

NEWS & CHAT 18 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.

Please remember the following:

- **The wearing of masks is compulsory, unless you have an exemption**
- **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 21 Nov. 10am The Minister CC – Communion
Ian Miller at BDC

NOTE: SUNDAY WORSHIP GOES BACK TO STARTING AT 10AM (at Christ Church)

FAST APPROACHING - THE ARTS, CRAFT & RE-USE SALE:

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 THIS SUNDAY if possible, already priced.

Craft and plants can be dropped off on Friday 26 Nov.

The team will be setting up on that Friday, from 10am.

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)

REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Sunday 5th Dec. – Christmas Lunch** please sign the sheet at the back of the church.
- The **Harmonie Concert** 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.**
- **Sunday 19th 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

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

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.**

- **Christingle will take place at 3pm on 24th Dec.** This will be Covid-secure (details to follow nearer the time).

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_marHbKg

If you would like to do the Prisons Awareness online course, register here:

<https://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Prisons-Awareness-Course.php>

Prayer Triplets

Prayer is one of the most vital ministries of any growing church. 'A Church that prays together, stays together. Where prayer is passed by, the church will die'. A Prayer Triplet is simply 3 (or could be 2 or 4) people meeting together at a mutually convenient time, to pray together. Many of you may remember being part of a prayer triplet some years ago, and there is a suggestion to restart this excellent ministry in our church once again.

How would it work? As before, it would be up to each prayer triplet to arrange where and how often they would meet (e.g. fortnightly or monthly), obviously in a Covid-secure way.

There would be 'points for prayer' given to each triplet group on a regular basis, eg for specific needs, seeking guidance for our future as a church community, global issues, the church building work, prayer concerns from the monthly prayer sheet and the blue folder etc.

An example of how to pray in a small group could also be given so that each person is comfortable and at ease with their prayers, thus avoiding the 'I don't know how to pray' concerns.

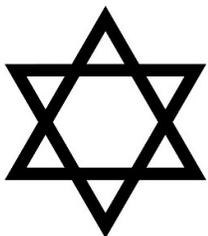
That's about all there is to it!!

If you would like to be part of a triplet, please could you let me know, so we can gauge interest and start to organise triplets. It would be helpful for organising, if you could say if you would want to be linked by people who live near you, or by people you would feel comfortable praying with (perhaps with their names). Thank you. **Gwyneth**

TIPS & IDEAS

This week is Interfaith Week. The Aims of the week are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs



Try learning about other faiths and their festivals. Hindus and Sikhs in particular have festivals of light around this time of year. And pray for understanding between faiths.

RESOURCES

A new reflection – 'What is Good' - from St Paul's Cathedral, by **Amanda Mukwashi** who is the CEO of Christian Aid. <https://mailchi.mp/8183b6f4e190/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251132?e=e30a1f608a>

ADVENT HOUSE GROUPS

Joint with the Methodist Church – there will be four Advent Bible Study sessions on **Tuesdays, 23 Nov, 30 Nov, 7 Dec, 14 Dec.:**

- **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

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 pray especially for our partner church in Budiriro - for school children, Grade 7, Form 4, and Form 6 who are preparing for their final exams starting next week after a long lockdown without face to face learning due to covid 19. And for children and the elderly as they are experiencing an unusual heat wave with maximum temperatures around 41°C in Harare.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Messy Church.** Thank the Lord for Sandy and her team of volunteers, working together to be the love of the Lord to so many families, and to teach the wonder of our fabulous God through worship, the Word, stories, activity, and a meal. This is church, **real** church, just not on a Sunday morning.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Mark E and his family	Elizabeth G
Audrey	Rebecca D
Phil and Grace	Sheila S
Marjory – Thora's school friend	Peter C
Janet – Judy C's sister	Melissa
Beth G who is out of hospital but now in a care-home in Halstead (temporarily)	

