

NEWS & CHAT 30 JUNE 2022

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

SUNDAY 3 July **10.30am, Ian Miller at BDC**
10am, the Minister at Christ Church, followed by Church Meeting

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. Nomination forms are on the vestibule table. **Please give completed forms to Naomi, Val, Jan, Celia or Cherry on or before 17th July 2022 (by 10th July if possible).** Due to new URC policy, the minister is now required to have a 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

This last week has been a busy one for The BDC.

Last Sunday, 26th June, we held our **'Service of Celebration for the Guiding Movement as a whole (formed in 1910) and our own 2nd Westcliff group (formed in 1922)'**. It was a brilliant occasion. It was good to see so many of the girls and their families. We heard something of the history of guiding and of our own 2nd Westcliff group from Rosalyn (this is attached at the end of News and Chat). The girls modelled some of the uniforms through the ages (see below). I'm sorry I haven't enough room to include all the photos. How fortunate that someone has made a collection of these that the girls were able to borrow.



Sylv told us something about what our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been up to during the 'Covid' years and what they have been doing recently, including the exciting news that we now have a Rangers Group for the older girls. (see Sylv's information at the end of News and Chat). The service was built around the story of The Good Samaritan so it was appropriate that all the girls (and some of the congregation) renewed their guiding promise, *"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide Law."* (the Rainbow version is slightly shorter).

On Tuesday Val and I set the church up ready for the wake, following **Sandra's funeral on Wednesday**. Val, Laurie and Barbara missed the service so they could be at church to receive the food from the caterer and prepare everything for folk returning from the service at the crematorium.

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By 11.20 on Wednesday the West Chapel at The Crematorium was full of Sandra's family and friends. It was good that so many church folk were able to be there and that even more people were able to come to the wake. Naomi and Celia led a lovely service for Sandra – We are so blessed at The BDC to have such a 'team' for an occasion like this. Ted and Margaret have expressed their gratitude to Naomi and Celia and to everyone at The BDC for everything we did to help them at this sad time. As a special gesture, in memory of Sandra, we will put the beautiful wreath from the family on the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way – especially all those who stayed and helped to clear up including Phil and Ian.

Phil, Ian and I stayed for quite a while afterwards as, of all the days for it to happen, we had an inspection booked with the Environmental Health Officer for 9.00 a.m. on Thursday morning.

So the busy week continued - On Thursday Phil and Ian were at church early. By the time I arrived to meet the EV officer the place was looking immaculate. You will be pleased to know that the report shows that our premises, (church kitchen, facilities for food and drink in the hall and all the toilets) met the required standard. The only thing he marked us down for was record keeping. I knew this would be a problem but the inspector was happy with the plan I had drawn up to rectify it – **a diary to be kept in the kitchen** showing that we do **regular cleaning and carry out checks** on things like fridge and freezer temperatures. We will also record any **problems encountered by anyone using the kitchen and the action taken to deal with them**. I have bought a similar diary for the hall. Because of our failure on the record keeping, I'm afraid we are only awarded a 4 out of possible 5 rating. There are one or two recommendations for improvements we should make in addition to improved record keeping but nothing of major concern, (e.g. an extractor fan in the kitchen to improve ventilation, no scented kitchen sanitiser). I hope this will reassure everyone that we are a healthy, safe place to meet and to eat and drink!

Next Tuesday, 5th July at 10.30 – Film Morning – all welcome – I will bring several CDs so that whoever comes before 10.30 can be involved in deciding what we want to watch – so much easier than me deciding in advance.

Gardening notes for July from Val

This year is flying by – the longest day has been and gone. My French beans are ready for picking but the runners are a week behind – they always taste delicious - cannot compare them with the shops.

Shrubs have done well and have lasted for weeks. Loosestrife, a lovely buttercup yellow, has been in full flower, now in its 5th week.

I have a teasel in my front garden, a seed dropped by birds. I have put a post in to hold it up as the wind would flatten it. It's now touching 9ft and still growing.

I have a number of bird feeders and always put a few crumbs out on the grass.

The crows come along with a large crust, dip it in the bird bath to soften it then leave the rest so I find myself cleaning it out every day.

Do not forget to water when necessary, especially pots and tubs. They do dry out quickly.

The squirrels have given up feeding from the feeders as I put a small amount of 'hot chilli pepper' on the food. That deters them but does not put off the birds.

Enjoy the weather and the garden but we do need some rain.



Various things from Naomi

RESOURCES

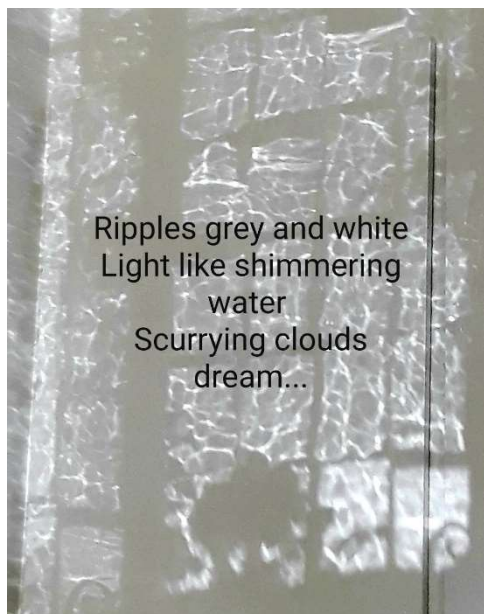
The new set of reflections from St Paul's Cathedral for June are by Revd Janet Tollington, retired URC minister and retired tutor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Westminster College. This week, *The Kingship of Christ* <https://mailchi.mp/02616df29c2f/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251382?e=e30a1f608a>

TIPS & IDEAS

This month #64MillionArtists have been reflecting on **listening**. However, this week, their 'challenge' seemed to be very much for professional creative people, so here is another idea. Last weekend I was at my final EM2 'retreat' at Westminster College. EM2 (education for ministry) is the first three years of ministry when you have more structured support and requirements. After that, ministers enter EM3, which is life-long learning and apart from attending Synod Spring Schools, we are encouraged to find our own training and study opportunities.

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During the weekend, we were invited to go for a reflective walk. I did this and took several photos. I later wrote haikus for a couple of them. A *haiku* is a short poem, originally from Japan, with a particular syllable pattern: 5-7-5. You might like to try this, or simply go for a walk, admire God's creation, listen to the birds, pray, meditate...



My latest novel ***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 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

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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 celebrations of life – funerals and weddings.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Church Cafe.** Lord Jesus, we read so many stories about You when You were sharing a meal with people. Thank You for the opportunity You have given us to provide time and space for people to come and find refreshment in our church. We ask Lord that You will continue to bless this ministry as we seek to serve and share Your love all who come.



Particular prayer requests this week:

Christ Church

Frank
Family of Judy H.
Phil & Penny G.
Jeff & Gwyneth
Doreen
Della
Audrey

BDC:

Barbara
Cherry
Margaret & Ted J.
Gerry & Margaret
Kate, Tony & Nicola
Clive & Jan
Jan's sister Beryl's family
Janet
Barry

A 'gallop' through the ages – 112 years of Girl Guiding - Rosalyn	
1908	In 1908 Lord Baden Powell published his book 'Scouting for Boys' Very quickly there were groups of boys with or without leaders busy putting the ideas into practice. Their determined sisters wanted to join in the fun, often following their brothers without permission and copying them from a distance.
1910	Their determination not to be silenced led to the formation of Girl Guiding in 1910 although Lord Baden Powell received lots of complaints in this Edwardian age
	Letter to the Spectator in 1909 Girls are not boys, and the training which develops manly qualities in one, may lead to the negation of womanliness in the other'
	From the beginning Guiding and Scouting have shared the same basic principles. Activities and our Promise have adapted over the years but our principles remain the same. Fun and Friendship Opportunities to develop skills to become caring, kind and confident young people, contributing to their communities and the wider world. Open to girls of all abilities and faiths. In our gallop through time we hope to give you a taste of the fun we have had.
1914	Rosebuds was started for younger girls aged 8-11 "The young buds will blossom into full blown roses" But the little ones were too lively and excitable to be sweet rosebuds.
1915	In 1915 they changed their name to Brownies taken from the mischievous but often helpful 'fairy folk' who would do secret good turns for deserving humans
1922	2nd Westcliff Guides opens at St Saviour's Church and the badge work, games, crafts, outside adventures and friendships began
1939-1945	The Girl Guides had proved their worth during the First World War and sprang once more into action. Across the country Guides helped younger evacuees, collected items to reuse and recycle, grew vegetables and raised money for air ambulances. In 1941, when the RAF desperately needed 15,000 cotton reels for a secret job, they came to the Guides. Within a week they had 42,000
1947	Our Guides' little sisters finally had somewhere to go. In January 1947 2 nd Westcliff Brownies opened. This is the uniform although the country was still gripped by rationing so uniform was often not possible and parents did the best they could. Many games remained the same and badges for the Guides and Brownies included Rabbit Keeper, Emergency Helper and Interpreter to the Deaf.
1967	It was time to update. New uniforms were launched with new badges and activities. Brownies became Brownie Guides and Brownie leaders became Brownie Guiders and not Owls. Although in true Guiding style, the girls and their leaders didn't like that change and still today most Brownie packs are led by a team of Owls, often with a Brown Owl. Activities at 2 nd Westcliff in the 60s included adopting a donkey, carol singing at residential homes and helping at Church Rummage sales and Bazaars. Ironing a tie replaced lighting a fire at home for Brownies and sticky tape replaced string in many crafts although girls still needed to keep a piece of string and a safety pin in their uniform pockets in case their elastic broke.
1988/1991	Following demand from parents and girls, Rainbow Guides was launched for girls aged 5-7. In April 1991 2 nd Westcliff Rainbows opened
1990s	The uniform was updated again this time by Jeff Banks, the designer. 2 nd Westcliff girls continued to care, running Blue Peter Bring and Buy sales and

	fundraising for Macmillan Cancer. They also thought about 'our environment' with green activity days.
2000s	Another uniform change to meet current fashions and the launch of a new programme of badges and activities. Girls were now encouraged to care for themselves, their community and the world. Badges included Science Investigator, Computers, Chocolate and World Issues as well as the usual Road Safety, Hostess and Outdoor Pursuits. 2 nd Westcliff groups worked together to learn new skills, put on shows for parents and friends and continued to fundraise including for Comic Relief.
2001	In Summer 2001 we left St. Saviours and were welcomed warmly into the family of Bridgwater Drive.
2014	New Guide uniform was created. Bright and positive for a new age, designed after consultation with the girls.
	Throughout a 100 years of 2 nd Westcliff Guides 75 years of Brownies and 31 years of Rainbows we have always made a promise and tried to do our best. Led by many volunteer leaders over the years, We create, we move, we explore, we care, we grow and we learn.

... and some more information from Sylv -

Following on from our history, 2018 saw time for change again and the introduction of the current programme. Rainbows can now work for badges at home. As with all changes it was initially a challenge for leaders and we were just getting there and the pandemic hit. Suddenly we were delivering via zoom, then at a distance on the field then finally back into the hall with restrictions. Our guide promise tells us to do our best and that's just what we tried to do. We have managed to keep a very healthy number of girls in our units and our leadership team has in fact grown. In September, we are opening a Ranger group for the older girls so we will then have all Guiding sections here at Bridgwater Drive.

The Guiding programme now has 6 main themes and these are constant throughout Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

Know Myself Girls explore emotions and learn about themselves. They'll look at what they enjoy, build confidence and discover how feelings affect behaviour.

1. **Express Myself** - Girls develop their creativity in all sorts of ways. They'll make up stories and create inventions to solve problems and start thinking laterally and creatively.
2. **Be Well** - Girls learn how to stay healthy and how to help others when they're hurt.
3. **Have Adventures** - Girls have the chance to overcome fears, try new activities and learn survival skills. Getting outside and having adventures has always been an important part of guiding.
4. **Skills For My Future** - Girls investigate what they might like to do in the future and how they can grow their life skills.
5. **Take Action** - Girls build skills to make a positive difference at home, in their community or within the wider world.

As we have been thinking of the Good Samaritan, I'd like to illustrate the programme using the Take Action theme.

At our weekly meetings we undertake a variety of Unit Meeting Activities associated with the themes. These are pre written activities which are easily accessible to all leaders and allow leaders a format to help with programme planning. We also plan many activities, that often the girls suggest, just for fun.

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During our meetings we guide the girls through various skills builder challenges in each theme. In our example this could be a Make Change Skills Builder. To get this badge the Brownies have to explore ways of changing attitudes in order to make the world a better place.

Girls work on interest badges at home as they have for many years. These badges have changed over the years and our new badges are again linked to the themes. In our example Rainbows could gain their Helper badge or a Ranger could be working on her Volunteering Badge. There are many new and varied interest badges. Popular Rainbow badges are Family Tree and Drawing. Brownies like Baking and Inventing whilst Guides have recently opted for Mixology (mixing drinks for a party - think non-alcoholic punch) and Vlogging (creating a video blog).

Sufficient minutes, a skills builder badge and an interest badge from the same theme allow girls to earn a Theme badge. Theme badges convert to treasured bronze, silver and gold awards.

Our programme continues to evolve. Activities are continually updated. Recent additions include many adventurous activities listed from Abseiling and Axe-throwing through to Zip-wiring and Zorbing (huge plastic bubbles on water that the girls can get inside and run around - walking on water !!!!). Guiding life just gets more fun every year. Hopefully this will continue throughout the next 100 years in our 2nd Westcliff Units.

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Thank you again to The Guide leaders and all the girls for the enormous amount of effort they put into the service of celebration.

