

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 26 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 29 Aug 11.00 a.m. the Minister at Christ Church, Climate Sunday, café-style followed by lunch
10.30 a.m. Margaret leading Morning Worship at Bridgwater Drive

This coming Sunday is Climate Sunday and a 5th Sunday – so the hope was to have a joint service. However, only 3-4 people at BDC were interested in attending and for various practical reasons are unable to come, so Margaret will lead worship at BDC at 10.30am. Anyone from BDC who can get to Rayleigh is still very welcome.

It is hoped that in the future, once Covid restrictions allow us to sit closer together, we could have occasional joint services at Bridgwater Drive. The **next 5th Sunday, is 31 Oct. at Christ Church and will be All Age, Café-Style, led jointly by Naomi and Sandy**. It is hoped that with a bit of planning, some folk from BDC could join us for that.



The **written text** of Sunday's service will be circulated with this week's News & Chat as usual. However, we will be watching two short videos, for which I don't have the text. We will also be listening to special music – the words are included for you to read, and if you have the internet there are links to the videos and all the songs. **If you are coming to the service, please do not read the service before you come!**

I don't want to depress you, but if you didn't see this documentary, and you are able to – it is an excellent programme about how the way our climate has already changed is causing the extreme weather we have seen in the last few years: <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/summer-of-wild-weather-is-worse-to-come?>

Sunday 5 Sept. 10.30am - the Minister at Christ Church
- Robert Dart at The BDC

News from the Bridgwater Drive Church Meeting:

- Jan, Celia, Cherry and Val were re-elected as serving Elders
- Thanks to Margaret for her service as Church Secretary. Cherry Winder was elected Secretary for 3 years (her term as a serving Elder).
- It was agreed not to re-start the quarterly Church Magazine at the moment, but to review that again in 6 months' time.
- It was agreed to continue with the weekly News & Chat and the written service. Please let Margaret know if you would like to receive the service – to save copying and paper. It will only go to people who request it, not to everyone. Margaret would welcome more items for News and Chat from BDC folk.

- Tuesday Church – will resume in September, once a month from 14 September, and thereafter on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (19 Oct, 16 Nov.) at 10.30am for a short Bible Study/Devotion and time of fellowship, usually led by the Minister
- Film mornings will run at 10.30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. The next film morning is 7th September 10.30

TIPS & IDEAS



This week's idea from #64MillionArtists is a writing challenge, rather than an art one:

Choose five different key moments in your life. They can be as big or small as you like. Now, choose five words that capture those different moments - one word per memory or experience.

Your challenge is to create a short story or poem that uses all of your words. Perhaps it gives them new meaning or a new timeline - or perhaps you could use your words as inspiration for a new character perspective.

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

8. Cut consumption and waste – hopefully, most of us are doing this one already!

Everything we use as consumers has a carbon footprint.

- Avoid single-use items and fast fashion, and try not to buy more than you need
- Shop around for quality items that last a long time
- Put your purchasing power to good use by choosing brands that align with your green aspirations.
- Try to minimise waste.
- Repair and reuse
- Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity
- Avoid wasting food
- Let brands know if you think they are using too much packaging - some will take customer feedback seriously



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 those taking action to prevent further climate change and for the situation in Afghanistan.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Climate Sunday.** Our world, our planet, this earth, is critically sick. If each of us do not have and keep God as Lord in our lives, our world, our planet, this earth will die ...and all of us with it. It is not up to the next generation, it is up to us, you and me. Please keep seeking the Lord for the ways, however small or large, God has for you to do your part to save our home world.



The BDC

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

Naomi and our elders as they seek to guide us and lead our mission in these 'recovering from Covid' times.

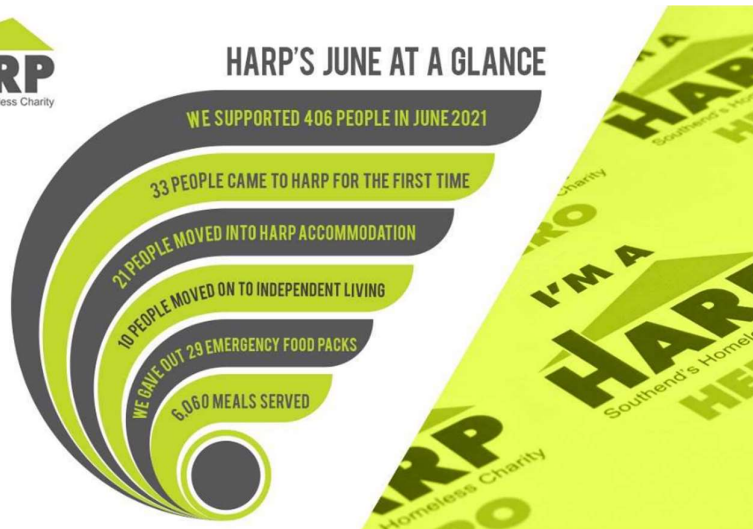
Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC)

Christ Church

Audrey: Della: Brian, Jenny C's brother: Irene C.: Bill and Beth: Peter C.: Sheila S.: Grace and Phil: Gill M:

Please continue to pray for and support HARP.

Kate has sent this message :-
'Thanks to everyone for their donations of food, toiletries and bedding to HARP. Please continue to put items in the box at church. If you have anything for me to collect, please contact me.'



BDC Brownie Camp Fun Day

In August, Bridgwater Drive's Brownies joined the three other Westcliff Brownie packs for a fun day at our local campsite. Their first adventure away from the hall for nearly two years. The weather was really kind to us and everyone had a great day with lots of activities including free time in the woods creating their own imaginative games of spies and building houses for badgers. The girls also gained their Camp badge and finished their Aviation badge. The girls from all three groups got on really well and lots of new friends were made. The leaders also enjoyed seeing each other again and catching up on news.



To earn their camp badge all the girls practised putting up a tent and taking it down again with pegs carefully hammered in. The poor tent was put up and taken down six times!



Fire safety plays were created and performed and wood collected and examined to decide if it would burn or not.

There was much discussion about what should and should not be packed for a camping trip. Should you leave Teddy safe and dry at home or was he essential to ensure a good night's sleep? After earnest debate, it was decided it came down to an individual's need to take Teddy but if he came, he had to be very carefully looked after. Brown Owl (a librarian) was particularly pleased to hear that a book, on the other hand, was universally considered absolutely essential to provide the bedtime story.

Flyers were made and lists made of 40 things that fly for two parts of the aviation badge. Most girls had already launched a rocket at Brownies in July.



Other activities included making a pretend telescope, solving the code to save an astronaut and making a star constellation game.



We are planning to return to the campsite in October to do some star gazing and find the constellations we learnt about.

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The day ended with lighting the campfire using some of the wood we had collected and having a good sing song, after which parents collected their tired but happy girls. I'm sure some would have been asleep in the car on the way home.



We are now looking forward to returning to our weekly meetings at Bridgwater Drive in September and welcoming some new members for more fun and games.

Rosalyn (Brown Owl - 2nd Westcliff Brownies)

**More tea Vicar?
SATURDAY 18 SEPT. 2021
1pm – 5pm
at Christ Church URC Rayleigh
Come and learn more about us
OPEN DAY - Pop in for a chat,
FREE CAKE,
learn about the activities and organisations we support
DID YOU KNOW WE ARE:**

- an ECO Church
- Inclusive, and registered for same-sex marriages
- Sight-Loss Friendly

WE SUPPORT:
*Hopeworx * HARP
*Christian Aid *ACT\$435
*Rayleigh Refugee Group