

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 9 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 12 Sept. 10.30am – the Minister at BDC, Communion

Tuesday 14 Sept. 10.30am Tuesday Church led by Naomi

Saturday 18 September: open day event at Christ Church, 1-5pm and displays still up on 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.

Sunday - 17th October 10.30 Harvest Festival at The Bridgwater Drive Church - The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are planning this service with Margaret. Please make a note of the date and let Margaret know if you are able to help and/or bring flowers, greenery etc on Saturday morning to decorate the church.

Facelift for the front of the church at The BDC

As we look forward to celebrating Jack and Amber's wedding on 25th September, Phil and Steve have been busy cleaning the front of the church and painting the posts and handrails. Another improvement was making and fitting a new panel to the fence (Phil's son, Trevor, helped them with this). Many thanks to them for all they do to keep our church looking good inside and out.



Meanwhile - the Rainbows have been celebrating their 30th birthday by decorating the new accessible entrance to the BDC hall at the back of the church with 30 chalk flowers.



Artists at work!



30 chalk flowers!



They also had some fun blowing bubbles that won't pop when (if) you catch them.

TIPS & IDEAS

This week (and month) #64MillionArtists is celebrating **SecondHandSeptember!**

This campaign by Oxfam encourages us to say no to new clothes and take the pledge to only shop second hand this month. (which I hope a lot of us are doing anyway! I can't remember the last time I bought an item of new clothing!)

According to Oxfam, 13 million items of clothing go to landfill every week.

"Fast fashion - clothes that are produced in high volume and at relatively low cost to the consumer - is damaging our planet. It is increasing demand for the textile industry, which accounts for approximately 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Although we don't believe the responsibility to fix the problem lies with us shoppers – Second Hand September is a way of individually doing our bit to make our lives more sustainable."

[Oxfam]

Let's reduce, rewear and recycle!

Choose an item of clothing to play with and give it a new lease of life.

It could be something you always wear, or something you never wear. Experiment with different ways of styling it, can you find a new way to wear the item that you haven't before? Is it something that needs repairing? Could you find a way to fix it? Think about how you can maximise the lifespan of the items in your wardrobe and make them last. If you are looking for something new to play with you could visit your local charity shop and see what you can find. Why not take a bag of clothes to donate or recycle on your way there!



This week is **Suicide Prevention Week**.



September is also **World Alzheimer's Month**

and **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

RESOURCES A new reflection from St Paul's Cathedral, by Brian Draper - a speaker, retreat guide, labyrinth curator and creative consultant, seeking to help people of all faiths and none to see the world from a creative and engaging spiritual perspective.

<https://mailchi.mp/632fc1338e2f/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251068?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 all those affected by suicide; for those with mental health conditions and for those who care for them. And for those suffering with Alzheimer's or dementia and those who care for them.



This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Offering ourselves** - let's re-dedicate ourselves to be a people of our word in a world of deception and deceit. Let our 'yes' be yes, and our 'no' be no. That takes forethought and determination.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Amanda (Janice & Clive's daughter recovering from an op.): Clive: Celia: Sandra: Margaret and Ted: Colette's parents, Gordon and Brenda: Margaret B's friends, Peggy, Jean and Sandra. Cherry's family friend, Elisa, and also her Auntie.

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: Bill and Beth: Peter C.: Sheila S.: Grace and Phil: Len and Pam U: Kerry M.: Les, Sandy's father: Roy, friend of Rachel S.: The Hughes family

HOUSE GROUPS The House Groups are open to ALL from both churches – we would love to see some new faces!

After discussion at the end of the last House Group series, and consultation with the people who have usually attended in the past, it was agreed that our next House Group series would focus again on the environment, climate change and justice. It will be Biblically based, using material from Christian Aid's Conversation Guide (see next page). It is impossible to find a time and venue suitable to all, but the consensus seemed to be for an afternoon meeting at the church. **The six-week course will start on 23 September so as to finish just before the Climate Conference COP26 starts on 31 October.**

We will meet from **2.30pm, at Christ Church**, for around an hour on the following **Thursday** afternoons:

23 September – Introduction, led by Naomi
30 Sept.- 1. 'Desire' (Genesis 8 and Psalm 24.) led by Robert
7 Oct. – 2. 'Greed' (Luke 12:15) – a volunteer to lead please!
The material is all there, so not much work required.
14 Oct. – 3. 'Righteousness' (Psalm 1 vs 6.), led by Naomi
21 Oct. – 4. 'Justice' (Micah 6 vs 8), led by Naomi
28 Oct. – Summary – tackling injustice, and achieving justice, and climate action as part of God's mission,
led by Naomi

Looking further ahead - We hope to hold Advent 'House Groups'. These will be Bible Studies on a relevant Advent theme. Hopefully a daytime, in person group at the church and possibly an evening Zoom meeting. We will be chatting with the Methodists to see if we can arrange a joint programme, as has been done in the past.

WATCH THIS SPACE...!

What are the main ideas at the heart of the conversation guide?

As you're using this guide, you'll notice there are some key ideas that sit at the heart of the discussion and reflection prompts. We've introduced these below, so you can become familiar with them before beginning a group conversation.



God is at the centre of all things; everything revolves around him. (Psalm 106:3)



Desire is not an intrinsically bad thing. The important question is about what is being desired and how that aligns with, or contradicts, God's word.



Greed (in all forms) disrupts God's purpose for his creations, and leads to social and environmental injustices.



Righteousness (Hebrew: tzadeqah) means living a life of good relationships, both with each other and with the environment. A righteous life ultimately leads to the creation of justice.



Justice (Hebrew: mishpat) is at the heart of the Gospel, and should be the end goal of all human endeavours. (Micah 6:8)



Action is required to tackle climate justice. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26)