

NEWS & CHAT 25 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**

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 28 Nov. 10am John Amos at CC
10.30am The Minister at BDC, followed by Church Meeting

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

Please remember this is **YOUR** weekly newsletter – if you have items of news, short articles, poems, photos etc you want included, please send them to Naomi – minister@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk by Monday morning of the week you want them included.

THIS SATURDAY 27 NOV. - THE ARTS, CRAFT & RE-USE SALE 10am to 3pm, with refreshments available.

- Please come and support the artists and crafters and raise money for the building project
- Please invite as many of your friends and neighbours as you can
- If you can help with a stall or refreshments – please just turn up on the day, or **contact Janine ASAP.**
- If you still have (jumble) items or arts/crafts **please bring them to the church from 10am on Friday 26 Nov, when we will be setting up and pricing.**

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 (Home Regal) 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. The town Light Switch-On has been cancelled again, so this is an opportunity for Christmas witness in the High Street.** There will be chairs in the Welcome Area for those who are unable to stand outside the church to sing carols. **Please sign the sheet at the back of the church to give an idea of numbers for refreshments.**
- **Christingle will take place at 3pm on 24th Dec.** This will be Covid-secure (details to follow nearer the time).

Prayer Triplets

If you would like to be part of a triplet, please let Gwyneth 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.

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

TIPS & IDEAS - This week we are celebrating the power of youth with a challenge inspired by **#iwill** week!

#iwill is a movement comprised of over 1000 organisations and 700 young #iwill Ambassadors & Champions from across the UK. They are united by a shared belief that all children and young people should be supported and empowered to make a positive difference on the issues that affect their lives, their communities, and broader society. The campaign wants to make participation in social action the norm for people under 20. More information about #iwill week here - <https://www.iwill.org.uk/iwill-week-2021>

To do: Think of a young person who is making positive change in the world around them through social action. It could be someone you know in your community or someone you don't know (e.g. someone you have seen on TV or in the news). Celebrate them in any creative way you like, it could be through writing, painting, sculpture, praying... How have they changed your perspective or inspired you? How can your creation share this impact they have had on you and others?

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/c66138d8c5c3/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251140?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 (JRC) 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 this week for young people campaigning for social and environmental justice.

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This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Thursday groups.** Thank the Lord for the friendship at Needles & Natter, the worship of Taizé, the serenity of Space for Prayer, the fellowship of House Groups, Concord Ladies Club, Caley Men and the Romeo Lunch Club.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Mark E and his family

Audrey

Phil and Grace

Marjory – Thora's school friend

Janet – Judy C's sister

Beth G, Bill & Elizabeth

Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil T

Sheila S

Peter C

Judy H

Margaret and Doug B (living in Bath)



Statement from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church on the conclusion of the Glasgow COP26 summit – 14 November 2021

Significant new statements have been made at the summit in Glasgow. Most government delegations accept that the sense of urgency is greater than it was six years ago at Paris. But ultimately the summit has not delivered. All governments must agree on the necessary actions to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming. The failure of all parties at COP26 to unequivocally support this higher ambition with funding and emission reductions is an injustice towards those whose livelihoods have already been devastated by climate change.

We are deeply disappointed that the language on phasing out coal was weakened at the last moment however the summit has called for the phasing out of 'inefficient' subsidies for fossil fuels. COP26 has also initiated a process to create a fund to help communities recover from loss and damage resulting from severe climatic events. These developments are crucial and welcome, but we cannot wait for pledges to be reviewed and turned into action every five years. Action must be taken now. The pace and intensity of action must keep up with the science and with the realities experienced by an increasing number of people whose flourishing – now and in the future – depends on the actions that we all take today.



Many of our church partners in developing countries are already experiencing the dire impact of changing weather patterns on livelihoods and food security. Revd James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches said as he arrived as a delegate at COP26 that for many in the Pacific Islands, Psalm 137 with its reference to being "By the rivers of Babylon..." has particular resonance. As these communities face exile they experience a sense of loss of identity, loss of sovereignty, and loss of future. At COP26 our churches have listened to and sought to amplify the voices of those in the global South who are critically affected by loss through changing climates.

Our Churches acknowledge that while we live in an age of individuality and immediacy, this is a journey not of individuals but of a community: the people of God and the people of the earth. Whilst individual actions are important, this is a journey that requires us to work together to build a safe and healthy future for all. The involvement of so many sectors of society in COP26 was an inspiration. Sadly, the response of governments is not yet adequate and we call for further actions that respond meaningfully to the magnitude of the emergency that we face.

Signed by:

Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and leaders of the Methodist and Baptist churches.