

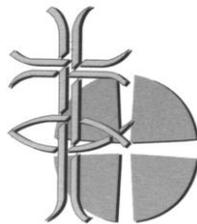
CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK



October 2021



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The publication date is normally the final Sunday of the preceding month, and items for inclusion should be sent to the Secretary by the Wednesday before that date.

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FROM THE SECRETARIES

Welcome to the October 2021 edition of “Christ Church Link”.

The covid pandemic continues and we face an uncertain autumn and winter, where infections may again increase and controls may need to be re-introduced to help slow down the spread of the virus and ease pressures on the NHS. Nevertheless, many areas of life are now opening up again. Over the last month, we have brought back Messy Church and the Think Tank to the church after 18 months away, and many of our hall hirers have returned to provide a wide variety of courses and events for the local community.

Unfortunately, Rev. Andrew Mills’ progress with his long covid condition continues to be slow and difficult and we cannot now expect him to begin a return to his ministerial duties until early November, at the very earliest. Andrew is continuing with referrals to various specialists to treat the different symptoms of long covid from which he is suffering. Please remember Andrew, Ruth and the family in your prayers. Meanwhile, thank you to all our local preachers who are continuing to lead Sunday worship during Andrew’s illness

At the end of October, world leaders will gather in Glasgow for the COP26 conference to seek a global agreement on measures to combat climate change and prevent the further increase of carbon in the atmosphere which is warming the planet, creating unusual and extreme weather, and causing disruption to the natural environment (as shown by record temperatures, wildfires and floods in many locations around the world this year). Over the coming weeks, you can expect to see COP26 all over the TV, radio, newspapers and social media.

As Christians, we have always highly valued the beauty and diversity of God’s Creation and recognised the need for people to act as its long-term stewards, rather than unthinking short-term exploiters. Churches across the world are currently mobilising to urge world leaders to take decisive action to combat climate change at COP26.

At Christ Church, we have already responded in several ways:

- On August 30 we hosted an overnight stay by the “Coat of Hopes” , a community craft initiative, on its journey by foot from Newhaven up to Glasgow in time for COP26
- On September 5, Claire Bell led a “Climate Sunday “ service addressing the need for climate action, with justice for the poor and dispossessed who suffer most from the disruption caused by a changing climate
- The September Think Tank looked at “ COP26: Collaboration or Catastrophe ? ”, with Professor Liz Hill providing a stimulating presentation on the many challenges facing COP26 which are not only environmental , but also raise difficult social, economic, financial , moral, ethical and leadership issues.
- At its September meeting , Church Council agreed to ask the next Congregational Meeting to sign the Climate Change Coalition’s ” The Time is Now” declaration , as recommended by URC Southern Synod (a copy of the declaration is provided on page 4)
- Church Council will also recommend to the Congregational Meeting that a “task and finish “ group be set up to consider the practical implications of becoming an “Eco Church” ,as a means of reducing the church’s carbon footprint ,such as how we manage our energy , waste and transport. We are inviting volunteers to come forward and help with this work over the coming months. This invitation is not confined to Church Council members
- A “Green Churches In Lewes” initiative has begun and Liz Lunt will be our representative. We will report back further on this initiative later in the year

Please pray for the success of the COP26 conference and that our leaders can set aside their differences, and make wise and just decisions for the future of our planet.

We are sorry to report that Daphne Pattenden suffered a serious fall on September 14, which resulted in a fractured hip and a distressingly long wait for an ambulance. Daphne has now had surgery and is recovering at the Conquest Hospital in Hastings. We all wish Daphne well and will be remembering her in our prayers.

Lastly, on a brighter note, members of the Christ Church congregation have been invited to afternoon tea at our sister church, Cross Way Seaford on Sunday October 17 at 3.15 pm,. Cross Way would like to thank Christ Church members for their help over the course of the pandemic (Take a special bow, Neil - LF) and let us see their newly refurbished church. More details are on page 6 in this issue of Christ Church *Link*.

Neil Fisher, Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost, Administrative Secretary

Messy Church

We resumed our in-person Messy Church services on 12 September and although it was well attended by members of our own congregation, it failed to attract any outside families. Those involved in the organisation of the session have had a follow up meeting and agreed that we should persevere with Messy Church on the second Sunday of the month for the rest of this year. These services will be publicised on social media and with a leaflet drop around our neighbourhood, which we hope and pray will attract local families.

It was also agreed that we do not have the resources to put on a Messy Church session during the October half term week.

Please do continue to pray for this important part of our outreach to the local community.

Neil Fisher

“THE TIME IS NOW” CLIMATE DECLARATION

Dear Prime Minister,

The time is now to lead the UK towards a healthier, greener, fairer future. Ahead of hosting the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow in 2021, we can build back better together if we:

- **Unleash a clean energy revolution** that boosts jobs across the UK, making our transport, power and housing fit for the future
- **Protect, restore and expand our green and wild spaces;** allowing nature to thrive, taking carbon from the air and boosting the nation’s health
- **Leave no one behind** by increasing support to those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change at home and abroad

The UK must lead the world by ensuring our recovery gets us on track to net-zero emissions and limits the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees C. Our best chance of building a resilient economy goes hand in hand with tackling climate change.

We are ready to play our part, and we call on you to join us.

Churches Together in the Lewes Area

The Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in the Lewes Area will be held on Zoom on Thursday 14 October 2021 starting at 7 p.m. and will be chaired by Serena Smith.

Dr Sarah Pitt, Microbiologist and Virologist will speak on 'Reflections on the COVID-19 Pandemic', and there will be a time for questions

All are welcome to attend. The link for the meeting will be:

<https://bit.ly/CTLAEvent>

Meeting ID: 860 7945 8822

Passcode: 981899

Universal Credit Lifeline

We received a request from the Fitzjohn's Foodbank asking us, as a church, to sign the letter below opposing the planned removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift at the beginning of October. Church Council felt strongly that we should support this and so I have signed on behalf of Christ Church. The action is being organised by Church Action on Poverty

Dear Prime Minister,

We stand together as church leaders from across the UK to urge you to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October.

If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low-income households will be swept further into poverty as a result.

As Christians, we are compelled by the gospel imperative to prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

As church leaders, we must speak up, because of the impact this will have on our poorest neighbours and church members.

We urge the Government to choose to build a just and compassionate social security system that our whole society can have confidence in.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer people in communities all over the country were suffering because the lifelines they needed from our social security system and vital neighbourhood services were not strong enough. Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that the cut will particularly hit the north of England, the West Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland. Rather than levelling up the UK, this will compound existing inequalities.

The loss of £1,040 a year will be devastating for many families at a time when energy bills and other household costs are increasing. Instead we can make sure our social security system brings stability,

and opens up options and opportunities for people whose income is too low or insecure to make ends meet.

The cut has already been opposed by community groups up and down the country, charities, six former Conservative Work and Pensions Secretaries, and many MPs from all parties. This is an opportunity for the Government to send a message that it listens, and recognises the pressure faced by those on the breadline.

Universal Credit has been a vital lifeline throughout the pandemic. For the sake of millions of families, it must be retained at its current level, and we therefore reiterate the calls for the planned £20 a week cut to be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

Neil Fisher, Church Secretary, Christ Church

Thinktank - Wednesday 20 October 2021 7.30 – 9 pm

Ashley Price will be speaking on

"The Pandemic and Lewes Businesses"

Ashley Price is a member of the Parochial Church Council at St Anne's and Secretary of the Lewes Chamber of Commerce. He moved to Lewes from Tooting in 1990 and now runs an audio typing service. As a town councillor from 2011 to 2015, he campaigned for support to bring empty shops back into use as viable enterprises. He will talk about how the pandemic has had a major negative effect on Lewes retailers and services; about what can be done to help, support, and promote them both by individuals and through the local government system; and about more long term changes the pandemic may have initiated.

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS

Our **September walk** started in gathering lunchtime gloom in Southover. By the time we had walked across The Brooks to Swanborough, it was raining steadily and the wet weather continued off and on for the rest of the walk. Our route then took us over to Kingston by a pleasant footpath, lined with juicy blackberries, and then back beside the Cockshut stream to Southover.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the walk were the sunflowers growing in a field near Swanborough, some of which looked as if they were auditioning for a part in a Victorian period drama.



Our **October walk** will be on Sunday October 17, starting from Richmond Road Car Park (opposite Morrisons) in Seaford town centre at 1.30 p.m. The walk will be over Seaford Head and back into town in time for afternoon tea at Cross Way.

Car park details are shown on the link below. It is free on Sundays

<https://carparkmaps.co.uk/carparks/view/9352>

AFTERNOON TEA BY THE SEASIDE



All members of Christ Church congregation are invited for afternoon tea at Cross Way Church, Clinton Place, Seaford BN25 1NP on Sunday October 17 at 3.15 p.m.

It will be a chance to meet our friends from Cross Way in person after months of post- Sunday service chat rooms on Zoom, and also allow us to see the newly refurbished church.

Our monthly walk will be at Seaford to coincide with this event (see above). We would also welcome volunteers who feel able to provide lifts by car to Seaford (with the appropriate covid safeguards) .

Cross Way would like to have an idea of numbers before the event, so please contact either Neil Fisher or Lindsay Frost if you would like to attend by Wednesday October 13 at the latest.

Cross Way Church is located very close to Seaford railway station. Here are the train times from Lewes

Depart Lewes	Arrive Seaford
1405	1425
1435	1453
1505	1527

Church Calendar for October 2021

All Sunday worship is at the church and also by Zoom.

Sun 3	10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
Mon 4	10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Sun 10	9.30 am Messy Sunday Harvest Festival 10.30 am Harvest worship for Messy Church
Mon 11	10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Tue 12	7.30 pm Mission Committee
Wed 13	7.30 pm Church Council
Thu 14	7 pm Churches Together AGM by Zoom (see page 4)
Sun 17	10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell 1 pm Church Walk (see page 7) 3:15 pm Afternoon Tea at Cross Way (see page 8)
Mon 18	10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Wed 20	7.30 pm Thinktank (see page 6)
Sun 24	10.30 am Morning worship 11.45 am Congregational Meeting
Mon 25	10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Wed 27	7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup
Sun 31	10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
Mon 1 Nov	10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Sun 7	10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell

CHRIST CHURCH (United Reformed and Methodist) seeks to proclaim the Gospel and serve the community around it. The Minister and Church Council Members would appreciate information about those who need pastoral care, and will endeavour to answer the questions of those who want to know more about the Church's life and witness here in Lewes.