

NEWS & CHAT Thursday 16 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 19 Sept. 10.30am – The Minister at CC, Communion and Church Meeting
John Amos at BDC

THIS Saturday 18 September: 'More Tea Vicar' – open day event at Christ Church 1-5pm and displays still up on Sunday. 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. **Traidcraft** products will be on sale.

Supporting Second hand charity shops (from Margaret B)



Following Naomi's article in last week's News and Chat - this week I'm donating books and clothes to Southend in Sight Charity Shop in Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff. When I go to the shop, I will be looking to buy DVDs for our film mornings (next month's choice is 'Goodnight Mr. Tom') and some 'new' second-hand clothes. I'm also planning to support their next fund raising event -

A Fashion Show to be held on **Thursday, 23rd September at 7.30pm** at **St. Peter's Church, Eastbourne Grove** **Tickets £10 which includes a complimentary drink** Raffle tickets will be on sale.

This is being organised by Southend Tangent Club on behalf of Southend in Sight.

The clothes being modelled all come from their charity shop in Hamlet Court Road.

The clothes and other accessories will be available for purchase on the night.

Phone 01702 342131 to reserve a ticket or just pay at the door.

I went to one of these Fashion Shows a few years ago and it was a great evening's entertainment - lots of laughs and I bought some 'bargain' items afterwards! For those of you who don't know - Southend in Sight is a locally run charity supporting the visually impaired living in Southend and surrounding areas. They are based in Hamlet Court Road where they operate a Resource Centre and charity shop. They have strong links with the Eye Clinic at Southend Hospital. For further details, please visit their website: southendinsight.org.uk

Gerry and I are regular visitors to the Ophthalmology Department at the hospital for our different eye problems so this is a charity dear to our hearts. (Also some friends of ours help to run the shop!)

Harvest Festival at Bridgwater Drive - 17th October Please come and help to **decorate the church on Saturday morning, 16th October between 10.00 and 11.30**. Please also let the elders know what Charity you would like our harvest gifts to go to this year so they can make the decision. To give you some ideas - our food and other gifts usually go to HARP but, in the past, our gifts of money have gone to charities such as Tear Fund, Embrace the Middle East and Water Aid.



TIPS & IDEAS

This week #64MillionArtists is talking us for a walk!

Go for a wander, wherever your feet or your curiosity takes you. As you wander try to see the beauty in everything - that's everything, even what doesn't seem beautiful at first. Think about how you experience the beauty you find through your senses. How does it look, sound or feel? If at any time your mind needs a bit of help, just take the word

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

'gratitude' and place it like colourful wallpaper at the back of your brain. Notice how that changes the way you see this present moment.

How will you capture what you discover on your wander? It could be through photography or words, or maybe a sculpture from things you collect along the way.

If you have the know how and the technology, there is a playlist of walking meditations you can use while doing this (or just listen to it at home!): <https://open.spotify.com/show/6Yn3yVoTBsWjPML4Slj9GX>

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/be89fcc0bc91/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251072?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 receiving treatment for cancer.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Changing Attitudes.** We are not just 'church' when we are in church, every one of us is 'church', the body of Christ, wherever we are because of our union with the Holy Spirit. Just think, we are Christ to the world in our car, at the checkout, in our words, in our attitudes to others and to the world we live in. What sort of Jesus does the world see in me and you?

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

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 the 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 and Kerry: Len and Pam U: Frank: Anna and Richard's niece, Georgie.

Congratulations to Pam & Len Utting on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary – today, 16 Sept.!

HOUSE GROUPS

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 on the environment, climate change and climate justice. It will be Biblically based, using material from Christian Aid's Conversation Guide. 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, FROM NEXT WEEK** 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!

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



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

TUESDAY CHURCH at The BDC

*It was good to spend an hour together on Tuesday morning this week - our first meeting since last summer - so lovely to be able to worship together then enjoy a wide ranging discussion over a cup of coffee. Thank you, Naomi, for leading. I'm glad this is going to be a regular event **10.30 - 11.30 on the second Tuesday of every month.*** (Margaret)

ECO RESTORATION: MOUNTAINS taken from UN Eco Restoration Project 2021

Mountains harbour most of Earth's biodiversity hotspots and supply fresh water to an estimated half of humanity. They include a multitude of ecosystems providing a home to unique species, such as snow leopards and mountain gorillas, as well as great cultural diversity among people adapted to the challenges of mountain life.

Mountain regions are particularly sensitive to degradation from human pressures and climate change. Steep slopes mean the clearing of forest can cause serious soil erosion and habitat loss. Climate change and pollution threaten the supplies of water to farms, cities, industry and power stations. Rising temperatures are forcing species, ecosystems and the people that depend on them to adapt or migrate.

Restoring mountain ecosystems means considering whole landscapes. Many of the restoration actions listed in this guide can be used also in mountains. Here are some examples.

Restore forest shields: Restore and replant forests and trees to protect soil, safeguard water flows and guard against natural disasters, such as avalanches, landslides and floods.

Limit extraction and excavation: Our hunger for resources can have catastrophic consequences for mountains and hillsides. Make sure that landscapes are restored after mining operations have ended.

Let ecosystems migrate: Create or connect protected areas covering different altitudes so that species and ecosystems can migrate according to the shifting climate.

Farm for resilience: Promote and adopt sustainable farming techniques, such as agroforestry, that restore soils and biodiversity and can be more resilient in the face of climate change and extreme weather.

Learn from experience: Tap local and indigenous knowledge to keep the use of natural resources sustainable.



Find out more:

Read this overview of how healthy ecosystems reduce disaster risks in mountainous areas. Many of the restoration techniques discussed elsewhere in this guide can also be applied in mountain ecosystems.

Elizabeth Pryor