

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 2 September 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.

Please remember that: Face coverings are no longer mandatory for worship (except when singing), but are **strongly recommended**

Sunday 5 Sept. 10.30am (first Sunday of the trial of 10.30am) – the Minister at Christ Church
Robert Dart at The BDC

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made Climate Sunday happen **at Christ Church** last week. It was the first time since I've been minister that we have had café-style church. We are planning to do something similar again on other 5th Sundays, in particular on 31 October (Halloween All Age, non-spooky light party meets All Saints), so please do let me know what you think.

DON'T FORGET - Saturday 4 Sept. 10m – 12pm is our first **ART CLUB at Christ Church!** Come along – it's not just for children. No artistic talent required!

On Saturday 4 September **the new Synod Moderator, Revd Lythan Nevard**, will be inducted. Naomi and Geoff will represent Christ Church and The BDC at the service in Stowmarket.

Film Morning at Bridgwater Drive - this coming Tuesday, 7th September 10.30 a.m. watching 'Chariots of Fire'. Don't forget to bring some lunch to enjoy with a cuppa and a chat afterwards.

Saturday 18 September:

- Sat 18 Sept – 'More Tea Vicar' – open day event 1-5pm and Sunday 'More Tea Vicar' is just a more interesting name for an Open Day! There will be displays in the church and corridor of all the things we do and are involved in, for church members to remind themselves, and the public to find out more about us. Refreshments will be available. If you can make anything (cake, biscuits, flapjacks etc) – **please contact Janine**. Any leftovers will be available on Sunday morning to help us make it through worship and the Church Meeting!

RNLI Thank you - We have received a lovely thank you card from the treasurer at Southend RNLI for the donations made via Bridgwater Drive Church. Most of these came as 5ps in the little 'Betty's Pots' although many people donated more valuable coins and even notes in much larger pots! The money is added to the station's total collection so it's impossible to say how much The BDC has raised but, when I was working in the shop, I tried to keep a record over a period of several months. Based on this, my rough estimate is that we have raised more than £300 over the last 2 years! Well done everyone. The scheme is still running so do keep filling the little (and large) pots!

Margaret B

Competition announcement! This is well in advance, so you have plenty of time to start creating –

URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition

To celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary (2022), choirs, bands, individuals, songwriters, composers, and poets are invited to submit an entry into the URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition.



There are four categories in which you can enter:

- traditional hymn/song
- poem

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

- contemporary hymn/song
- rap

Judges will select a winner from each category. Winning entries will be included in a digital version of the URC at 50 resource pack for local churches for them to use in jubilee celebrations and/or Sunday services.

The closing date for entries is **8 April 2022**, and winners will be publicly announced at General Assembly in **July 2022**.

- To enter, you must be a member or active adherent of a URC or URC Youth.
- Entries can be new lyrics submitted to existing music within the public domain.
- Entries must have a jubilee/URC at 50 anniversary theme and be suitable for use in collective worship.
- Musical entries to new tunes must include lyrics plus musical score (PDF or JPG) and/or an audio recording (MP3 or MP4).
- The competition is open to people of any age.
- One entry per person/group.

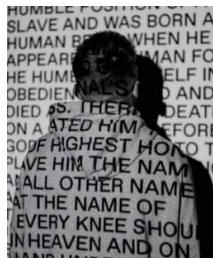
Submit entries to: mission@urc.org.uk

TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea from #64MillionArtists is another word based 'challenge':

Find a piece of writing that you love. Perhaps it's something you've written that you would love to share with others. Or it could be a poem or an extract from a book. **Read it out loud.**

Try out different ways that your piece could be read.



Read it quickly, then slowly, pause after every word or don't pause at all. How does the meaning change? Which version do you prefer? Which version brings out the meaning of your words most effectively?

Experimenting with the different ways that your piece can be read will help you craft a performance that is unique to you and to your writing.

I suspect not many of us have written work we would want to perform! But it is interesting to see how the meaning changes when you read things out loud – try it with your favourite Bible passage.

This week the ninth and final item from the **9 things you can do about climate change –**

(I think you may have had this before while I was on holiday, but it doesn't hurt to have it again!)

9. Talk about the changes you make

As you make positive changes to reduce your environmental impact, share your experience with your family and friends. Don't be a bore or confrontational. Instead, talk positively, and be honest about the ups and downs. Tell people that Christ Church is an Eco Church and we really care about saving the planet!

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 situation in Afghanistan, Haiti (earthquake), Louisiana (hurricane) and children returning to school.



This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Changing times.** Every day is a change, sometimes we forget that because it's such a 'normal' change. As we step forward together, please pray that we will all look for and find our stability in only in our unchanging Lord Jesus and the constant, consistent love of our God.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

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

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

Christ Church

Audrey: Della: Brian, Jenny C's brother: Irene C.: Bill and Beth: Peter C.: Sheila S.: Grace and Phil: Frank: Len and Pam U: Doreen:

ECO RESTORATION: OCEANS AND COASTS (Taken from UN Eco Restoration Project 2021)

We can restore oceans and coasts by reducing the pressures on them so they can recover, both naturally and with our help. We need to make these ecosystems and communities more resilient in the face of global change. Here are some ways we can help:



Oceans and seas cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth. These ecosystems regulate our climate and generate most of the oxygen we breathe. They underpin key economic sectors, such as tourism and fisheries. And they harbour biodiversity from, whales to plankton, in habitats from sun-lit reefs to polar oceans.

But oceans and coasts face huge threats. Millions of tonnes of our plastic waste are harming creatures, including seabirds, turtles and crabs. Climate change is damaging coral reefs and we are clearing mangroves for fish farms and other activities. Overfishing threatens fish stocks, nutrient pollution is creating dead zones, and we discharge nearly 80 per cent of our wastewater without treatment.

Clean up: Mobilize all ages to gather the masses of household waste and abandoned fishing gear that wash up on our beaches and shores. Recycle plastics and other materials to keep them out of landfill. Stop using avoidable and unnecessary plastic products. Watch out for microbeads and microplastics hidden in products! The more people take part, the more awareness grows of the need to reduce waste and dispose of it properly

Restore vegetation above and below the water:

Protect and restore coastal ecosystems including saltmarshes, mangroves, coral reefs, sea-grass meadows and shellfish beds to boost their diversity and the habitats and benefits they provide. All ecosystems are complex, so get expert advice for your location. Did you know, for example, that seagrass beds store 18 per cent of oceanic carbon, and are 35 times faster than rainforests in doing so? They are also critical feeding grounds for seahorses and manatee, who might otherwise not survive. Get to know your local oceans and coasts and help bring back what makes them special.

Use the ocean wisely: Bring together communities, authorities and other stakeholders to agree how to make coastal and ocean development and fishing sustainable, for instance by creating protected areas and deciding who can access which resources. If fishing communities come together and jointly decide on protected areas and fishing zones in their waters, people and nature benefit. Use citizen scientists to monitor the impact of degradation and the benefits of restoration.

Find out more:

Help the CleanSeas campaign to turn the tide on plastic. Consult the International Coral Reef Initiative's guidelines for restoring reefs and global restoration database. Check out this seagrass restoration project in the United Kingdom or this practical guidance on restoring native oyster beds. Seek expert advice for your ecosystem and location from the Society for Ecological Restoration.