

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 16 September 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.

Please remember that: Face coverings are no longer mandatory for worship (except when singing), but are **strongly recommended**

Sunday 19 Sept. 10.30am – The Minister at CC, Communion and Church Meeting
John Amos at BDC

THIS Saturday 18 September:

- Sat 18 Sept. 1st new Children's Club, 10am – 12pm
- Sat 18 Sept – 'More Tea Vicar' – open day event 1-5pm and displays still up on Sunday

There will be displays in the church and corridor of all the things we do and are involved in, for church members to remind themselves, and the public to find out more about us. **Leaders and members of Church groups are very warmly invited to be there to chat to people.** Refreshments will be available. If you can make anything (cake, biscuits, flapjacks etc) – **please contact Janine**. Any leftovers will be available on Sunday morning to help us make it through worship and the Church Meeting!

Traidcraft products will be on sale at More Tea Vicar on 18th Sept and the Traidcraft stall will be starting monthly again from October 3rd (Harvest).

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved in making the Auction of Promises happen. It was great fun and we raised £1,325 for the building project.

TWAM

Harvest is on 3rd October. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) is our focus this year. Please start collecting any tools that you no longer need. They must not be broken but it is OK if they need cleaning/sharpening etc. Sewing machines of all types are also needed. You can also donate money which is needed to pay for transporting the tools overseas in containers. Envelopes will be in church for this purpose. Many thanks.
Wendy Norris

We hope to hold an Art and Crafts fair (raising money for the building project) in the run-up to Christmas, so probably in November. So please be making and collecting things! We may combine this with a 're-use' sale (aka jumble!) so please be collecting items for that too!

BOOK SWOP – if you have any spare Bibles, especially different translations, please share them on the book swap shelf. And any other books too – religious or not!

TIPS & IDEAS



This week #64MillionArtists is talking us for a walk!

Go for a wander, wherever your feet or your curiosity takes you. As you wander try to see the beauty in everything - that's everything, even what doesn't seem beautiful at first. Think about how you experience the beauty you find through your senses. How does it look, sound or feel? If at any time your mind needs a bit of help, just take the word 'gratitude' and place it like colourful wallpaper at the back of your brain. Notice how that changes the way you see this present moment. How will you capture what you discover on your wander? It could be through photography or words, or maybe a sculpture from things you collect along the way. If you have the know how and the technology, there is a playlist of walking meditations you can use while doing this (or just listen to it at home!):

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6Yn3yVoTBsWjPML4Sij9GX>

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

RESOURCES A new reflection from St Paul's Cathedral, by [Brian Draper](#) - a speaker, retreat guide, labyrinth curator and creative consultant, seeking to help people of all faiths and none to see the world from a creative and engaging spiritual perspective.

<https://mailchi.mp/be89fcc0bc91/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251072?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. This week we pray especially for all those receiving treatment for cancer.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Changing Attitudes.** We are not just 'church' when we are in church, every one of us is 'church', the body of Christ, wherever we are because of our union with the Holy Spirit. Just think, we are Christ to the world in our car, at the checkout, in our words, in our attitudes to others and to the world we live in. What sort of Jesus does the world see in me and you?

Particular prayer requests this week:

Audrey
Brian, Jenny C's brother
Bill & Beth
Grace & Phil, and Kerry
Georgie, Anna and Richard's niece

Len and Pam U.
Peter C.
Sheila S
Della
Frank



Congratulations to Pam & Len Utting on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary – today, 16 Sept.!

HOUSE GROUPS

After discussion at the end of the last House Group series, and consultation with the people who have usually attended in the past, it was agreed that our next House Group series would focus on the environment, climate change and climate justice. It will be Biblically based, using material from Christian Aid's Conversation Guide. It is impossible to find a time and venue suitable to all, but the consensus seemed to be for an afternoon meeting at the church. **The six-week course will start on 23 September so as to finish just before the Climate Conference COP26 starts on 31 October.**

We will meet from **2.30pm, at Christ Church, FROM NEXT WEEK** on the following **Thursday** afternoons:

23 September – Introduction, led by Naomi
30 Sept.- 1. 'Desire' (Genesis 8 and Psalm 24.) led by Robert
7 Oct. – 2. 'Greed' (Luke 12:15) – a volunteer to lead please!
14 Oct. – 3. 'Righteousness' (Psalm 1 vs 6.), led by Naomi
21 Oct. – 4. 'Justice' (Micah 6 vs 8), led by Naomi
28 Oct. – Summary – tackling injustice, and achieving justice, and climate action as part of God's mission,
led by Naomi



The House Groups are open to ALL from both churches – we would love to see some new faces!

We hope to hold Advent 'House Groups'. These will be Bible Studies on a relevant Advent theme. Hopefully a daytime, in person group at the church and possibly an evening Zoom meeting. We will be chatting with the Methodists to see if we can arrange a joint programme, as has been done in the past. **WATCH THIS SPACE...!**

ECO RESTORATION: MOUNTAINS taken from UN Eco Restoration Project 2021

Mountains harbour most of Earth's biodiversity hotspots and supply fresh water to an estimated half of humanity. They include a multitude of ecosystems providing a home to unique species, such as snow leopards and mountain gorillas, as well as great cultural diversity among people adapted to the challenges of mountain life.

Mountain regions are particularly sensitive to degradation from human pressures and climate change. Steep slopes mean the clearing of forest can cause serious soil erosion and habitat loss. Climate change and pollution threaten the supplies of water to farms, cities, industry and power stations. Rising temperatures are forcing species, ecosystems and the people that depend on them to adapt or migrate.

Restoring mountain ecosystems means considering whole landscapes. Many of the restoration actions listed in this guide can be used also in mountains. Here are some examples.

Restore forest shields: Restore and replant forests and trees to protect soil, safeguard water flows and guard against natural disasters, such as avalanches, landslides and floods.

Limit extraction and excavation: Our hunger for resources can have catastrophic consequences for mountains and hillsides. Make sure that landscapes are restored after mining operations have ended.

Let ecosystems migrate: Create or connect protected areas covering different altitudes so that species and ecosystems can migrate according to the shifting climate.

Farm for resilience: Promote and adopt sustainable farming techniques, such as agroforestry, that restore soils and biodiversity and can be more resilient in the face of climate change and extreme weather.

Learn from experience: Tap local and indigenous knowledge to keep the use of natural resources sustainable.



Find out more:

Read this overview of how healthy ecosystems reduce disaster risks in mountainous areas. Many of the restoration techniques discussed elsewhere in this guide can also be applied in mountain ecosystems.

Elizabeth Pryor