

## NEWS & CHAT 4 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.**

**Sunday 7 Nov. 10.30am** – the Minister at CC, followed by Church Meeting  
John Amos at BDC

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!**



**White Poppies will be for sale in the Welcome area. Suggested donation £1.**

The **British Legion Red Poppies** are also now available.

As we are an Eco Church, and the COP26 Climate Conference is now taking place until 12 November, we have two poppy banners made from single-use plastic bags. This also highlights the use we could make of a plain screen where the blue curtains currently are, for seasonal displays and banners. The poppy banners will come down after Remembrance Sunday. We will also have our usual Poppy Peace banner outside – thanks to Joyce for checking the crochet work, and to Bob for putting it up.

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

**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.

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

**THIS Saturday, 6 Nov.** – 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 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.**

There are rumours that several people are working on crafts – the more the merrier – let's fill the church with arts and crafts!!

## TIPS & IDEAS

No specific challenge this week. As we reflect on the COP26 Conference, see how you can re-use things in new and interesting ways. Or, if gardening is your thing – see what you can do to make your garden as wildlife friendly as possible – sow wildflower seeds, make a bee hotel, don't use chemicals...

There is an interesting article here about recycling myths – things that can and cannot be recycled:

<https://metro.co.uk/2021/10/26/15-common-recycling-myths-debunked-15450967/>

Here is a flavour of some of the tips:

- Recycling needs to be washed – contamination can result in the whole batch going to landfill instead of being recycled.
- Crisp packets can be recycled, but only at specific locations. (I think Geoff is still collecting crisp packets for charity)
- Putting non-recyclable items in the recycling will contaminate it, so if you are not sure, best to bin that item, otherwise your whole recycling bin may end up in landfill.
- Aerosol cans can be recycled, but shredded paper cannot!

**Although recycling isn't a perfect process (yet), it is far better for humans, animals, and the planet than the alternative. Recycling plays a major role in reducing the amount of waste being burned in incinerator plants or being deposited in landfills.**

**If we didn't recycle, then the waste materials would just decompose and produce dangerous chemicals and pollute the environment for many years to come.**

## RESOURCES

**The Climate Conference, COP26 is running from now until 12 November.** Last Sunday's BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship focussed on this: 'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' - Lament and longing in environmental crisis. It was a beautiful service with voices from countries most affected by Climate Change. You may like to listen to it: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00113zx>

Next Sunday's Worship (Radio 4) will also be on an environmental theme, from Glasgow, where the conference is being held. You may like to listen, at 8.10am.

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**Other COP26 resources:**

CAFOD have produced prayers of intercession which you can find at the link below

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/COP26-intercessions>

Green Christian is running daily Zoom prayer sessions at 8am every morning for the coming 2 weeks which last 10 to 15 minutes. You can register to receive joining instructions at the link below

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/pray-for-cop26/>

There is a Global Day of Action on 6 November: <https://cop26coalition.org/gda/>

And an ecumenical, online Worship on 7 November: <https://www.glasgowcathedral.org/cop26-service-in-glasgow-cathedral/>

**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). **Sunday Club.** Quality if not quite yet quantity! Please pray with much thanksgiving for our Sunday Club, its dedicated leaders, and enthusiastic attendees as they share and learn together to explore and trust the simplicity and nearness of God's love and presence.

**Particular prayer requests this week:**

Mark E and his family

Audrey

Phil and Grace

Frank

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

Margaret Drage, who used to attend Space for Prayer has died. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 10 November at 2.45pm** at St Davids, Eastwood.

Elizabeth G

Bill and Beth G

Sheila S

Peter C



**A Poem for All Saint's Day by Malcolm Guite – A last beatitude**

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;  
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,  
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book  
But keep the books and tally up the quota,  
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',  
The quiet ones who organise the fete,  
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,  
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.  
God knows the depths that often go unspoken  
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,  
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken  
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.  
Invisible on earth, without a voice,  
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.