NEWS & CHAT Thursday 15 April 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 18 April, 10am worship with the minister on Facebook. This will be a Communion service so please have the elements ready.

NEWS:

Christian Aid Week 2021 starts on 9th May and will focus on the impact of climate change on communities in Kenya. A booklet is available which provides a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for each day of Christian Aid Week to help you focus your prayers on the climate crisis and consider how you might respond. (Naomi will be using this in her daily devotions on Facebook) If you would like a copy of the devotional booklet please call or email **Robert Dart** and he will order a supply - 01268 781258 or email robertdart@talktalk.net

Val is busy growing plants (beans etc) for sale in aid of BDC funds - place your order now! 01702 343462.

I hope I don't need to remind anyone that non-essential shops and HAIRDRESSERS opened this week. I'm sure many of you, like me, already have a hair appointment booked. Maybe we should have some before and after photos?!!

TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea from #64MillionArtists comes from Angela who describes herself as a 'NaN who CaN' ! She says, "I think our stories and experiences have the power to help others and make a difference. I think now more than ever people need HOPE, SUPPORT and ENCOURAGEMENT. I want to encourage people to share their pictures and stories as part of a bigger project idea which I hope will have a ripple effect."

Make something that symbolises HOPE. It could be a drawing, a collage, a photograph or a story!

Hope can look like lots of different things to different people; for some it can be a current feeling or change being made, whilst for others it could be a future aspiration. What gives you hope? Or what are you feeling hopeful for?

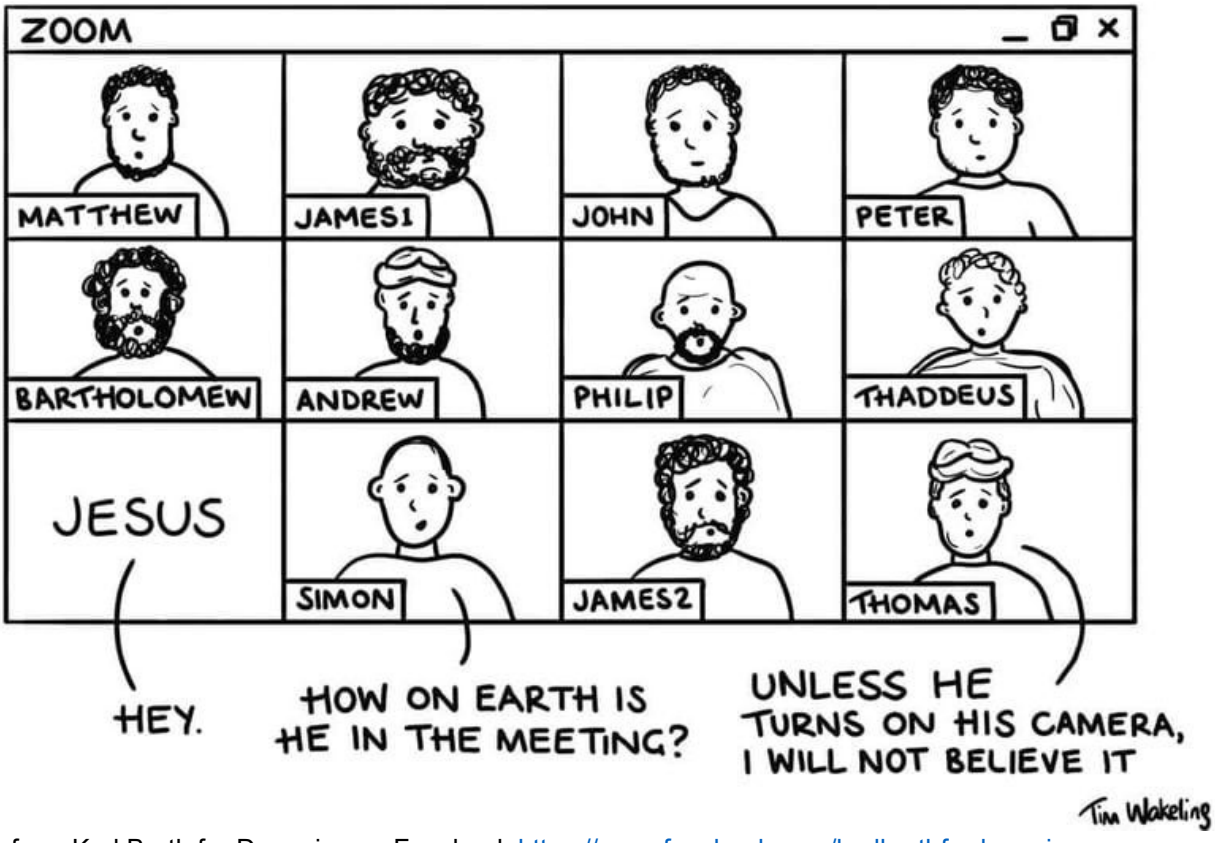
Create something to celebrate that hope and inspire others!
The Faith in Action Group (CC) hope to bring you some personal activities for environmental/ecological support in the coming weeks. There are lots of practical 'how to' guides for the garden here - https://www.essexwt.org.uk/actions

Also, an excellent TV programme about the effects of climate change now – **Climate Change: Ade on the Frontline, BBC2, Sundays at 8pm**. The first episode was last Sunday, but can be seen on iPlayer: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v4fb

And speaking of climate change – here is Gwyneth's pyrography (poker work) take on creation following the Lent House Group study:

DEVOTION

No devotion this week as I am writing something for the Christ Church monthly newsletter and don't have enough ideas for both!! But why not continue to reflect on doubt and hope as inspired by the resurrection and 'doubting Thomas'. What might our modern doubts be?



Cartoon from Karl Barth for Dummies on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/karlbarthfordummies

RESOURCES

Easter reflections from St Paul's Cathedral by Dr Catherine Fox: https://mailchi.mp/215c8e070557/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8250960?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. 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 the people of Brazil and India and all countries facing a surge in virus cases, for those worried about having the vaccine, for people with family in Latin America who can't travel.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Together Apart.** Thank the Lord for the technology that has kept us all able to contact each other this past year. Thank the Lord for Naomi, Sandy and the team who have kept us worshiping, praying, singing and creative together apart.

Particular prayer requests this week:
Barbara and Richard
Della
Irene
Bob (BDC)
Brian, Jenny C's brother
Norah, mother of Kim, a mentor
Valentina, Claudia's niece
Edna Taylor, whose son James has died (Ladies Club member)
Jackie and family, following the death of her husband Malcolm Watson (friends of Di)

Yvonne, Theresa and Sonya following the death of Tony (BDC). If anyone who knew Tony would like to send memories to put together for the family, please contact Margaret.

ECO CHURCH, ART, FUN….

I recently saw this picture on Facebook, made entirely from plastic bottles.

Later in the year (September/October) prior to the COP26 climate conference held in Glasgow, we hope to hold various related events, so it might be nice to have the church decorated with some art made from recyclables, or better still – stuff that can't be recycled and would otherwise go to landfill. So, just for fun – get collecting material and get creative!

There are some great ideas on this website https://mamaslatinas.com/life-inspiration/153233-clever-crafts-made-out-of-recycled-materials/make_letter_art_from_scraps like this Christmas decoration made from paper, and plant containers from plastic bottles.

The poet Malcolm Guite writes a response to Psalm 94: (see below)

“Psalm 94 is one of those bracing and challenging psalms that calls out for Justice, calls out for God to come as judge, and finally set the worlds wrongs to right. It is challenging for us to say because of course we ourselves are entangled and compromised with so much that is wrong in the world. At the time I was writing my poetic response to this psalm we were becoming aware of how acutely Covid itself was exposing and increasing the gap between the haves and the have-nots and we were also in the midst of the ferment and protest against systemic prejudice and injustice in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. All these issues made this psalm more relevant and challenging than ever.”

My saviour stands and keeps my soul serene
But also sends me back into the world
To speak his word and challenge the obscene

Injustices we take for granted, sold
As we are on systems that preserve
Our privilege and barter truth for gold,

Putting our souls to silence. We reserve
Our judgment, but the psalmist makes it clear
Justice is coming for God’s poor. We serve

Him best if we can serve them here,
Rise up and take their part against the proud
Deliver them from harassment and fear.

We have been pietistic, quiet, cowed
But we must come out publicly and cry
For equal rights and justice, cry out loud.

If you like Malcolm’s poems, I encourage to check out his blog: https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/blog/