

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 15 July 2021

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

The online service will remain 'joint' while each church has 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.

New advice post-19 July. The CC Elders met on 13 July and agreed that from after 19 July (so starting with Sunday worship on 25 July) we should follow this guidance:

- We will continue the use of hand sanitiser when entering the church.
- We should ensure there is as much ventilation as possible.
- Chairs will be at roughly 1m apart. This should allow everyone who wants to attend to come, so there is no longer any need to book a place.
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory, but are **strongly recommended**.
- Congregational singing – this will be allowed, but you **MUST wear a mask when singing**. We will limit congregational hymns to 3 (we may *listen* to more - recorded or sung by Thora)
- Coffee & tea and social time (no biscuits!) will resume after worship. The servers will wear masks. Please try to keep some distance as you wait for your drink, and wear a mask, and then go back into the worship area and do not congregate near the servery. Weather permitting, please chat outside.
- From 25 July, the Music Group will resume playing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (usually)
- From August, Communion will return to 'normal' i.e. served bread and wine. The Elders will finalise the details of the most hygienic method of serving.

These mitigations seem to be in line with what many churches are doing. We must point out that nationally infection rates are soaring, and they are also rising locally. From what the government has said, it sounds likely that stricter rules may be re-introduced later in the year. The Elders will constantly review the situation and may re-introduce stricter rules again, if we feel they are necessary for the safety of everyone using the church building.

For those of you who have said you won't come back to church until everything is back to 'normal' – this is probably as good as it will get! With the soaring infection rates which will only increase with more opening up of society, and the government now giving a much more cautious message, I would not be surprised if come the autumn and winter, we will be back with more restrictions and maybe even lockdowns. I am naturally optimistic and don't want to sound like a damp squib, but I suggest people come back now, go to all the events planned in August and September and generally 'make hay while the sun shines' as it may not last too long – the pandemic, sadly, is not over. Naomi

Sunday 18 July the Minister will lead a Communion service at Christ Church at 10am and that service will be live-streamed online. We will also acknowledge the 111th anniversary of the church. Communion will be using the individual servings.

Ian Miller will lead worship at Bridgwater Drive at 10.30 a.m.

NEWS:

Brief round-up from the URC General Assembly – will be given at the Church Meeting, as I have run out of space here (and not quite finished preparing it) !!

A correction from last week – Last week's item on Eco Systems, I had titled a 'reflection'. It wasn't a reflection, it was the first article in what will be a series about restoring the planet's eco systems which support life and have been degraded so much that the planet is struggling to cope. This is what the UN initiated on World Environment Day to cover a ten-year programme. Next week, there will be another article from Elizabeth on Rivers and Lakes.

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

This Sunday is your last chance to buy the **Summer Quiz from Pat for £1**. They need to be returned to Pat by Sunday 1st August.

OTHER DIARY DATES:

Monday 19 July, 7.30pm Indian Meal at the Mango Lounge, £17 per person (raises money for church funds). If you would still like to go OR need to cancel last minute, please contact **Pat Botfield**.

Wednesday 21 July, 7.30pm – Christ Church, Church Meeting – in person at the church. Agenda will be circulated this week. This will start with a short act of worship so the business will not commence before 7.45pm

ART EXHIBITION & SALE – Naomi will be holding an Art Exhibition of the art she did during Lent, and other art (+ the Corona poetry book and her novel *If It Falls*) **August 13-15** (details on the poster on the last page). And selling art to raise money for the future building project. If you are away those dates, but think you may like to purchase art, you can arrange a private viewing at the manse – **07555 705530**
Please start inviting your friends and neighbours to this event!

This is both a fund-raising event AND a social and outreach event. It will be publicised to the public, and we will promote the new monthly 'Art for Fun' art club which will start on Saturday 4 September. The event is also designed to encourage the public to come into our building and get to know us, and to show the congregation new ways of using the building once the renovation work is done.

- If you would like to donate art for exhibition only or also for sale, please **contact Naomi as soon as possible**. You can do it anonymously if you are shy! We are particularly looking for art from younger members.
- If you can help with being a steward on the day and/or serving refreshments and providing home-made cakes for sale, please contact Janine - **07719 892728, or 01702 511861 or email**

FUTURE EVENTS – hold the dates, more information will follow nearer the time:

- Mon 9 August Holiday Club (more info from Sandy)
- Sat 21 August, Quiz Night
- Sun 29 August – Climate Sunday, possible congregational lunch after worship
- Sat 4 Sept. 10-12, 1st Art for Fun - adults and children
- Sun 12 Sept. Auction of Promises
- Sat 18 Sept. 1st new Children's Club
- Sat 18 Sept – 'More Tea Vicar' – getting to know the church event

This week the third item from the **9 things you can do about climate change –**

3. Cut back on flying

If you need to fly for work, consider using video-conferencing instead. For trips in the same country or continent, take the train or explore options using an electric car.

For leisure trips, choose nearby destinations, and fly economy - on average, a passenger in business class has a carbon footprint three times higher than someone in economy.

If flying is unavoidable, pay a little extra for carbon offsetting - there are a variety of reputable schemes that fund sustainable development projects or natural solutions like planting trees.

Someone older and wiser than me recently said, we shouldn't ask people to do things we don't do or are not willing to do ourselves, so as an example: Obviously we have not flown anywhere in 2020 or 2021, but even prior to that we were trying to limit flying to visiting family only, and holidaying in the UK.



TIPS & IDEAS

This week the 64 Million Artists idea is about telling stories:



Pick 2 people, 2 animals, 2 objects, 1 hope and 1 fear. Spend a few minutes thinking about the ways in which these things are connected and write a short story that brings them all together.

It could be people you know or people you don't know, objects you have around you, or objects that relate to the people or animals you have chosen, anything goes! Your story could be one sentence long, or one page long. If you prefer, you could draw or create a collage that depicts a scene from your story incorporating as many elements as you like.

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 wisdom in the coming relaxation of coronavirus restrictions and that people will take responsibility and think of others. **We also pray for those, particularly in our own congregation, who are having to isolate after contact with Covid-19.**

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Prayer Breakthrough.** We all need it, God wants us to have it, so let's ask God for it and believe God can make it happen, even in you and me!

Particular prayer requests this week:

Len & Pam U
Brian, Jenny C's brother
Tim, Bob W's nephew
Bill & Beth
Grace & Phil
Di's nephew, Bobby
Frank
Michelle, Sophie and Baby Remy

Audrey
Peter C
Doreen
Sheila S
Della
Joan W
Irene



As Della has decided to stay at Brooklands, she would be pleased to see anyone who could visit.

Brooklands,
25, Lambeth Road,
Eastwood, SS9 5XR

Telephone (01702) 525375

Thanks:

Mavis thanks you for all your cards and messages when she had her hip operation - It is good to know that people care.



We give thanks and celebrate that Theresa Kittle will turn 99 on 19th July – Congratulations and Happy Birthday!

And 'happy birthday' to Christ Church – 111 years young !



ART



EXHIBITION & SALE

IN THE CHURCH

FRIDAY 13 AUG. 4-7pm

SAT. 14 AUG. 10am – 3pm

and on Sunday after Worship

Refreshments available

**All proceeds in aid of the church
re-development appeal**