

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 1 July 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 4 July The Minister will lead worship at Christ Church and the Facebook service will be live from there at **10a.m.**

Margaret will lead worship at Bridgwater Drive at 10.30 a.m. using either the URC service or the one prepared by the minister.

NEWS:

The Needles and Natter group will be meeting on **Thursday 8th July**. Please contact Joyce for further details.

If anyone has unwanted garden tools, please contact Penny Gendall to discuss

A reminder that next weekend is the General Assembly of the URC, Friday to Monday, (online) which Naomi is attending. Robert will lead All Age Worship at Christ Church, which will be live-streamed.

If you would like to watch the **Sunday Worship from General Assembly**, at 11am on the 11th, there is more information and a link here: <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3838-join-in-with-general-assembly-sunday-worship-service>

The United Reformed Church has become a founding member of new campaign coalition – Together With Refugees.

The coalition, made up of more than 100 national, local, refugee-led and grassroots groups, calls for a better approach to supporting refugees that is kinder, fairer and more effective, and believes in showing compassion to people fleeing war, persecution or violence.

Together With Refugees aims to inspire hope and win deep change in the UK's approach to refugees.

Read the full story here: <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3823-urc-joins-coalition-to-show-it-stands-together-with-refugees.html>

How we treat
refugees reflects
who we are



#WhoWeAre

OTHER DIARY DATES:

Sat. 17 July 2-4pm at Christ Church, Revd Nigel Uden (former Moderator of General Assembly) will lead a **session on prayer**, incl. how to lead prayers of intercession.

There is a sign-up sheet at the church, otherwise - **please let Jean know if you are planning to attend.**

Monday 19 July, 7.30pm Indian Meal at the Mango Lounge – please let Janine know if you'd like to go

Wednesday 21 July, 7.30pm – Christ Church, Church Meeting – in person at the church. More details to follow.

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

The Grantham Institute of Imperial College London - **9 things you can do about climate change**. As mentioned last week, in the run-up to the September House Groups on Climate Change, each week we will share an action:

1. Make your voice heard by those in power

Tell your Member of Parliament, local councillors and city mayors that you think action on climate change is important.

A prosperous future for the United Kingdom depends on their decisions about the environment, green spaces, roads, cycling infrastructure, waste and recycling, air quality and energy efficient homes. Ultimately, steps to reduce carbon emissions will have a positive impact on other local issues, like improving air quality and public health, creating jobs and reducing inequality.

Find out who your MP is, and the best way to contact them.

Join a social movement or campaign that focuses on environmental activities or gets everyone talking about climate change action.



Related news from *Reform* – Christian young people are walking from Cornwall (site of the G7 meeting) to Glasgow (COP26) to call on the UK government to fulfil its financial commitments to fight climate change. The 135-day relay will cover 750 miles and began on 13 June. One participant said: “God asks us to love our neighbours near and far, but your [world leaders] failure to act is putting their lives at risk.”



TIPS & IDEAS

This week's 64 Million Artists challenge is about what's missing:

Find what is missing. Look around at the world and notice what we need. You could take a picture of a space, somewhere outside or somewhere inside, and imagine what could fill it, capturing your vision through drawing. You could think of a specific thing, a person or object, and write their story. Interpret the missing things in any creative way you like. It might be something big or small...

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An idea to help nature from A Rocha's monthly Wild Christian magazine:

Go Plastic Free in July!

Be part of the solution to plastic pollution to protect our precious planet. Not sure what plastics you can swap out? Start by taking the five-minute 'pesky plastic' quiz [here](#), which gives you a flavour of what you might be able to reduce or phase out completely over the monthly challenge. For example, you could commit to only shopping at farmers markets or small independent stores to avoid packaging, or investing in some beeswax wraps. Alternatively, search [here](#) for helpful ideas at home, work or school, or at events to make a real difference to your plastic consumption for the month

RESOURCES

Reflections from St Paul's Cathedral by Brother Sam who is a Franciscan brother – 'Enjoying the world' <https://mailchi.mp/ec61fd8d08a2/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251060?e=e30a1f608a>

All this week on BBC Radio 4 at 1.45pm (now you'd need to catch up online): The Kindness Experiment - Can we turn bad vibes into good vibes? A feel-good series about the kindness of strangers and the generosity of the human spirit. And, guess what? Kindness is catching. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000xdq4>

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. This week we pray especially for

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Anniversary.** We are all a year older, but our God is not. This church anniversary, let's remember God's myriad blessings to us and to our church, thanking God for bringing us through this very different year, and looking to God in prayer and eagerness for God's plans and provisions for us in the year to come. – We will remember the church anniversary (111th) in church on 18 July.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Rachel S & family
Brian, Jenny C's brother
Tim, Bob W's nephew
Bill & Beth
Grace & Phil
Di's nephew, Bobby, in hospital
Frank

Audrey
Peter C
Doreen
Irene C
Della
Michelle

