

CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK



July/August 2022



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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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Thought for the Summer

“Summertimeand the living is easy” goes the old song from George and Ira Gershwin. However, for many people in Britain, this isn’t the reality they face every day. Life is getting harder and harder.

There is a cost of living crisis which has greatly intensified over recent months with fast rising food and energy prices bringing poverty to more and more households.

Poverty in the UK is entrenched and a longstanding concern of the church. In 2013, the Methodist, URC and Baptist churches of UK, and the Church of Scotland, published a joint report called “The Lies We Tell Ourselves : Ending Comfortable Myths about Poverty” . The conclusions from that report are still relevant – and perhaps even more important - today and below is an edited version of the report’s conclusions.



As Christians we are called to have a distinctive and joyful presence in the world. Our calling leads us to seek after truth, and that means facing up to our own blindness as well as holding others to account. The report is entitled “**The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Ending Comfortable Myths about Poverty**” because it is clear that we are often complicit in the myths that we have been willing to believe about poverty in Britain today. The report has demonstrated how statistics

can be manipulated to support a story that is comfortable to hear: that the poor are a distinct group of people, somehow deserving of their poverty, and therefore deserving of the deprivations and cuts which they increasingly face.

THE MYTHS

Myth 1: 'They' are lazy and just don't want to work

Myth 2: 'They' are addicted to drink and drugs

Myth 3: 'They' are not really poor - they just don't manage their money properly

Myth 4: 'They' are on the fiddle

Myth 5: 'They' have an easy life on benefits

Myth 6: 'They' caused the deficit

It will always be possible to find examples of individual good or bad behaviour, including by people living in poverty. It is also possible to use such a story to justify an opinion. However we should not attempt to understand a large group of people on the basis of a single story. We should look at the evidence and test our prejudices and our opinions against it. We should never allow the evidence to be bent to fit our prejudices, and we should be outraged when others do it on our behalf - even if we find the prejudices reassuring.

If poverty in the UK were caused by the faults and laziness of the poor, then some of us might feel more comfortable with it. Our charitable instincts might prompt us to offer help, but there would be no injustice to be righted.

But the truth is that poverty is an injustice crying out for correction and cannot be explained away as the problem of individual families.

Responding with charity can help to break down the barriers in society and is a partial solution, but we all have a moral responsibility to build a more just and more understanding society. As Christians we believe that the infinitely loving Creator, shared by us all, demands no less of us.

In researching this report, we found many of the facts made us uncomfortable. Reading much of the press coverage around poverty and welfare reform was equally uncomfortable. We hope many readers of this report are a little less comfortable at the end of it than they were when they began, and that some prejudices and assumptions have been challenged. Most of all we hope readers are moved to seek to understand the reality of poverty as it is experienced in Britain today.

**A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.
[Proverbs 29 vv. 7]**

As citizens, we have the right and duty to expect more from our politicians and the media. We expect them to cease perpetuating myths which, although convenient for themselves, are no longer credible. We ask them to enable real leadership and be willing to say things that we may all find uncomfortable, even unpalatable.

We need to develop an understanding of the depth and breadth of UK poverty that is compatible with the evidence available. Just as importantly we need to match the language of public debate with the reality of people's lives. It is a task we must approach with humility, one which puts the lived experience of poverty at its heart, and one which is committed to truthfulness – no matter how uncomfortable we find those truths to be.

See the full report at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/2084/3-1-class-economic-justice-truth-lies-report-extend.pdf>

Thinktank

Wednesday 20 July 2022 7.30 – 9 pm

Revd Roger Wood COP 27 and Climate Change. Is it too late to save the planet we know?

After the United Nations COP26 Conference in Glasgow last year, current scientific analysis and projections predict that our planet is at serious risk of catastrophic changes in the climate. Roger Wood has a background in education, local government, and fire safety training in the London Fire Brigade. More latterly, he has served as a Minister in the United Reformed Church. He has a keen interest in the environment and ecology and has made a detailed study of present thinking about global warming. There is a strong possibility that we have left it too late to control changes that have been set in motion across the world!

Wednesday 17 August 2022 7.30 – 9 pm

Professor Martin Yeomans Food in the 21st century: myths and realities.

Martin Yeomans is Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Sussex and heads the Sussex Ingestive Behaviour Group. His group explores a wide range of questions about how we eat and drink, most recently debunking commonly held views about sweet liking, how filling different foods are, and how what we eat can affect the way we feel and think.

FROM THE SECRETARIES

Welcome to the latest edition of **CC Link**, which covers the months of July and August.

On June 7, Church Council held its first “in person “meeting since the start of covid-19. Since the early months of 2020, we have held 26 meetings online via Zoom, meeting much more frequently than before

in order to cope with all the complex issues arising from the ebbs and flows of the pandemic, and the accompanying government legislation/guidance. It was nice to gather together in the old way to conduct our business.

From now on, we will vary the programme and have both in person and online meetings. It will be very useful to have the option of online meetings for wet and cold winter evenings when no one is very keen to venture out. Here are some of the things we discussed at the June meeting:

- **The future of the Christ Church /Cross Way pastorate following the retirement of Rev. Andrew Mills:** Cochrane Young of Cross Way is doing some soundings with the CSUA and the Synod on the prospects for filling the vacancy caused by Andrew's retirement . The CSUA will be discussing this matter at their meeting on June 22, along with the possible appointment of an Interim Moderator to support the pastorate whilst we are without a minister. We will update the position at the Congregational Meeting towards the end of July
- **Same sex marriage ceremonies at Christ Church:** Our church took the view that this was acceptable during URC consultations in 2016, but took no action pending ongoing debate in the Methodist Church. Like the URC, the Methodist Church has now decided to leave each individual church to decide its own position and has provided theological guidance on both positive and negative views. Church Council has again decided to recommend acceptance, but the final decision rests with the Congregational Meeting in late July. To assist this decision, we have a very informative Zoom presentation from Rev. Barbara Routley-Evans on "The History of Marriage". This can be seen online at : <https://www.dropbox.com/s/5gp2t0w0u0ww4s7/2022-02-09%20History%20of%20Marriage.mp4?dl=0>

For anyone who doesn't have access to a computer, we can arrange a personal showing of the presentation prior to the Congregational Meeting. Please contact either one of us, or Claire, if you would like a showing to be arranged for you

- **Hall lettings:** You might think that the reduction in covid infections and the removal of national restrictions over recent weeks would have seen our hall lettings quickly revert to the pre-2019 patterns. However, matters have been much less predictable because :

- there are still covid infections around and some people remain vulnerable and so reluctant to resume mixing socially
- the new electronic methods of meeting introduced during the pandemic have proved popular and durable
- some education –based activities have “lost” two years
- some other Lewes venues have not re-opened
- some of our hall users want more space and some want less

The overall result for us has been increased letting pressure on our building (which our users rate highly) and some difficulties in juggling letting demands against the church's own needs. We will review letting priorities for the coming year at our July meeting

- **Christian Aid:** Most donations this year were made online and we do not have a figure for those which arose from our distribution of information and collection envelopes via “Lewes News”. However, £310.00 was left in envelopes at the church and our other local collection points. Most of these donations were covered by Gift Aid declarations, boosting their value up to around £350.00 overall. We have sent the money off to Christian Aid
- **Ukrainian Café:** The café continues to operate successfully and attracts increasing numbers of Ukrainian guests on Wednesday mornings. English language lessons are now being offered to our

guests. Church Council has agreed detailed arrangements for the operation of the café and a rota of helpers from the church is being extended through the summer. Arrangements will be reviewed again in July

- **Home charity of the year 2022:** Further work is going on to identify a suitable project to support the mental health of young people in the Lewes area. More information will be provided to the Congregational Meeting in July
- **Lay Worker:** Claire Bell is now in post and reported on her progress during her first month. There has been good progress on several fronts, including setting up regular Prayer Meetings; detailed arrangements for the Ukrainian café; starting a review of our social media presence; improving pastoral support; and liaison with other church and community leaders in Lewes on initiatives to support the local community. The aim will be to see where the church should best direct its efforts in future. A report will be presented to Church Council later in the year. Claire has also taken some of the administrative burden from the church officers, for which we are very grateful.
- **Eco Working Group :** Priorities are being reviewed for further work over the coming months which we hope will take us up from Bronze to Silver Level Eco Church. We are stronger in some areas than others and are working up a priority list of actions.

It was nice to see Robert Smith, and Colin and Carol Pattenden, in church on June 12 for our Trinity Sunday service. Claire led an excellent service which drew on insights into the trinity from Celtic Christianity. Robert was in Lewes for the Chamber Music festival that weekend. Sadly, Eleanor's illness means that she now requires full time support in a care home. She has recently been in hospital for treatment of an infection. Our best wishes to them both. Colin and

Carol are now living in Bournemouth, where they are caring for an old friend who is seriously ill. Again, our best wishes to them both.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and – if going away for a long awaited holiday after two years of covid restrictions – come back relaxed and refreshed.

Neil Fisher Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost Administrative Secretary

TOP TIPS 5 – SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

As we approach high summer, water resources in Sussex often come under greatest stress. This year, we have had a dry spring and our reservoirs and boreholes start at lower levels than normal, so conserving water will be more important.

At the risk of prompting a soggy summer, here are some tips on saving water in the garden.

(Adapted from –Water Wise – Northumbrian Water)



Grass

- Stop watering your lawn. It's OK to let your grass go brown during dry spells – it will bounce back as soon as it rains again.
- Hoses and sprinklers typically use about 1000 litres of water an hour. This is more than 12 baths.
- If you have to use a sprinkler, try to use it in the early morning/late afternoon, this is when evaporation rates are lowest.

Plants

- Lots of people use bathwater on their gardens, this is a brilliant idea. Please remember this is dirty water and should be used immediately, and never on fruit or vegetables, or near children.
- Use mulch and bark in your garden, it will help to reduce evaporation by up to 75%.

- Think about mixing some drought-resistant bedding and perennial plants to your garden to add a bit of diversity and resilience in the summer.
- Sprinkle hydrogels in the garden and in hanging baskets. These drought relief products are known to aid the slow release of water over time, reducing the need to water the garden frequently.
- Check the weather before you water. Many plants can go at least a day without watering, and if you know rain is forecast for tomorrow then it's OK to give it a miss today.

Garden Equipment

- Pressure washers should be used sparingly or not at all. Look out for water-efficient models that are available.
- Attaching a trigger nozzle on your hosepipe will halve the amount of water used and help direct the flow to the root of your plants.
- Watering cans can significantly reduce the amount of water used (compared to sprinklers) whilst getting the desired amount to your plants.
- Water butts are a brilliant method to catch a large amount of rainwater that falls each year – it's free water.

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS

Our July walk is on **Sunday July 17**. After several flattish walks in recent months, July's suggested route is a bit more hilly. It starts from the small car park opposite Westmeston Church on the B2116 road (BN6 8RJ) at 1.15 p.m. and climbs up Westmeston Bostal onto the top of the downs and then continues along the downland escarpment to Ditchling Beacon, and returning by the same route.

If the weather is clear, the walk offers outstanding views across East Sussex from the county's highest point at 813 feet (248 m) above sea level. The walk is of modest length, between 2 and 3 miles (4 km), although with one or two steep sections as we climb up the bostal.



This was the planned route for December 2021, which we had to cancel and re-route onto lower ground, due to thick fog on the Downs.

The August walk will be on **Sunday August 21**. The suggested route is a 4-mile walk from Barcombe Mills Car Park (BN8 5BX), partly along the banks of the River Ouse and partly on quiet country paths and lanes, and all pretty flat. The walk should take about two hours, starting at 1.15 p.m.

In both cases, it is recommended that you have lunch before the start of the walk and bring along a bottle of water on what we hope will be warm and sunny summer days

Lindsay Frost



A date for your diary

Lewes Open Door are holding a '**Celebration of Kindness**' on July 16th at Harvey's Yard and would love you to join us. There will be music, cream teas, face painting and a chance to find out a little more of what we do.

It's an opportunity to thank our volunteers, donors and supporters – including Christ Church - for all their help & kindness.

Finally, we are always looking for new volunteers at our drop-in so if you are interested please let Claire Bell know, or apply via our website. We would also very much value the advice of professionals with experience in mental health, the private rental sector and housing law etc – Claire or Belinda Crawford would love to talk to you.

Thought from the Layworker

It has been very encouraging to receive support from so many quarters for my new role. I have been gradually introducing myself to others in the Lewes community and explaining that we are exploring as a church what our role should be in furthering the Kingdom of God. One of the lovely moments was at the recent Churches Together in the Lewes Area monthly prayer meeting where members of our sister churches in Lewes prayed for our church and our members, and the activities that go on in our building, expressing how much our church is valued and loved by them. As someone who has only lived in the area for four years, I don't always pick up on the shared history of Christians in Lewes. It is really important that we support each other and work together to achieve so much more than we could individually. We can also give thanks for those who have made such a great contribution to our church in the past. On a visit to Daphne Pattenden, she told me about her husband and she said 'If ever I wondered where he was, I knew he would be at church!' and I also heard from others about the work of Eleanor Smith as the Church Secretary for many years. We should always remember that we are building on the work of our forebears as we discern through prayer and God's guidance how to go forward.

Claire Bell

Church Calendar for July 2022

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

- Sat 2 10 am to 11 am Saturday Prayer
- Sun 3 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Richard Goldring
- Mon 4 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Tue 5 7.30 pm Mission Committee by zoom
- Wed 6 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
- Sat 9 10 am to 11 am Saturday prayer
- Sun 10 9.30 am Prayer meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday Worship
- Mon 11 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Wed 13 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
7.30 pm Church Council
- Sat 16 10 am to 11 am Saturday prayer
- Sun 17 10.30 am Morning Worship led by Tom Lunt
1 pm Church Walk
- Mon 18 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
8 pm Ecumenical Housegroup
- Wed 20 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
7.30 pm Thinktank
- Sat 23 10 am to 11 am Saturday prayer
- Sun 24 10.30 am Morning Worship led by the Choir
11.45 Congregational Meeting
- Mon 25 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Wed 27 10 am – 12.30 Messy Church
- Sat 30 10 am to 11 am Saturday prayer

Sun 31 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Gwyneth Watkinson

Church Calendar for August 2022

Mon 1 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Wed 3 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
Sat 6 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
Sun 7 10.30 am Morning worship led by David Crowther
Mon 8 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
Wed 10 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
Sat 13 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
Sun 14 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday worship
Mon 15 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Foodbank
Wed 17 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
7.30 pm Thinktank
Sat 20 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
Sun 21 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell
1 pm Church Walk
Mon 22 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Foodbank
Wed 24 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup
Sat 27 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
Sun 28 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
Mon 29 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Foodbank
Wed 31 10 am - 12.30 pm Messy Church
Sat 3 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer

Rotas for July 2022

	3	10	17	24	31
		Second Sunday			
Door Stewards	Andrew Buxton	Brenda Vance	Graham Purdye	Janet Cooper	Brenda Vance
Vestry Steward	Tom Lunt	Tom Lunt	Tom Lunt	Andrew Buxton	Andrew Buxton
Coffee	Jane & Pam	Viv & Lindsay	Jane & Pam	Alan & Glenda	Janet & Linda

Rotas for August 2022

	4	14	21	28
		Second Sunday		
Door Stewards	Linda Beddow	Graham Purdye	Andrew Buxton	Brenda Vance
Vestry Steward	Janet Cooper	Janet Cooper	Janet Cooper	Andrew Buxton
Coffee	Jane & Pam	Viv & Lindsay	Jane & Pam	Alan & Glenda

CHRIST CHURCH (United Reformed and Methodist) seeks to proclaim the Gospel and serve the community around it. The Layworker 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.