

NEWS & CHAT 28 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.

Due to the increase in cases and hospitalisations, nationally and locally, the Elders have decided **that the wearing of masks will again be compulsory for Sunday Worship** and as far as possible (when not talking or drinking) for all other groups and meetings in the church. **With immediate effect.**

You are also reminded to keep doing the following:

- **Sanitise hands when entering the building**
 - **Keep at least 1m from people you are not in a 'bubble' or live with**
 - **Try to keep conversations to a minimum**
 - **Meetings and groups – try to keep meetings to one hour; a maximum of 1.5 hours**
 - **Maintain good ventilation by having the front door and glass doors open (windows in Caley).**
- During worship, the front door and the vestry door will be open to maintain adequate ventilation – as we move into colder weather, please dress accordingly.**

Sunday 31 Oct. 10.30am – Naomi & Sandy at Christ Church, café style, All Age
Rev Trevor Williams at BDC, Remembering Service

From 24 October until 14 November (Remembrance Sunday) we are observing a **Season of Remembrance** for all who have died, but especially thinking of those who have died due to the pandemic. There will be a Book of Remembrance in the welcome area for you to write in and hearts to hang on a tree.

Please do not put coffee mugs or sugar on the table with the Book!

The POP it IN BOX this month is for **Hopeworx**. They are again preparing Christmas Hampers, so please have that in mind when putting in food items.

If you have anyone that would like to help with putting Christmas Hampers together on **Thursday 9th December at 7.30pm** at the Todman Centre, Castle Rd, Rayleigh SS6 7QF then **please contact Janet Fox at Hopeworx - 01268 743232**

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme. Through *Commitment for Life*, churches can participate in actions for justice around the world. Commitment for Life is a partnership between the URC, Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Our church supports Christian Aid's work in the Central America region through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice. Every year, usually during October, we collect donations in support of Commitment for Life and there will be gift envelopes in the chairs at church throughout this month. If you would like to know more about the work of Commitment for Life and how you can be involved please speak to Robert.

HOUSE GROUPS – the final session on 28 Oct. has been cancelled.

There will be 4 Advent House Group sessions on Tuesdays starting on 23 November, held jointly with Rayleigh Methodist, at the Methodist Church at 2.30pm and on Zoom at 7.30pm. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW NEARER THE TIME.

(Next) Saturday Nov. 6 Autumn Fair at Bridgwater Drive from 11am – see poster on last page.

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

FUTURE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES (CC)

Saturday Nov. 6 – monthly **ART CLUB** at Christ Church, **10am – 12pm**. 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. Donations welcome.

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, including jewellery, for the re-use (jumble) sale. More details nearer the time.

TIPS & IDEAS from #64MillionArtists:



This week marks the start of the UN Climate Change Conference - COP26, which takes place in Glasgow, Scotland from 31st October - 12th November, so this week’s creative idea focuses on that.

What is COP26?

It is the annual United Nations climate change summit. COP stands for ‘Conference of Parties’ and this is the 26th year it has taken place. During the conference global leaders, experts and organisations come together to address the climate emergency and reach an agreement on how countries plan to tackle it.

Write a letter to your future self, it could be 5 years or 20, as far ahead as you like. Describe to them what your hopes are for a greener future. What do you hope will have changed or developed? You could imagine your future self lives in a world that is completely renewable, what questions would you have for them? What do you imagine had to change in our world today to reach this renewable future?

RESOURCES A new reflection on Art, Faith and Ordinary Time, from St Paul’s Cathedral, by Deborah Lewer: <https://mailchi.mp/a596edd058aa/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251112?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, in the run-up to All Saints Day, we pray especially for all those who have been bereaved, and who mourn the loss of loved ones. We also pray for the COP26 Conference – for all the activists trying to encourage change and for the world leaders - that they will take the necessary actions.

This week’s prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **It’s Ready.** Luke 10: 2 Jesus continues, ‘Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’ People are searching for life, for faithful love, for the truth, for healing and belonging. Together we are the body of Christ. It is the Christ who dwells within us that our world needs, so let’s forget fear and restraint, and let Jesus live and love in and through us.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Mark E and his family
Audrey
Phil and Grace
Frank

Della
Bill and Beth G
Sheila S
Peter C



Happy Birthday to Bill Graham who was 90 yesterday (27 October) and congratulations on their wedding anniversary this week (68 years).

Christ Church Church Meeting – next Sunday, 11.30am

Agenda and one paper will be circulated by this Sunday.

We will decide on the time of worship – stay at 10.30am or go back to 10am.

And there will be information about this year's Christmas activities.

We do not yet have costings for the building project.

SOWING FLOWER SEEDS FOR CLIMATE

If you are sowing seeds in October for the Climate Coalition's 'Plant a Billion Seeds' Challenge, I thought this article in the RHS magazine was very encouraging:

'Growing edibles is an excellent way to get involved with gardening and brings great physical and mental-health benefits, but we shouldn't forget – what is probably even more powerful – is how we use ornamental and cultivated plants to create aesthetically pleasing spaces for our own wellbeing and to benefit wildlife. Cultivated plants give us and wildlife resilience. Plants provide nectar sources out of season (which is really important due to our changing weather patterns) and, through successional flowering of different plants, can also offer a nectar source for long periods of time. Also important are hybrid plants, such as some lavenders. They are really good for pollinators as they are sterile so keep producing flowers and nectar rather than seed.'

by Tim Upson, RHS Director of Horticulture Education and Communities



In the UK we have more types of ornamental plants than edible and medicinal ones. The role of ornamental plants in society, brought into focus during the Covid pandemic, has been proven to have mental-health benefits. We do need to eat and have medicines to heal, but also to recognise the role of ornamental plant genetic resources (all originating from the wild) in helping to reverse both the climate and biodiversity crises. RHS research aims to optimise UK ornamental plant genetic resources to maximise their climate, wildlife and human wellbeing benefits.

by Alistair Griffiths, RHS Director of Science and Collections.

Happy sowing!

Elizabeth Pryor

Come and enjoy

an **Autumn Fayre**

Saturday

6th November

11am - 2pm

at The **Bridgwater Drive Church**
(United Reformed Church)

on the corner of Cockethurst Close

*- Stalls selling plants, cakes,
books, jewellery & bric-a-brac*
- light refreshments

Admission free.

For more information, see our Facebook page,

Website: <https://bridgwaterdriveurc.org.uk/>