

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 22 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. There is no longer any need to book a place.
Please note the chairs at CC are now set out mostly in twos. If you attend on your own, you should sit on your own (with an empty chair next to you) **NOT with someone who is not from your household or bubble.**
- 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.

Sunday 25 July the Minister will lead a Communion service at Bridgwater Drive at **10.30am** and that service will be live-streamed online. Please bring your own bread and wine as you have been doing – 'normal' communion will resume in August.

My sermon at Bridgwater is very relevant for Christ Church too as we begin to explore the vision for our mission and building project, so I would encourage you to read it and/or watch the Facebook service if you can (in addition to attending at CC, obviously!!)

Joyce will lead worship at Christ Church at 10am

Sunday 1st Aug: Gwyneth at Christ Church, John Amos at BDC

Sunday 8th Aug: Sandy at Christ Church, Ian Miller at BDC

Sunday 15 Aug: the Minister at Christ Church (Communion), Robert Dart at BDC

A reminder that Sun Aug 29th, Climate Sunday, is a JOINT service at Christ Church, at 11 a.m. followed by a vegetarian lunch. For catering, please let Jean know if you are planning to attend, or sign the sheet which will appear at Christ Church! We will probably be seated around tables of 6, café style for the whole service, so if possible try to sit with people you are in a 'bubble' with or who you see regularly. (we will review this nearer the time in light of the covid situation).

Naomi & Claudia will be on holiday 26 July to 8 August. Next week's N&C will be pre-prepared. The following week will be prepared by Phil G. Thank you Phil! Please send any news items or prayer requests to Phil – phil.gendall@talktalk.net or to Jean.

BREAKING NEWS! The Church Meeting on 21 July, discussed the time Sunday Worship should start and agreed to do a trial period of starting at **10.30am from 5 Sept. to 7 Nov.** inclusive, and to discuss the matter again at the Church Meeting on 7 Nov. (now normally on the 1st Sunday of alternate months going forward).

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

ART EXHIBITION & SALE – Naomi and others will be holding an Art Exhibition **August 13-15** (Fri. 4-7pm, Sat 10-3, Sun after worship). And selling art and refreshments 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** for the week starting 9 August.
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 this week**. You can do it anonymously if you are shy! We are particularly looking for art from younger members. **If you wish to donate art but haven't let Naomi know, please contact Jean while Naomi is on holiday.**
- 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, with congregational lunch after worship
- Sat 4 Sept. 10-12, 1st Art for Fun session - adults and children
- Sun 12 Sept. Auction of Promises – with 'bring and share' lunch beforehand
- Sat 18 Sept. 1st new Children's Club
- Sat 18 Sept – 'More Tea Vicar' – getting to know the church event
- Sun 19 Sept – Church Meeting re building plans, after worship

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

4. Leave the car at home

Instead of getting in the car, walk or cycle – and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits, and the money saved. For longer journeys, use public transport, or try car sharing schemes.



Not only do cars contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, but air pollution caused by exhaust fumes from traffic poses a serious threat to public health.

It has been shown to affect the health of unborn babies and increase the risk of dementia. Furthermore, Imperial research shows that poor air quality in the capital leads to around 1,000 London hospital admissions for asthma and serious lung conditions every year, and that air pollution in the US is associated with 30,000 deaths and reduced life expectancy.

If driving is unavoidable, investigate trading in your diesel or petrol car for an electric or hybrid model. Alternatively,

if you only need one for a short time, there are some all-electric car hire companies.

When behind the wheel, think about the way you drive:

- Switch off the engine when you park up
- Drive smoothly
- Make sure the tyres are fully pumped

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I appreciate that some of these things are harder/not possible during the pandemic, and that electric cars are still very expensive. But it is good to try to avoid using the car if possible and consider buying electric or hybrid when you purchase your next car – I'm doing both of those things at least! (Naomi)

TIPS & IDEAS

As it is currently so hot – think about how you could represent staying cool – physically and metaphorically. Maybe write a poem about snow and ice? Or about how climate change is heating up our planet. Maybe write a prayer or a psalm about the heat and how we can stay cool. Or how about painting a snowy scene or an ice lolly?!!

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 those going on holiday and those who would like to get away but can't.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Possibilities.** Possibilities for holidays, for closing the 2m gap, for singing in church again (yaaay!!), for coming together to worship without having to book our place. Please pray with thanksgiving for the freedoms we have and for fortitude with those we do not.

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:

We would just like to say a big thank you for the flowers that Jean brought round from the church, the cards, phone calls, prayers, messages and visits after Len's operation. They are all most appreciated. Len is at home recovering as expected.

Thank You Pam and Len Utting.

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ECO RESTORATION: 'RIVERS and LAKES'

Many people enjoy walking along a riverbank, canal, lake, or even a stream. We are attracted to water. The sound of running water is soothing and relaxing. There is fun to be had playing in water, but we like that water to be clean and healthy.

In a healthy, well-maintained waterway there is lots to see and stimulate without even realising it. We might see that brilliant flash of blue of a kingfisher, or the still poise of the heron waiting to catch a fish, we might see the ripples as fish come to the surface of the water for insects; dragonflies swooping over the water for insects or a water vole might even be spotted. As dusk approaches bats might be seen skimming over the water for insects.

Healthy rivers and streams are abundant in wildlife which provides a supportive eco system for the planet.



The river and stream beds are home to millions of small insects which help remove dead and decaying vegetation and animal matter from the water. These insects in turn provide a good food supply to fish and birds and other mammals that use the freshwater habitats.

Rivers and streams carry water from mountains and hills to reach the sea. On its journey it nourishes the land around it and the towns, cities and settlements that have built up along its banks. In many parts of the world the river is a source of transport for people and goods to reach other communities.

However, with global warming and unpredictable rainfall, flooding often occurs which can lead to further pollution of rivers.

No matter where we live it is very easy for these waterways to become polluted from farm and industries, household rubbish, recreational rubbish, for the banks to become broken down and to become choked with vegetation or obstructed by dams which can hinder the progress of fish to their breeding grounds. In some places around the globe the situation is so bad the rivers are now not meeting the sea. This causes the sea to retreat. Degraded water systems can lead to flooding and polluted water can lead to sickness and poisoning.

No matter where we are in the world these rivers and streams of ours need looking after so the cycle of water can continue to nurture the planet and everything on it.

Rainfall on mountains – streams – rivers – estuaries – the sea and oceans – evaporation – clouds -rainfall – a continual cycle which in theory means we could be drinking the same water dinosaurs drank.

On a general level for anyone interested in caring for streams and rivers is to take your rubbish home to dispose of. To access water at a designated point rather than scrambling down the bank and weakening it. To dispose of liquid substances correctly – not tipping them in the rivers or drains. To use eco friendly cleaning and washing detergents. The council or local water authority or wildlife groups may have details about river cleaning schemes for anyone interested.

Elizabeth Pryor