

## NEWS & CHAT 11 November 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.

**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.**

**Remembrance Sunday 14 Nov. STILL AT 10.30am** to observe the 2 min silence – Gwyneth at CC  
The Minister at BDC - Communion

From 24 October until 14 November (Remembrance Sunday) we are observing a **Season of Remembrance** for all who have died, 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!**

**On Monday 15 Nov. the Book (and displays) will be removed and kept for next year.**

**White Poppies** are for sale in the Welcome area. **Suggested donation £1.**  
The **British Legion Red Poppies** are also available.

NOVEMBER'S POP-IT-IN BOX is for HARP



### TIME SENSITIVE NEWS FROM THE CHURCH MEETING:

- It was agreed that the time of Sunday Worship will go back to **10am from Sunday 21 November** (it is staying at 10.30am for the 14<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the 2 minute silence)
- The **Harmonie Concert** will go ahead at **3pm on Sun. 12 December**, with Covid restrictions including **compulsory mask wearing and there will be no audience singing.** Tickets £9, £8 concession, £18 family, available from Helen Dart. **Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you plan to attend, as capacity will be limited to 70.**
- Due to the ongoing pandemic, there will be no Carol Service this year. We have a fun alternative – on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 2pm** we (Mary and Joseph and hopefully some other 'nativity' characters) will leave church to walk up the High Street to Joan's place where we will sing a carol or two, then down the High Street to Ernie H, and back to **the church for 3pm, where we will sing some carols OUTSIDE, and then go into the church for refreshments. Please support this new event. The town Light Switch-On has been cancelled again, so this is an opportunity for Christmas witness in the High Street. Special appearance by Dexter, reprising his role as the donkey – he will be a sheep this year!** (he doesn't know yet)
- **Christingle** will take place at **3pm on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.** This will be Covid-secure (details to follow nearer the time). There is a Plan B for if any further government restrictions are introduced at short notice.

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- There will be **NO Worship Service on Sunday 26 Dec. (Boxing Day).**
- The **next Church meeting** will take place on **16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022** after Sunday Worship (after which we will resume the normal pattern of the first Sunday bi-monthly).
- **If you can help to deliver Christmas leaflets to the new-ish housing estates, please sign the sheet by 21 Nov. at the latest or let Jean know, so we can deliver before 27 Nov. to publicize the Art and Craft sale also.**
- We agreed to sign up to the **Welcome Directory**. There are three short, related videos about leaving prison you can watch here:  
Hopes - <https://youtu.be/kEX7VqTIRhA>  
Connections - <https://youtu.be/7guUp7s99yI>  
Community - [https://youtu.be/ntr\\_marHbKq](https://youtu.be/ntr_marHbKq)  
If you would like to do the Prisons Awareness online course, register here:  
<https://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Prisons-Awareness-Course.php>

## ADVENT HOUSE GROUPS

Joint with the Methodist Church – there will be four Advent Bible Study sessions on **Tuesdays, starting on 23 November:**

- **2.30pm in person at Rayleigh Methodist Church**
- **7.30pm on Zoom** – (same link each week)  
<https://zoom.us/j/99345651990?pwd=OW45UkVzZVJDN08wM05WY2JNWDYwZz09>  
Meeting ID: 993 4565 1990      Passcode: 805792  
To phone in - 0131 460 1196

They will be led by Revd Naomi Young-Rodas (URC) and Revd Calvin Samuel (Methodist) using material specially written by Naomi. The text is sent out with this N&C. There are some paper copies at the back of the church or contact Naomi or Jean if you would like one. You may want to use the material for personal reflection at home if you are not able to attend the meetings. It would be helpful, but not essential, if you could read the introduction before attending the sessions.

Week 1: Luke 2:1-5    The Census

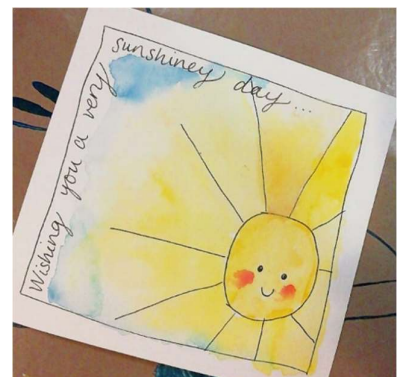
Week 2: Luke 2:6-7    No room at the inn ?

Week 3: Luke 2:8-20    The Shepherds

Week 4: Matt 2:13-18    Fleeing to Egypt

## TIPS & IDEAS

**Saturday 13th November is World Kindness Day!** Mental Health Collective's **#KindnessByPost** project is like a great big secret Santa for random acts of kindness. Across the UK, members of the public sign up to send a card or letter with a message of goodwill to someone they don't know, and are allocated a person to send a card or letter to them. Mark World Kindness Day by registering for free for the Christmas #KindnessByPost exchange! Find out more and register - <https://www.kindnessbypost.org/>



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**Action - Take the time to make a card with a message of goodwill to a stranger.** What emotions would you like to make someone feel through this random act of kindness?

What change would you like to make?

Capture how it felt to reach out to someone else with kindness in any creative way you like.

**Saturday 27 November - (Christmas) Art and Crafts fair + Re-use sale**

(raising money for the building project). Please be creating craft items and art – anything goes – cards, knitted items, candles, painted glass... We will also have 'jumble' for sale – we hope to have a book stall and a jewellery stall, but anything and everything\* in good condition and clean is welcome, including plants.

**Please bring items for sale to the church by Sunday 21 Nov. if possible, already priced.**

Craft and plants can be dropped off on Friday 26 Nov. The team will be setting up on that Friday.

**If you can help on a stall please speak to Janine.**

**If you need items collecting, please talk to Janine or Naomi.**

**\*NO electrical items or furniture please**

(these would have to be tested, or have fire labels and we are not able to arrange that)

## RESOURCES

A new reflection from St Paul's Cathedral, by **Amanda Mukwashi** who is the CEO of Christian Aid.

<https://mailchi.mp/1fdec5a09f0d/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251116?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. We continue to 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). **Sacrifice.** For those who have gone before - people we have loved, people who have loved us, people we have not known, so many who have given of themselves for us in so many ways. We will continue to remember them, with undying gratitude.

### Particular prayer requests this week:

Mark E and his family

Audrey

Phil and Grace

Frank

Janet – Judy C's sister

Maureen & Steve, Beth's daughter & son-in-law

Elizabeth G

Bill and Beth G

Sheila S

Peter C

Judy H



I wish to thank Christ Church URC for the bouquet of flowers that I received yesterday (last Sunday). I was very touched by it. Phil Gendall