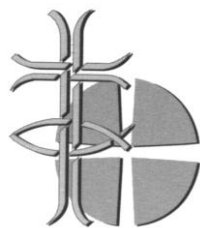


CHRIST CHURCH
United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK



DECEMBER 2021
JANUARY 2022



Prince Edward's Road
Lewes BN7 1BL
www.christ-church-lewes.org

MINISTER

Reverend Andrew Mills

Tel: 01323 894687

Email: urcministerlewes@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Neil Fisher

Tel: 01273 471487

Email: secretary@christ-church-lewes.org

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Lindsay Frost

Tel: 01273 486448

Email: secretary@christ-church-lewes.org

CHURCH TREASURER

Irene Gannon

Tel: 01273 813003

Email: treasurer@christ-church-lewes.org

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.

Church Office Telephone: 01273 488237

FROM THE SECRETARIES

Welcome to the December 2021 – January 2022 issue of Christ Church *Link*, covering the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. This is the time when we anticipate, and then celebrate, the arrival of Jesus amongst the poor and dispossessed of this world and the promise of hope and salvation which He brings.

Mission Committee have put together the excellent worship programme set out elsewhere in Christ Church *Link* and we are once again indebted to members of our own congregation who have stepped up to lead worship in church, and to Rev. Ben Brown, the new Rector of St. Anne's, who will lead the "Carols on the Green" event on the afternoon of Sunday December 12.

Once again, we are fortunate to have a booklet of **lectionary readings for the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons** prepared by David and Marion Smith entitled "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed". This complements our programme of services over the season and gives us a valuable set of insights into the wider meaning of Christ's birth and its relevance to our spiritual lives today. Copies will be distributed shortly, both hard copy and digital. Please let us know if you have any difficulty in obtaining a copy and we will arrange to get one to you. Thank you to David and Marion for their work in preparing the booklet.

We also have a **seasonal choral performance called "Shepherd's Arise!"** in the church on Sunday December 5 at 2.30 p.m. It will include Sussex Folk Carols, Sussex Dance Tunes and a Sussex Mummers Play .. For more details the poster elsewhere in this issue. No booking is required, it will be first come, first served, with a limit of 80 people, so make sure you arrive in good time. There will be a retiring collection for the Beachy Head Chaplaincy, our local charity of the year.

We are coming towards the end of "**the second year of covid**", with high levels of infection again in the UK and, at the time of writing, surging infection rates and renewed lockdowns across Europe. Despite the roll-out of very effective vaccines, the pandemic still has some way to go. Please remember in your prayers all those afflicted by covid during 2021, particularly those who have suffered spells in hospital; the debilitating and extended effects of long covid; or bereavement through the loss of a loved one during the pandemic. Amongst these, we especially pray that Rev. Andrew Mills can get on the path to sustained recovery after such a long ordeal for him and his family.

Please also remember **Jake Eddington** in your prayers. Jake suffered a bad road accident in Nevill Road, Lewes on November in which he sustained very serious head and other injuries, including a fractured skull. Jake was airlifted to

Kings College Hospital in London, and he has now been transferred to Chailey Heritage for rehabilitation. Jake's Mum, Polly, and some of her children have attended our Tots and Messy Church sessions, so they are part of our church family.

Over recent months, most of our **hall lettings** have returned. It is encouraging to see how much the local community value the accommodation we provide for a wide range of activities. We have also continued to host Fitzjohn's Food Bank and Lewes Open Door in their work for local people suffering food poverty and homelessness. At this season of plenty and feasting, we need to remember to pray for a more just society where people are treated with dignity and can get the basic food and shelter they need.

Despite the huge hike in **energy prices** in early November (our electricity costs went up by 59% per unit and gas by 112% in the absence of any price cap, as for domestic consumers), Church Council has agreed to peg our hall letting charges for the time being. Our concern is that any significant increase in letting charges due to rising energy prices now would be a big blow to our hall users, who are only just getting back on their feet, as we all (hopefully) start to emerge from the pandemic.

You may have heard that the Methodist Church has recently issued guidance to its churches on **same-sex marriage ceremonies**, including some caveats and restrictions. We last discussed this issue five years ago on the basis of URC guidance. At that time, there was broad support at Christ Church for the introduction of such marriage ceremonies in church. However, as we are an LEP, it was then not possible to proceed further until the Methodist position had been clarified. This has taken longer than expected. Ultimately, we will need to decide whether we wish to register for same-sex marriage ceremonies in our church building.

The CSUA Superintendent Minister, Rev. Barbara Evans-Routley, has offered to provide a briefing to the Church Councils at Christ Church and Cross Way to remind us where we are now and the issues we need to consider in deciding what to do next. We would like to take up this offer in the New Year and then bring the matter back for fuller discussion at both Church Council and Congregational Meeting. We will need to ensure that, subject to his health improving, we also have the benefit of input from Rev. Andrew Mills before any decisions are made.

With best wishes for a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe.

Neil Fisher, Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost, Administrative Secretary

New embroidery in the Quiet Room

Marietta Van Dyck has given to the church an applique work made by Iris Smith. This will hang in the Quiet Room and Marietta has written the following about Iris.

IRIS SMITH - deceased 05.02.2000 - born circa 1929

Iris was born and brought up in Ipswich with her sister Enid. She had a charming Suffolk accent. Iris was a research scientist in her early career and later switched to teaching. She studied music and English at training college and after joining a school was asked to teach needlework. She knew nothing about sewing but being Iris, started work teaching it and then took up evening classes to perfect her technique.

Iris was kind and thoughtful and had a great feel for people, everyone liked her very much.

Between 1996-2000 Iris and her co-designer, Marietta, worked on the design and stitching of the three large embroidery panels which now hang in Christ Church. Several other members of the congregation produced embroidered flowers for the bottom of each panel.

Iris died just 3 weeks after the dedication of the Embroidery in January 2000. She was able to take part in the service and we will be forever grateful for her inspirational ideas and practical skills.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

If the jokes inside your Christmas Crackers are a bit limp, try this one. A Christian Minister, a Muslim Iman, a Hindu priest and a rabbit decide to give blood together to set an example to their local community. They all walk over to the Blood Donation Centre. The rabbit is first through the door. "Do you know your blood group?" asks the nurse on duty. The rabbit replies "I think I'm a Type-O"

CROSS WAY REFURBISHMENT AND ART WORKS



When we were invited to Cross Way Church in Seaford for afternoon tea in October, we were all very impressed with the window artwork they had commissioned for the refurbished church interior.

The artwork was carried out by Brighton-based artist, Martin Donlin. The windows incorporate a mixture of techniques including screen printed ceramic enamels, deep sandblasting, acid-etching and digital printing. The inspirations for the work are the seasons and local landscape of the South Downs, Cuckmere River, Seaford Head and the Seven Sisters cliffs. Several panels include biblical quotations. More of Martin Donlin's work can be seen at: <https://martindonlin.com/>



Since our visit in October, a large new mural has been installed to complete the decorations in the refurbished church. (see picture below). The mural is by Juliet Hemingway, an artist based in Derby, who specialises in artwork and textiles for churches. Her work can be seen here: <http://www.church-textiles.co.uk/framain.htm> .The refurbished church was formally re-dedicated in a special service on November 20, led by Reverend Deborah Cornish.



The work at Cross Way gives us ideas and inspiration for our own work on improving the “image and messaging” at Christ Church which has, unfortunately, been stalled by the pandemic. Hopefully, we can pick things up again in the New Year. Thanks to Cochrane Young of Cross Way for supplying the pictures.

Lindsay Frost

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS

November's walk to the Chattri War Memorial on the Downs above Brighton took place in sunny, but cold, conditions. The Chattri commemorates the Indian soldiers who served British Empire forces in World War One, some of whom were wounded and evacuated to hospitals in the Brighton area. Some died and were cremated according to Hindu and Sikh custom on the site. It is a special and moving place.

After the Chattri, our walk took us over the Downs through springy turf fields, past game bird rearing pens, and fields of odd-looking crops which left us bemoaning the lack of a root vegetable identification app on our mobile phones

Our next walk is on **Sunday December 19**. start from the small car park opposite Westmeston Church at 1.15 p.m. (on the road) and climb up Westmeston Bostal onto of the downs and then continue along to Beacon, returning by the same route. If the is good, the walk offers outstanding views Sussex. As we are close to the shortest day year, the walk is of modest length, between miles (4 km), although with one or two steep as we climb up the bostal.



Westmeston Church

It will
B2116
the top
Ditchling
weather
across
of the
2 and 3
sections

The traditional **New Year's Day walk** will set off from Cliffe Corner car park in Lewes at 11.00 a.m. and head off over the Downs towards Mount Caburn. Last year, lockdown prevented us seeing in the start of 2021, but we are hopeful for 2022.

Our **January walk** is scheduled for **Sunday 16th**, starting from Falmer Pond at 1.15 p.m. and will be a "figure of eight" walk on the downs south of the village. The total length of the walk will be about three and a half miles.

All walks are subject to any covid restrictions which may apply at the time

Lindsay Frost

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PROPOSALS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

To coincide with the COP26 conference in Glasgow in early November, the World Council of Churches (WCC) – which includes both the URC and Methodist churches - sent the following proposals to the G20 political leaders:

- *Replace economic growth, particularly GDP, as the foremost indicator of progress with indicators that assess the whole human economic, social, and ecological condition. Economic policies should be directed towards improving the health and wellbeing of communities and the planet as captured by alternative measures including decent work, health, and ecological sustainability, rather than merely increasing income and production.*
- *Release countries, especially those at the forefront of climate change effects, from their onerous and historic external debts. Debt cancellation would enable indebted climate disaster-stricken countries to break free from costly build-rebuild cycles that force them further into debt. It would make available resources for transitioning to a decarbonised economy. Further, allocating special drawing rights to developing countries could help leverage financing and jumpstart a just and sustainable recovery.*
- *Implement progressive carbon and pollution taxes at various levels. Carbon taxes, particularly on big corporations and wealthy consumers, would help to curb GHG emissions and mobilise revenues for investment in renewable energy as well as for meeting the costs of mitigation, adaptation and reparations for climate-related loss and damage in income-poor and climate-vulnerable countries.*
- *Invest heavily in climate protection and the restoration of ecosystems on which all our economies are founded. In particular, we must privilege such areas as agro-ecology, reforestation and community-based renewable energy systems in our COVID-19 recovery strategies and longer-term plans. Studies indicate that investing a mere 1.2 percent of global GDP in climate-friendly recovery packages could spell the difference in keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C.*
- *Immediately end government subsidies to fossil fuel industries that artificially reduce the price of fossil fuel production and drive climate change. Financial support must instead be directed towards building sustainability infrastructure and community resilience. Now is the time to incentivise a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable energies like solar and wind.*

WCC state: “Climate change requires a system reset. Our vision of prosperity can no longer be devoted to growing the GDP and maximising profit but valuing

and resourcing the future of life on earth. As part of our calling and mission to pursue life-in-fullness for all and bring restoration to creation, we as churches commit to redouble our efforts towards supporting those most affected by climate change and living sufficiently and sustainably on our only planetary home. We pray you will join us”

You may want to think about how successful CPO26 was in supporting delivery of this ambitious agenda for change and pray for the success of the initiatives for climate change mitigation and adaptation which the conference was able to agree

Lindsay Frost



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week 2021 raised a total of over £5 million pounds across the UK.

The total amount collected by the Lewes group this year was £8,044.80. This comprises a total of £6,355.80 from the envelopes/house-to-house collection and £1,589 donated online from the BN7 postcode area, and £100 from the BN8 area during the month of May, which is assumed was as a result of the Lewes News campaign and also envelope drops.

Given the situation, that is a very good return, and hopefully next year we will be able to return to something more normal, while learning any lessons from this year.

Next year's appeal will focus on Zimbabwe. Publicity material for Christian Aid week 2022 will explore the lives and livelihoods of women in the rural communities of Zimbabwe through the lens of climate justice.

Wednesday 15 December 2021 7.30 – 9 pm by Zoom

Dr Farai Jena

“Why is migration so controversial?”

"International migration is a powerful expression of people's desire to improve their circumstances in a highly unequal world" (UN World Social Report 2020). Farai will talk about international migration from an economic point of view. She grew up in Zimbabwe, obtained academic qualifications in the USA and the UK, and is now a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Sussex, where she is working on a range of research projects in applied development economics. She will address questions such as what influences the movement of people, what are the costs and benefits of migrating, and what are the effects of migration on migrant-sending and migrant-receiving countries. Policies that can potentially enhance the benefits of international migration will also be discussed..

Wednesday 19 January 2022 7.30 – 9 pm

Joy Mercer

“Deserving Poor”

**HOMELINK Carol Concert
‘Christmas with the Ashdown Singers’**

HOMELINK is delighted to announce that the Ashdown Singers will perform at St Thomas More Church, Seaford, on December 5th at a special Christmas fundraising concert for HOMELINK.

The audience will be treated to a glorious variety of festive choral music from this much-loved musical ensemble which, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has not been able to perform its renowned Christmas concert for the past two years.

The concert starts at 3pm and no booking is necessary although early arrival is advised to ensure a seat.

Please note, usual social distancing measures and other precautions will apply at the concert and guests are required to wear a face covering.

There will be a retiring collection at the end of concert for those who would like to donate to HOMELINK this Christmas.

For those preferring or not able to attend in person, organisers plan to live-stream the concert. For more information regarding this, please email:

homelink.lewes.ado@gmail.com

SHEPHERDS ARISE!

**SUSSEX FOLK
CAROLS**

**from SUSSEX CHURCH
MANUSCRIPT BOOKS**

*with flute, fiddle, bassoon,
clarinet & concertinas
Singers & musicians from
Lewes Saturday Folk Club*

DANCE TUNES

from SUSSEX MSS SOURCES

**SUSSEX MUMMERS
PLAY**

Christ Church, Lewes BN7 1BL
Sunday 5th. December, 2:30 p.m.
Free admission with retiring collection

Church Calendar for December 2021

- Sun 5 10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
2:30 pm Shepherds Arise! Sussex Folk Carols in the church
3 pm HOMELINK Carol Concert at St Thomas More Church, Seaford
- Wed 8 7.30 pm Decorating the church for Christmas
- Sun 12 10.30 am Messy Church Christingle service led by Claire Bell
2 pm Carols on the Green
- Wed 15 7.30 pm Thinktank by Zoom
7.30 pm CSUA Area Meeting
- Sun 19 10.30 am Family Christmas Service, with Lessons, Carols and Holy Communion, led by Gwyneth Watkinson
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 22 7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup at 28, Caburn Crescent
- Sat 25 10 am Family Service for Christmas Day led by Norman Vance
- Sun 26 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell

Church Calendar for January 2022

- Sat 1 11 am New Years Day Walk
- Sun 2 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rob Hinchliffe
- Wed 5 7.30 pm Pastoral leaders meeting
- Sun 9 10.30 am Messy Church worship led by Brenda Vance
- Wed 12 7.30 pm Church Council
- Thu 13 7.30 pm Mission Committee
- Sun 16 10.30 am Morning worship led by David Coleman - from Cross Way
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 19 7.30 pm Thinktank
- Sun 23 10.30 am Morning worship led by Tom Lunt
- Wed 26 7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup
- Sun 30 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
- Sun 6 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell

Rotas for December 2021

	December				
	5	12	19	25	26
		Messy Church		Christmas Day	
Door Stewards	Andrew Buxton	Graham Purdye	Janet Cooper		Andrew Buxton
Vestry Steward	Brenda Vance	Brenda Vance	Brenda Vance		Brenda Vance
Coffee	Janet & Linda B		Ian & Judy		Rod & Aly

Rotas for January 2022

	January				
	2	9	16	23	30
		Messy Church			
Door Stewards	Graham Purdye	Janet Cooper	Brenda Vance	Andrew Buxton	Graham Purdye
Vestry Steward	Glenda Pett	Glenda Pett	Glenda Pett	Glenda Pett	Glenda Pett
Coffee	Ian & Judy		Viv & Lindsay	Graham & Pam	Janet & Linda B

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.