

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

NEWS & CHAT 14 October 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 17 Oct. 10.30am – Communion at CC, led by the Minister with a speaker from CAP (Church Action on Poverty) for Challenge Poverty week.
Harvest at BDC, led by Margaret Bates with the Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

THANK YOU from Hopeworx for harvest produce donated for their food hub.

This week is **CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK**. We (CC) will have a special poverty focussed service on Sunday with a speaker from CAP.

For various reasons we have not been able to organise any other special events for this week. Please pray for all those living in poverty and especially those who will be affected by the loss of the extra £20 per week of Universal Credit. Many people, including religious leaders and the URC campaigned for this not to be removed, but sadly the government were not persuaded.
<https://challengepoverty.co.uk/> for more information.



Sunday (17th) is the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage.html>

“The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. They proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected.”

Wednesday 20th October at 7:30pm the **Area Partnership** meeting is at Kings Road URC. This is an open meeting. The speaker will be new Moderator, Revd. Lythan Nevard. Please contact Jean for a lift.

TAIZE next Thursday, 21 October from 10.30am in the worship area.

Saturday Nov. 6 Autumn Fair at Bridgwater Drive from 11am

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FUTURE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES (CC)

INDIAN MEAL - Mango Lounge Rayleigh High Street **Monday 25th October 7:30** £20 each
To book a place contact Janine Danes 01702 511861 07719892728 janinedanes@talktalk.net

Saturday Nov. 6 – monthly **ART CLUB** at Christ Church, 10am – 12. No need to bring materials – we have some available. No need for any artistic talent – there are plenty of easy things to do including colouring books (adult not children's!). Or just come and have a chat.

Saturday 27 November - (Christmas) Art and Crafts fair + Re-use sale (raising money for the building project). Please start creating crafts and pictures – anything goes – cards, knitted items, candles, painted glass... And also please be collecting items for the re-use (jumble) sale. More details nearer the time.

TIPS & IDEAS

Sunday 10th October was **World Mental Health Day** and this week's creative idea from ~64Million Artists comes from a Mental Health festival:

Learn something new.

You could try something you've never done before. Or try a new way of using something. Maybe you have always wanted to learn a new language or learn about plants, here is a sign to start! You could choose an ingredient you like to cook with and find a new recipe to use it in. The possibilities are endless.

How will you capture what you have learnt? Maybe someone will learn something new from what you share with them. **If you learn something new, please send it in for us to share in News & Chat.**

Last Saturday, I went to a workshop on how to make textiles (fabrics) from plastic bags. These can then be used to make all sorts of things like bags, 'baskets', plant pot containers etc. As an Eco Church, maybe we could make some banners for the worship area? **If anyone is interested to learn more, please contact Naomi.** (pic – example from the course tutor – plastic 'fabric' with embroidered pattern)



RESOURCES A new reflection from St Paul's Cathedral, by Deborah Lewer (a Senior Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Glasgow and a regular speaker, consultant, author and retreat leader in many church contexts, including at her home cathedral of St Mary's in Glasgow.) - Art, Faith and Ordinary Time: Caravaggio's *Death of the Virgin*

<https://mailchi.mp/45fcc1afb6f3/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251096?e=e30a1f608a>

Some of you may be interested in this online discussion from St Paul's Cathedral. – A Famine of Grace, on 16 Nov. 7pm Click the link for more information and to register: <https://mailchi.mp/24291d453baf/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251100?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 as we raise awareness of poverty in Challenge Poverty Week, we pray especially for the poor and those on benefits; those feeling most harshly the loss of Universal Credit and the rise in fuel bills and the cost of living.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Which Fields?** There are 'fields' of young people, 'fields' of elderly and/or lonely people, 'fields' of vulnerable/mentally hurting people, 'fields' of young families, 'fields' of disabled people, to name a few. In which 'fields' do you feel our church must be looking to serve and work?

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This week is also Prisons Week – when Christians are invited to pray for all those affected by crime and imprisonment. There is more information and a short video here: <https://www.prisonsworld.org/>

Particular prayer requests this week:

Audrey
Parents of Rachel S.
Sheila S
Della
Geoff & Mary Kittle and family



The funeral of Theresa Kittle will take place at 3pm on Tuesday 19 October at Southend Crematorium. You can watch 'live', or afterwards via the webcast service:

<https://watch.obitus.com>

username: jobu5443

password: 629954

If you are attending the funeral you are invited to wear colours (rather than black), especially green (Theresa's favourite colour). Friends are invited to Afternoon Tea at the Royal Hotel, Southend from 4.15pm. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Geoff, - geoffkittle@gmail.com by this Friday (15th).

HOUSE GROUPS

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

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, led by Naomi

This week's theme is Righteousness. If you are not able to attend in person, but would like to follow along at home, here is the Bible verse and questions for this week:

Reflective exercise - read Psalm 1 vs 6.

Once you've reflected on this, reflect on the questions below.

- **What does the term 'community' mean to you personally?**
- **What do the scriptures say about righteousness?**
- **Discuss (think about) your ideas for how humans could co-exist in a more righteous relationship with nature.**



The House Groups are open to ALL from both churches – we would love to see some new faces. Join, any week – it doesn't matter if you have some! More information on posters at the church.

IT IS NOW ONLY 18 DAYS TO COP26 (and counting...!)



Help Plant A Billion Seeds Of Hope Before CoP26

At the end of the month, world leaders will meet in Glasgow for the United Nations climate summit. The decisions made at these meetings will set us on a path for generations, and as hosts the UK must lead on the world stage. You are invited to take the Billion Seed Challenge to help us create a lasting legacy, **just like the decisions made by Boris Johnson and other world leaders at COP26.**

It's a great way of keeping our community spirit alive and of showing we can all do our bit for the environment. The seeds and flowers are also a symbol of our hope that this meeting can make a difference.

Plant wildflower seeds in your garden or in pots at any point in October, or take part in a UK wide plant-a-long on 30 October, the day before COP26 to show that you believe that the decisions made at the UN Climate Summit will make a difference. As part of the Billion Seed Challenge, Homebase are providing 50% off all seeds in their shops. These seeds will get ready to bloom next spring as a reminder to politicians that the public believes that a healthier, greener, fairer world is possible.



There may be some seed packets from the URC still available at the back of the church.
Claudia and I have planted some at home.

Get planting!!