you can ignore this, though you may like to reflect on it on your own:

### **Opening Activity- The Pitch**

One member of the group is the decision maker. The other members of the group are each given a different idea to pitch (see below). After having a few minutes to gather their thoughts, they each will take it in turns to pitch their idea to the decision maker. The decision maker must then decide which pitch they found most convincing, discussing the reason they made this choice.

If your group is large you may wish to break into smaller groups or decide to have more than one decision maker.

#### The pitches:

*Pitch one:* The church should get pet chickens.

*Pitch two:* Every August the church services should be held outside.

*Pitch three:* Doughnuts should be served with the tea and coffee after church.

*Pitch four:* The church should host a monthly board games evening.

*Pitch five:* This year's nativity play should be a musical.

**Purpose:** to start to think about the importance of how an issue is framed and how this can influence decision makers.