

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 24 June 2021

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

Both churches are now open for Sunday Worship, with restrictions. While the online service will remain 'joint' each church will have 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 as it has been from March 2020.

The same rules as last time the church was open apply:

- Social distancing, which means a capacity of around 30 people (CC) and 12 (BDC). Please 'book' a place with Pat Botfield (01245 320212, pat.botfield@btinternet.com) or Margaret (07890 162322 margaretbates@bleyonder.co.uk).
- Face coverings need to be worn inside
- No congregational singing
- No socialising in groups of more than 6 inside the building or in the area outside the door

The government has announced that the current restrictions will continue for at least another 4 weeks until 19 July, please be patient and continue to observe the rules. We hope that after that, the remaining restrictions can be lifted, but it is not up to us!

Sunday 27 June The Minister will lead worship at Bridgwater Drive and the Facebook service will be live from there at **10.30a.m.**

NEWS:

Space for Prayer will take place on Thursday 1 July at 10.30a.m. at Christ Church – face coverings must be worn (except for the leader)

June 28, 3-4.30pm Join Christian Aid, Practical Action and Stamp Out Poverty, for a panel social discussion on a new social contract for people and planet.

We need a new and ambitious Social Contract for people and the planet to deliver a prosperous future for all. The Covid pandemic has shown us what happens when our leaders fail to act in a timely fashion. Building on the momentum of the G7 and the fact that the UK Government is hosting COP 26, we will explore via the panellists and with audience participation what any new social contract for people and the planet should look like with a particular focus on the loss and damage agenda. **Register for this FREE online event here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/loss-and-damage-what-we-owe-each-other-tickets-156072678583>

OTHER DIARY DATES:

9-12 July the URC General Assembly will meet online. **Sunday Worship on 11 July at 11am will be available on:**

The URC website - <https://urc.org.uk/> , URC YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/URCUK>

Sat. 17 July 2 - 4pm at Christ Church, Revd Nigel Uden (former Moderator of General Assembly) will lead **a session on prayer**, incl. how to lead prayers of intercession.

There is a sign-up sheet at the church, otherwise - **please let Jean know if you are planning to attend.** jean.h3@talktalk.net 01268 743148.

HOUSE GROUPS – last week was the last session on 'making change happen.' It was agreed that we would have a break and House Groups would **resume in September** – hopefully in person, if not on Zoom, or maybe both. The **theme will be Climate Change** and what we can do to fight it. In the run-up to that, starting next week, there will be an action we can all take, each week in News & Chat from –

The Grantham Institute of Imperial College London - 9 things you can do about climate change:

“As experts on climate change, many people ask us, what can I do personally about it? And how does this fit into the bigger picture?”

We spoke to our scientists and drew up a list of the most achievable ways you personally can make a difference. While individuals alone may not be able to make drastic emissions cuts that limit climate change to acceptable levels, personal action is essential to raise the importance of issues to policymakers and businesses. Using your voice as a consumer, a customer, a member of the electorate and an active citizen, will lead to changes on a much grander scale.”



Here's the link to the website if you'd like to look for yourself:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/>



And here is an interesting article from the BBC on **10 ways to tackle climate change**.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20181102-what-can-i-do-about-climate-change>

There is a lot of overlap with the '9 things' we will be featuring here, but if you think "I'm only one person, I can't make much difference" – read this extract:

“Actually, it's not just you. Social scientists have found that when one person makes a sustainability-oriented decision, other people do too.

Here are four examples:

- Patrons at a US cafe who were told that 30% of Americans had started eating less meat **were twice as likely to order a meatless lunch.**
- An online survey showed that of the respondents who know someone who had given up flying because of climate change, **half of them said they flew less** as a result.
- In California, households were more likely to install solar panels **in neighbourhoods that already have them.**
- Community organisers trying to get people to install solar panels **were 62% more successful** in their efforts if they had panels in their house too.



Social scientists believe this occurs because we constantly evaluate what our peers are doing and we adjust our beliefs and actions accordingly. When people see their neighbours taking environmental action, like conserving energy, they infer that people like them also value sustainability and feel more compelled to act.”

TIPS & IDEAS

This week's 64 Million Artists is brought to us by a former lawyer who left the profession after a cancer diagnosis. Sheena is a poetess who champions creative writing during life's many adversities:

Think of a song title and write it down. There is your title to your piece of writing! Maybe it's a poem or a story. Don't think too much about rhyme or structure of your writing - see where the words take you. Songs are often connected to a memory, what does the song remind you of? You could think about who was there in that memory. What was happening? Why was it happening? Where was it happening? When did it happen? Your writing piece can be as long or as short as you like, and if you want, you could illustrate your words with drawings, collage or photography!

RESOURCES

Reflections from St Paul's Cathedral by Brother Sam who is a Franciscan brother on 'Sabbath Wisdom for a Post-Pandemic World'

<https://mailchi.mp/01d72a51f41b/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251036?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. This week we pray especially for our partner church in Budiriro as they go back into lockdown and cannot meet for worship.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Wider family.** Celebrate your family, rejoice in their presence or in their legacy to you. Thank the Lord for family and pray earnestly for family to be restored in our land, restored, respected, honoured and fought for. Pray for God's goodness in our families.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Christ Church

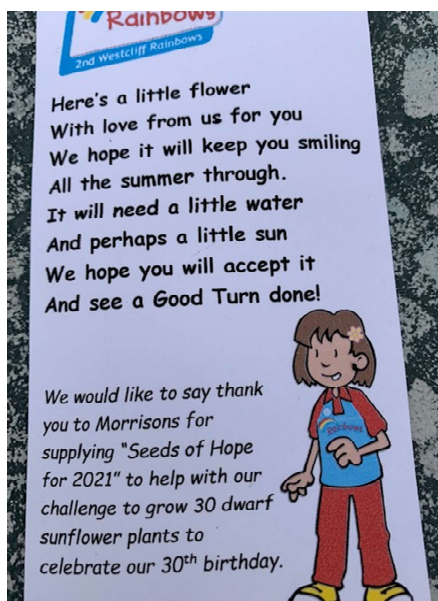
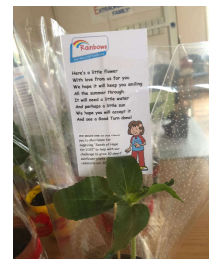
Della	Audrey
Brian, Jenny C's brother	Peter C
Tim, Bob W's nephew	Sheila S
Bill & Beth	Irene C
Grace & Phil	Rachel S & family
Di's nephew, Bobby, in hospital	Michelle

The BDC

Margaret J.
Clive
Darren's son, Reuben
Celia
Christine R and John
Margaret's friends, Peggy and Jean

We pray for all those grieving following the death of a loved one, praying especially for Pat and everyone who knew and loved Peter Chandler who died last week and for Alison and Lily as they come to terms with the death of their dear friend, Rita, and try to cope with all the problems associated with such a loss.

We give thanks for 2nd Westcliff Guides, Brownies and Rainbows at The Bridgwater Drive Church. They are a wonderful part of our church family. We wish them well as the Rainbows celebrate their 30th birthday this year. Last Sunday, when we arrived for worship, we found a table full of little pots, each with a very healthy looking sunflower and a message from the Rainbows for the church members who there that day. I sent a thank you email to the leaders but also took a thank you card along to this week's meeting on the field. In response to the poem with the little sunflowers I tried my hand at a thank you poem.



Here's a great big thank you,
For the sunflowers that you grew
I gave them to the folk in church
And read your message too.

I wish you'd seen each smiling face
They were grateful and surprised
The pleasure you had given them
Was obvious in their eyes.

I'm looking at my sunflower now
Hoping it gets some sun.
When watering it and watching it
I'll think of your good turn done.

Margaret

Imagine my surprise when the girls and leaders on the field gave me a beautiful 'Thank you' rose and a card signed by everyone. This was totally unexpected - for once I was lost for words! They said it was for my support, especially during Covid - helping them to get going again. I think the credit goes to them!



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Everything needs a firm foundation on which to build, whether it is our health to see us through life, our education to see us being able to support ourselves and a family, a good family upbringing which has taught us how to respect and care and love each other and the world around us, or our faith, without a good foundation this won't survive the knocks of life.

We also have our own eco systems which help our bodies work in synch – the circulatory system, digestive system, nervous system, endocrine system, mental health, etc. If any of these get disrupted, they affect the way in which the rest of the body works in the same way the eco systems of the planet work with each other. If one gets degraded it affects the rest of the planet and the climate which in turn affects all forms of life. We are all dependant on everything else. God is in control of it, but we keep trying to override it and we are now in a mess.

The planet also needs a good foundation for the planet to be able to support life in all its forms. This foundation comprises the eight ecosystems highlighted by United Nations which need restoring. These ecosystems were in place when God decided it was ready for human life to be introduced with everything needed for life with no worries, everything was in order, all that was required of us was to appreciate and care for it.

(Matthew 6: v 26 - Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow and reap and store in barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.) Unfortunately, nature has been disregarded to such a degree that we need to give nature back its home. We have undone God's creation.

These ecosystems have been so degraded to the point of not being able to maintain life. They are on the point of rapidly disintegrating if we don't all change our lifestyles and ways of thinking. This programme of restoration has been set up by United Nations to run over a 10 year period.



WE HAVE THE CARE OF THE WORLD IN OUR HANDS.

HOW DO WE KEEP THE WORLD SAFE IN OUR HANDS?

Over the next few weeks, I will be highlighting a different ecosystem with ideas of ways we can help.

Elizabeth Pryor