

NEWS & CHAT 23 JUNE 2022

The online service is live-streamed every week from Christ Church, on the Christ Church Facebook page.

SUNDAY 26 June 10.30am, Margaret and the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows at The BDC
10.00am, Keith Berry at Christ Church

NEWS AND DATES - THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH

from Naomi

The next Church Meeting will be after worship on Sunday 24 July and will be the AGM. We will need to elect at least two elders as Jan and Val wish to stand down. Please be thinking about who you could nominate as an elder. You will need someone to second the nomination and please check with the person you have in mind as there are some likely candidates who cannot stand for election, either because they have said they definitely won't, or because they are not church members. Please ask Margaret for a nomination form, and once complete give it to Naomi or one of the elders (Jan, Val, Celia or Cherry). Due to new URC policy, the minister is now required to have chat with anyone nominated to make sure they understand all the responsibilities of being an elder.

NEWS AND DATES - THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH

from Margaret

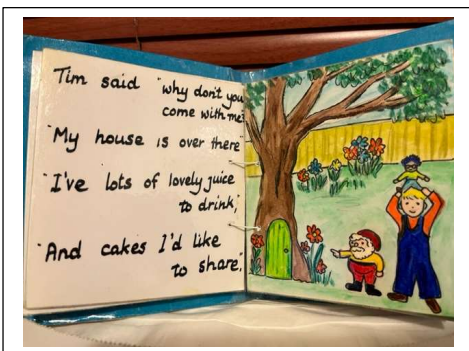
On Tuesday we had a good time chatting about books. The range of ideas for books we might write if we ever got round to it was very varied. Here are just a few of the sentences that started with the words, 'If I was to write a book I would write about –

- my 'era', comparing my youth with the youth of today'
- how I've dealt with the problems I've faced in my life in the hope that it might help others'
- North America before the Spanish invasion'
- how to create a model village'
- what I've seen and where I've been'
- why Geography is the best subject to study and teach'

Only one person was brave enough to suggest writing fiction - 'a detective novel'

As always, we talked about books we were reading at present and several of us swapped ones we had enjoyed. Special thanks to Linda for the home made biscuits and to Laurie for sorting out coffee and tea.

An amazing fact to emerge during the morning was that two out of the seven people in our group that morning had already written books. We know Laurie and Kate write poems, but Laurie has also written stories for his grandchildren. He brought two of them to show us, such good stories with wonderful illustrations. He explained the ideas that had sparked the stories, a visit to Oxford for 'The Adventures of a Mother and Baby in Wonderland' and the imminent arrival of a new grandchild for the other, 'Hercule Parrot and the Case of the Lazy Stork'.



Linda had brought three books she had written for her grandchildren. I had to apologise to her because they were so professionally printed, illustrated and bound that I thought, at first, they were just some of her favourite children's books. I had no idea she was an author and a brilliant artist! I brought them home to read – her grandchildren must have loved them. My favourite was about a ladybird who had no spots! (see the picture at the end of News and Chat)

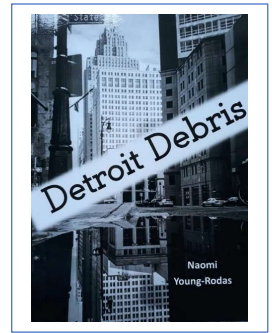
Patrick told us about a book he had written at school and the teacher who had encouraged him. He also brought a poem written by his brother, Neil, which was published in a book, 'Christian Poets'. (See the end of News and Chat) Such talent!! – and, of course, we talked about Naomi's books which some of us have read – highly recommended. This seems to be a good week to advertise her latest novel.

Naomi says, 'It was written some years ago, in case you are wondering how I have time to write!'

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Detroit Debris is now available from TSL books –

<https://tslbooks.uk/product/detroit-debris-naomi-young-rodas/> However, if you order from me, not only will it be cheaper - £10 instead of £10.95, but I will donate the difference from what I, as an author, pay (£5) to the Christ Church Building Project. Please let me know if you would like a copy, so I can order in bulk which will reduce the shipping cost. We hope to hold a Book Reading & Signing Event in October in aid of the Building Project. Thank you, Naomi'



Here is a review of 'Detroit Debris' to give you some idea:- 'Clear your diary! This novel is one you will want to finish at a sitting. Fans of Peter James or Michael

Connelly's Harry Bosch, would not be disappointed at this latest story from Naomi Young-Rodas. Punchy, well-constructed, in places laugh out loud funny, with up to the minute political undertones, Detroit Debris is a worthy addition to the crime genre. Readers of Young's earlier novels ('If It Falls' and 'Right of Possession') will appreciate a maturity and richness she brings to this latest work.

Retired cop Arthur 'Danny' Daniels uncovers the link between several unusual deaths and his last case that he was never able to solve, aided by young journalist Alison who's looking to get her own by-line with a big investigative story. All against the backdrop of a corrupt, bankrupt and decaying city after the closure of the motor industry and fentanyl - the new killer drug leaving addicts dead all over the city...'

This week our PCSO, Jackie, came to the Thursday coffee morning again. We had a good chat and it was good to hear that the Wild Life Garden (renamed Mendip Community Garden') is being restored. We learnt more about the work of a PCSO and about why Jackie decided to make a major career change, to follow her childhood ambition and become a police officer. She will come again next month – date not yet booked.

Please note - there is nothing on at church next Tuesday morning.

On Wednesday next week, 29th June, the funeral service for Sandra will be held at The Crematorium at 11.20. The wake, to which we are all invited, will be held at church afterwards at about 12.30. This will give us a chance to share our memories of Sandra and support Ted and Margaret and the family at this sad time. Margaret J. sent this message, '**We request family flowers only with donations to 'Southend Hospital Southbourne Ward' please.**'

TIPS & IDEAS

This month #64MillionArtists are reflecting on how we **cultivate our listening**. This week is about listening to music rather than to people. A lot of research that shows how important music is to our sense of self, our relationships with each other and our experience of the world. Music creates emotional responses associated with memories of moments, people and places which are deeply tied to emotional responses within us – and this changes throughout our lives.



This week's challenge is to **Make a list of 3-5 songs that are important to you for different reasons**. Think about which artists, tracks, albums, or pieces of music are most significant to your life so far. What moments of your life, people or places do you associate with different music? This may also be hymns that are meaningful to you.

Make some time to listen carefully to your playlist. How do the songs make you feel? Who or what do they remind you of? Where (and who) were you when you first heard that music?

Write these thoughts and observations down while you listen and maybe draw a mind-map linking feelings with places or people.

Listening to God – I had just read about the listening task above when the Daily Devotion from the UCC (United Church of Christ in the USA) came into my inbox and it is about listening too! So here is an extract:

'**Tune in**' by Kaji Douša

'Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness. – Isaiah 51:1 (NRSV) "Listen," God commands.

God already knows that this will be a struggle for us. Because there's a long list of voices that cause a cacophony in our heads, asking so much of us before our days even begin.

This requires energy. Attention. The asks [things asked for] from the voices take from us without necessarily putting anything back. And when this is our steady state, how do we have the capacity to even begin to listen to what God has to say? How can God get through?

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Listening to God means changing your steady state. Tuning into God's frequency while tuning out some others.'

My suggestion, today, is that if listening to God is our objective, then we need to turn the dial. And tune in. This works. It is powerful, and it works. But you know what doesn't work? Trying to tune into countless stations, all at once. That's just a jumbled mess. And while we would never try to do that with the radio, for some reason we try to do that with God. To hear God loud and clear, we really need to shut some things down. Turn off the stations - or at least, turn them down. Limit the asks.

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 is Refugee Week so we pray especially for refugees and asylum seekers.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Summer Solstice**. The middle of the year already. What are your hopes for the rest of this year? Lay them before the Lord.

What are God's plans for us?

Listen in prayer,
be willing in response,
be trusting in God's loving best for your future - whatever God asks of you.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Christ Church

Sheila S.
Frank
Audrey
Judy H.
David – Bill and Beth's son-in-law
Susan – Penny's cousin
Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil Thomas
Jeff & Gwyneth

BDC:

Barbara
Cherry
Margaret & Ted J.
Gerry
Kate & Tony
Clive & Jan
Barry
Janet
Celia

.....
Here, as promised earlier, is the poem written by Patrick's brother, Neil D. Davis.
Published in 'Christian Poets from the South'

'BREAKTHROUGH!'

Love came first – before there was Time, before there was Space.
But Love needed Time to work; Love needed space to work in.
So Love became God, whose power is the overwhelming Power of Love.

To express that Love, God created the Universe.
He created Space to accommodate Love;
He created Time to cultivate Love;
He created Humanity to learn about Love.

But Love needs to be taught in a loving way:
Man wasn't nagged; Man wasn't tyrannised into loving.
He had to learn by his own experience.

At first he failed. My! How Man failed!

Love, however, was not defeated; God had not failed.
This was why he created Time.
God had to demonstrate.
Man needed to see for himself ... Perfect Love in vulnerable human form:

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In Jesus Christ, his Son – who proclaimed his Father as ours;
Who washed his disciples' feet;
Who commended the Good Samaritan;
Who hectored the haughty and reassured the repentant.

Yet he suffered, with Man who had failed in Love;
He faced an agonising death,
Offering amnesty to us who cannot share his perfection on Earth;

And he dam-busted through death's dread barrier
To reveal New Life – above Time, freed from Space –
In a perfection we *can* share!

Into this New Life – when we plead guilty to all our shortcomings;
When we open our hearts to the Tather,
And accept his boundless forgiveness;
When we open our minds to the Son, and strive to obey his commands;
When we open our souls to the Holy Spirit,
And find peace in a war-weary world –

Into this unimaginable New Life: Love, *undefeated, welcomes us all!*

Finally, also as promised earlier, – illustrations from two of Linda's lovely books for children.

