

## NEWS & CHAT Thursday 23 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 26 Sept. 10.30am** – The Faith in Action Group will lead worship at CC  
The Minister at BDC

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 10.30 - 12.00 - Coffee Morning at Christ Church on** in aid of Rayleigh Combined Churches Refugee Group.

**A REMINDER Harvest Festival at Bridgwater Drive - 17<sup>th</sup> October** Please come and help to **decorate the church on Saturday morning, 16<sup>th</sup> 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



**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone at Christ Church who helped with and came to the **More Tea Vicar** event on 18<sup>th</sup> September. It was lovely to have some social time chatting over tea and cake. Some of our friends from Bridgwater Drive came and a few non-church people – one of whom then came to Sunday Worship the next day, which is wonderful.

### TIPS & IDEAS

This Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September is the National Day of Arts in Care Homes!



Arts In Care Homes is a project run by National Activity Providers Association and with a National Day every year they celebrate the wealth of arts activities taking place in Care Homes across England and the positive impact this has on the wellbeing and motivation of residents.

**Think about how you are feeling right now. Can you think of a colour that represents that emotion?**

**Once you have decided on your colour, pick four different things that you associate with it.** They could be objects, places, food, animals - or you could look around the room and see what you can find in your chosen colour.

**Capture your chosen objects in any way you like.** You might be inspired to write a short poem, create a drawing or a photograph. Perhaps the way that you capture your objects tells a story.

**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/601479bcac35/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251076?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 the recently bereaved, and ministers attending the Easter Synod Minister's gathering at Westminster College, Cambridge.



This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Changing the world.** Please continue to pray fervently, in praise, repentance and urgent petition to the Lord for our world, as its leaders gather to decide the course of either destruction or healing for our planet. Pray for courage for them, global

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

economies have to change if there is to be a better future. There is no hope in mere words without actions, never has been.

### 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 as she copes with the loss of her auntie who died in hospital last Sunday, also Cherry's family friend, Elisa.  
Naomi and the elders as they meet this week.

#### Christ Church

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.

### HOUSE GROUPS

**The six-week course will This Thursday, 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**, 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, led by Naomi

The House Groups are open to ALL from both churches – we would love to see some new faces. Join, any week – it doesn't matter if you have missed the introduction! More information on posters at the church.

**A poem** - by Donna Ashworth - after the pandemic - **A new future** - (sent in by Kate)

Today, I dared to let myself dream,  
That the world will one day open again.  
That the locks will loosen, the walls will fall,  
The doors will fly open and reunite us all.

I dared to imagine the warmth of a cuddle,  
A group of my friends all locked in a huddle.  
I felt all the heartbeats, drumming with mine,  
I heard all the laughter, I tasted the wine.

I thought of the feelings I've missed for so long,  
The room full of music, united by song.  
The freedom to roam, to plan and to meet  
To hold someone's hand, to meet, to greet.

Just for a moment I dared to dream of,  
The flights I would board to the places I love.  
The moment those eyes would meet mine at the gate,  
The feeling of joy after so long a wait.

Today, I dared to let myself dream,  
That the life we once had would happen again.  
That we'd no longer fear the danger of air,  
That our lives would not depend on such care.

They say that we mustn't wish time away,  
But it's hard, my friend, when faced with a day,  
So long in blank hours and so wiped of laughter,  
It's tempting to drift away to thereafter.

So yes, I dared to dream just a while,  
Of life coming back, it brought me a smile.  
One day I know, this will be in the past,  
And hugs will be free, again, at last.