

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 19 August 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.

I think I no longer need to include all the post-19 July Covid advice. Please remember that:

Face coverings are no longer mandatory (except when singing), but are **strongly recommended**

Sunday 22 Aug: 10.30 the Minister at Bridgwater Drive (Communion), **followed by AGM**
Ian Miller at Christ Church

A reminder that Sun Aug 29th, Climate Sunday, is a JOINT service at Christ Church, at 11 a.m. café style followed by a vegetarian lunch. For catering, please let Margaret know if you are planning to attend, or sign the sheet at church. We will be seated around tables of 4 for the whole service, so if possible try to sit with people you are in a 'bubble' with or who you see regularly. If you don't feel comfortable sitting round a table, there will be chairs set out along the sides. As a one-off, we will listen to relevant music that day, rather than sing. (ie we will NOT be singing seated round tables facing each other!)

A reminder of the Quiz Night at Christ Church this Saturday, 21 August, 7 for a 7.30pm start. Tables of 6. £6 per person. Still just about time to book – please contact Janine on 01702 511861

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to the **Art Exhibition at Christ Church** and to all who helped out.



My Rainbows' sunflower

What a lovely idea that was for our BDC Rainbows to give everyone in church a little sunflower plant earlier this year. I've followed their advice and given it water and sunshine. As a result, mine is beautiful. Unfortunately, the slugs and snails took a fancy to it but I put broken eggshells round the base and that saved its life. I hope all the girls and leaders are enjoying the summer break. We look forward to seeing you all in the autumn at our Harvest Festival on 17th October. *Margaret B.*

TIPS & IDEAS

At the Art Exhibition, a few people said to me 'I can't draw' or 'I'm no good at art' so this week's suggestion from #64MillionArtists is perfect – anyone, with or without any artistic talent can do this one!



Choose a pen, pencil, paintbrush - anything you can make a mark with. Let your chosen implement run free on the page, don't think too much about the result, just create!

You could try closing your eyes for an extra element of surprise. **Once you have completed your freestyle drawing, can you find a picture, shape or pattern within it?** Take another colour or bold marker and add to the drawing your new findings!

Or, you could simply colour in the shapes you have created.

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

This week the seventh item from the **9 things you can do about climate change** –

7. Invest your money wisely

Find out where your money goes. Voice your concerns about responsible investment by writing to your bank or pension provider, and ask if you can opt out of funds investing in fossil fuels. There are also a number of 'ethical banks' you can investigate. Even if you don't have savings, most of us will have a bank account.

Banks, pensions funds and big corporates often hold investments in fossil fuel companies. However, the discussion around responsible investment – weighing up environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors and taking them into consideration when investing money – is growing. The URC and most Synods, including our Synod (Eastern) have divested from anything related to fossil fuels.



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 the Bridgwater Drive Church as they hold their AGM and elect elders.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Community**. Please pray for discernment and unity of vision for us and our church people to decide and decipher the shape of community the Lord has for us to be post-Covid, in and from Christ Church Rayleigh and The BDC.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Amanda (Janice & Clive's daughter recovering from an op.): Clive: Barbara: Celia: Margaret and Ted: Margaret B's friends, Peggy and Jean.

All those grieving following the death of a loved one, praying especially for John, whose wife, Christine, passed away peacefully at home following a long illness. The funeral arrangements are: 3pm Basildon Crematorium (a short service for family and close friends); 4pm St. Barnabas Church Thanksgiving Service.

The Church AGM on Sunday, the election of elders and the plans for the future.

Christ Church

Audrey: Della: Brian, Jenny C's brother: Bill and Beth: Peter C.: Doreen: Sheila S.: Grace and Phil: Frank: Faye, daughter of Penny and Phil's friend: Gill M:

Street Pastors - out on patrol each Friday evening/night and Saturday afternoon.

Budiriro, especially following the death of one of their members.

MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have a Tomtom satnav available for anyone who is in need. It's a Start 25 model and is free!
Contact Phil Gendall on 01268 750324

If anyone would like any cleaning or ironing doing, please contact Claudia on 07432 461452

ARTISTS: There will be an art show at Hullbridge Community Centre on Sunday 26th Sept. 10am-4pm
People can exhibit up to 6 pieces at £2 per picture and the organisers take 10% of any sales to cover hall hire. If you are interested in sending art contact Trevor at bavtar@aol.com (Trevor and Lynne came to our art exhibition and spoke to Naomi)

**If you would like to make a banner or poster for Climate Sunday
please do so and bring it with you to worship on the 29th!**

If you have any spare wooden poles/old fabric (to make a banner) please contact Naomi ASAP!!



ECO RESTORATION: FARMLANDS & GRASSLANDS

(Taken from UN Eco Restoration Project 2021)



Farmlands and grasslands are perhaps our most vital ecosystems. As well as supplying food, fodder, and fibre, arable fields and grazing land host a bewildering variety of organisms from bats and birds to beetles and worms as well as considerable tree cover. Marked by centuries of human effort and ingenuity, these ecosystems are cultural treasures whose protection makes spiritual as well as economic sense.

Yet the way we are using many of these lands is exhausting their vitality. Intensive ploughing and monocultures, overgrazing and the removal of hedges and trees are degrading precious soil and vegetation. Excess agrochemicals are polluting waterways and harming wildlife, including bees that pollinate crops.

We can restore rural ecosystems by using nature to boost farm productivity and soil health and improve how they manage the land. Here are some of the options for farmers and livestock keepers.

Invest in nature: Reduce tillage and use natural pest control and organic fertilizer on arable land to build the health of your soil and the yields of your crops while reducing erosion and the need for farm chemicals.

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Trust in diversity: Grow more trees and a greater variety of crops and integrate them with livestock keeping to further boost soil health, diversify your income and provide better wildlife habitat. Planting flowers along the borders of farmlands can provide valuable "feeding stations" for bees and other pollinators.

Keep grasslands whole: In extensive grasslands and savannahs, protect areas along rivers where nutrients are high from being converted to cropland. Without them, less productive areas are harder to use sustainably.

Graze sustainably: Agree on grazing regimes that prevent overuse, soil erosion and invasions of grasslands by shrubs and alien species. Restore already degraded areas by clearing woody vegetation and re-seeding native grasses.

Bring back indigenous species: Reintroduce eradicated plants, trees and animals and protect them from predation and hunting until they are established.

Find out more:

The Greener.LAND initiative has created a [visual guide](#) to techniques for restoring land. The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies has hundreds of methods to protect and restore farmlands, grasslands and other ecosystems in its [Global Database on Sustainable Land Management](#). The PANORAMA platform brings together proven solutions for a range of ecosystems - including [ideas on how to increase biodiversity in agriculture](#).

Elizabeth Pryor