

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 4 March 2021

Welcome to the joint weekly newsletter of Christ Church and the Bridgwater Drive Church.

There will be no activities in either church building as we continue in national lockdown, including Sunday Worship which will continue online, live-streamed on the CC Facebook page, and text circulated with the weekly News & Chat.

Sunday 7 March 'normal' Sunday worship with the minister at 10am on Facebook.

Advance notice – 14 March, Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is the day we honour mothers and mother churches. On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church - the church in which they received their baptism. It has of course for a long time been linked to the secular Mother's Day. Since this year we will again be unable to visit our mothers, or have children visit those of us who are mothers, I thought it might be nice, if you would like to, to have a picture of your mother handy and visible during the service. (This is of course private as on Facebook no one can see the participants!)

This is the second week of **Fairtrade Fortnight** (until 7 March). You can check out lots of resources and online events here:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/>

An update from Wendy on some events she sampled:

Here are a few examples of events you can enjoy on YouTube, whenever you choose (we think they will be available still after the festival):



The **Hadeel Craft Workshop in Gaza** where they employ deaf and blind workers to make beautiful products. These are also available at their shop in Edinburgh at www.hadeel.org The tour is sponsored by Edinburgh Fairtrade City.

Meet the Farmers behind the Fairtrade tea and coffee produced in Kenya. (**Café Direct**)

They discuss how climate change affects the growers and the challenges involved. Fairtrade Africa has also donated money to help with management of the pandemic there. It has donated 13 million towards awareness and the cost of necessary precautions for the workers.

Creativity against the Climate Crisis This was introduced by Adjoa Andoh, a Fairtrade Foundation Patron. It involved work being done by artists, activists and academics designing posters, cartoons and music to make people aware of climate change.

Traidcraft sell many Fairtrade products. Christ Church has an account with them and we have a discount on most of the items. Their website is: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk If you would like to order anything from Traidcraft and support Fairtrade, including Divine chocolate Easter Eggs, please go to the website to choose and then email or phone me your order. I will then contact Traidcraft and deliver the items to you when they arrive. Thank you. Wendy Norris.

OTHER NEWS

As in previous years, both churches are taking a **Lent collection for Water Aid's 'Jars of Change' appeal**. Molia lives in Mozambique, a country highly vulnerable to cyclones, extreme droughts and flooding. Before WaterAid constructed a solar-powered water system in her community, she had to walk 5km to the nearest water source. Now the community has clean, sustainable drinking water.

Keep your coins until the end of Lent, or count the number of times you turn on the tap and calculate an appropriate donation.

Good News!

Someone said to me recently that N&C always has requests for money for something or other. They probably have a point, and please don't feel that there is any obligation to donate to any of the causes or appeals. But we do like to make people aware of causes that as Christians we may want to support. Here is a 'thank you' update I received as a regular giver to the Trussell Trust.

"In a few short months, the **Hunger Free Future** movement is already making an impact. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over £4 million, which will help us and our Foodbank Network move towards a future where food banks are no longer needed. Crucially, the growing number of people supporting the Hunger Free Future movement demonstrates to decision-makers that this matters to everyone, because when one person goes hungry, our whole society is weaker. **Our vision is clear: we want to see a UK without the need for food banks. A future where everyone has enough income to afford the basics.**"

This is not a request for money, but a way to raise awareness about hunger and campaign to end it, so do consider finding out more at: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/hunger-free-future/join-us/>

Lent House Groups on Thursdays at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930156610?pwd=dTNlTUZJY2JlRlhkb1VlWGdRcW5Sdz09>

Passcode: 112886 Number to phone in: 0203 051 2874

It will be the same link every week.

Open to all at Bridgwater Drive and Christ Church.

If you want to order the booklet for yourself: You can order here:

<https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation/>

The summary and questions for this week were in last week's N&C. Here is next week's:

Week 3 The Age of Humans

Human beings are having a rapid, deep and long-lasting effect on our planet. Scientists have coined a new word for this; we are now living in the 'Anthropocene' era.

Wherever we look, human beings have drastically changed God's creation, so that it is hard to find unspoilt, pristine nature anywhere. And yet, we buy into the popular belief that we are small and the planet is big, therefore nothing we do can have a planet-scale impact. Every natural disaster reinforces the idea of nature's awesome power over humans – yet it is climate change that is increasing the frequency and power of hurricanes, storms and fires.

Often the people most affected by climate change are those living in poorer countries. This is grossly unfair, as they have done the least to cause climate change! That is why big charities like Oxfam and Christian Aid are so committed to campaigning on climate change.

Old Testament prophets spoke out about injustice – Isaiah 58:6-8

And of course Jesus did too, Luke 14:13-14 (just one example of many)

Group Questions

1. **Read Psalm 8** If God has put human beings in charge of creation, why are we so often reluctant to acknowledge this?
2. The way we live affects the lives of people on the other side of the world... How could we, personally or as a church, act in a way that reflects this?
3. We need to join forces with all those who care about God's creation, believers and non-believers. Is joining forces with non-believers practical? How can we go about it?
4. Do you feel hope or despair when you think about the future of our planet?

Questions for individual reflection

You may like to consider these on your own:

- Are you for or against nuclear power? Why?
- Are you for or against genetically modified crops? Why?





TIPS & IDEAS

As ever, these ideas are just for fun – things to keep us entertained in isolation and lockdown!

Thursday is **World Book Day**. Why not call a friend and chat about your favourite book? Or draw/paint a picture inspired by your favourite book.

If you are following **The Great Big Art Exhibition** – the theme for the next two weeks until 14 March is **COLOUR**, chosen by the artist Anish Kapoor.

"Art isn't always about having something to say. Sometimes it's about doing something and seeing what happens."
- Anish Kapoor

RESOURCES

A new weekly reflection from St Paul's Cathedral by Revd Winnie Varghese is a Priest at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City,:

<https://mailchi.mp/27d672b7bc2b/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8240644?e=e30a1f608a>

A collection of Lent resources from JPIT - <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/a-collection-of-lent-resources/>

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. I am praying 'live' with a short devotion every day, Monday – Friday, on the Rev Naomi Facebook Page, then shared with both church FB pages. Especially this week we pray for people around the world dependent on fair trade, and for the people starving in Yemen.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Lent**. Give thanks that we have so much we can contemplate what to 'give up' for lent. This bounty puts us in a small minority of people on earth. Give thanks for the hope we have to be able to meet in person again soon. Give thanks for the mind-blowing gift of Jesus.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil T.
Bill and Beth G
Della

Doreen's son, Peter, and
everyone who knew and
loved Doreen. (BDC)

Sadly, Vera Willis died on Monday. Terry Willis was minister at Christ Church from 1967 to 1980, when he and Vera and their son James moved to America. Please pray for Terry and James.

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

A selection of art and photos from the last week – I said I would try to do something ‘creative’ every day during Lent, Naomi

