

CHRIST CHURCH

United Reformed and Methodist

CHRIST CHURCH
LINK



November 2022



Prince Edward's Road
Lewes BN7 1BL

www.christ-church-lewes.org

MINISTER

Vacancy

LAY WORKER

Claire Bell

Tel: 07725 592658

Email: layworker@christ-church-lewes.org

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

A REFLECTION FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Edited and adapted from a sermon given by Michael Ellard,
Oakham C of E Team Ministry, Rutland - November 2020



On Remembrance Sunday, we come together to remember those who have died in two world wars, those who have died since, and those who die today through current conflict between nations. For some, this time will still be personal. It will be hard, hurting, and lonely. Yet, for others, it will be place only seen through images, stories told or handed down through family generations, or seen through the media, and although devoid of personal contact, it will be equally disturbing.

As we remember the sacrifice made by so many, we do not come to glorify war but to recognise its cost, the human life lost and the suffering caused to all involved and affected by the actions taken. We also come together to re-commit ourselves before God to be those peacemakers, that Jesus asks all his disciples to become through the ways we live our lives together. We come to express our common humanity shared in the light of Christ by pausing to recognise the value of every life, past and present.

It is at times such as these that our faith grinds against the reality of an often hard, unforgiving, and uncomprehending world. As we reflect on the horrors endured by those we remember today, we may also find ourselves challenged in understanding human nature, and why change, forgiveness and reconciliation can appear to be such a slow process between individuals and nations. This is particularly true now in

November 2022, as we see others continuing along the path of destruction, notably through Russia's brutal war on Ukraine.



FROM THE SECRETARIES

We owe a big thank you to Brenda and Norman Vance for their excellent service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church on October 16. They not only looked back to the Presbyterian and Congregational roots of the URC, but looked forward to the ways in which the church might evolve and adapt in the future.

The latter has also been a central theme in our Wednesday **Bible Study** group, where we have been studying the Acts of the Apostles. The group is going well, with discussions prompted by the questions in Tom Wright's "Acts for Everyone. As we delve into this pivotal book of the Bible, we can see the early struggles of the apostles to give shape and direction to the young and growing church. The Holy Spirit was at the centre of this evolution, as the church spread out from a small group of people in Jerusalem - who witnessed the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus - to the far reaches of the ancient world. We are learning that there are many lessons here for churches today.

We are now at a turning point in the life of Christ Church. We have recently re-arranged the chairs in the sanctuary to bring our now smaller congregation closer together and to provide more free space which can be used for other activities during the week. This marks a potential change in our focus from children and young families to serving the local community in general, so it is important that we have everyone on board with this change..

In order to move on and fully utilise the space we have, we really need to consider whether to keep of a lot things we have accumulated on our journey so far. A lot of our cupboard space is occupied by things we rarely, if ever, use. We have over two cupboards full of children's play equipment, only a small part of which is now used (mostly for the Ukraine Café). We also have 140 wooden chairs in the sanctuary and elsewhere in the building. We need to consider whether we need to retain all these chairs. We calculate that we could do without around

60 of these chairs. If we do need additional seating in the sanctuary (for example , for a funeral), we have over 100 folding chairs from the hall.

We have registered as a member of the **Warm Space initiative**, where churches and other community buildings, are opened up several hours a week to provide a warm space for people who are struggling to meet the fast rising bills for heating their own homes. Claire is proposing that we provide simple meals as part of this initiative.

This initiative aligns with the ambitions of the Fitzjohn's Food Bank. They would like to create a café in the large hall on a Monday afternoon, to try and build their support for the local community. They would like to offer a meal/hot food during their Monday session, especially during school holidays, so would stay open later (until 4pm) and people would be welcome to a free meal and hot drink or "pay as you feel". Their clients are also our local community. They currently rent the hall until 2:30 pm on a Monday, and would like to extend that to 4:30 pm (allowing time to clear up before the 5 pm let), and use of kitchen. They would pay our normal "community benefit" hiring rate for the extra two hours

Their café would operate to high standards (we would need to ensure that the kitchen has a local authority hygiene certificate and they would ensure that whoever was in charge had the appropriate certificate). They would also like additional storage for ambient food. They would like to buy a small shed or storage box to be placed on the concrete base by the hall fire exit which we prepared for the Tots shed, or the base on the edge of the front car park.

This means that we also need to look at the building and the signing to ensure that those who use it are aware that we are a church and what our message is. This will require a reconvening of the **Church Image Group** which was meeting before covid struck.

These proposals were considered by the Congregational Meeting on October and this led to a long and vigorous discussion where it was decided to:

- support for Christ Church to join the Warm Space initiative
- confirm the re-arrangement into an arc of the chairs in the sanctuary, with more space between rows and an additional row, to avoid any overcrowding
- not to dispose of approx. 60 church chairs at the present time
- give further consideration as to whether to reduce the number of toys in storage and / or to provide an additional external storage facility
- agree to Food Bank extending their use of the hall on a Monday for use as a café and permit use of the kitchen.

We are planning a **Tear Fund Quiz Night on Saturday November 19.**

The evening is open to all and we hope that some of the many community users of our building will also want to field teams and join the evening. We start at 6 pm with the first half of the quiz. We then pause at 7pm for a light supper and half time video from Tear Fund. The second half of the quiz begins at 7.30 and we finish around 8.30pm. Tear Fund provides all the quiz questions, answers and scores online. The evening will be compered by Claire Bell.

We have continued to **liaise with Cross Way Church in Seaford** on the future of the pastorate. We have agreed to update the pastorate profile in the next two months or so. The updated document will need to include a new section on how we coped with the covid pandemic and how this has altered the way the pastorate churches operate. We will then use the document to press the CSUA to appoint an Interim Moderator. Cross Way is investigating interim use of the manse in Seaford whilst we have no minister. A short term rental is planned, which would bring in useful income to the pastorate churches.

Our next issue of **CC Link** will be a December-January double issue and will include our plans for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We

have already had useful discussions with the Food Bank on their Christmas plans. On our part, work on the planning of several special Christmas events at Christ Church is continuing. Full details will be set out in the next issue.

Neil Fisher

Church Secretary

Lindsay Frost

Administrative Secretary

Thinktank

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16 November at 7.30 pm

Dr Sung Kyu Kim will be speaking on

"The effects of climate change on sustainable development in Africa "

The UN climate change conference, COP27, will take place in November in Egypt. Following the disappointing support in climate financing for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in COP26, many argue that we must move beyond the rhetoric of commitments and pledges and unlock the funds necessary to address climate challenges in the developing countries. This is, however, a complex political process. The talk will discuss the uneven power dynamics of the global energy systems, climate change responsibility, implications of our current decarbonisation efforts, and what this means for a fairer development transition in Africa. Dr Kim is a lecturer in sustainability and energy policy at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), in the University of Sussex Business School, and a parishioner at St Pancras.

IBRA BIBLE READING NOTES AND URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2023

I shall shortly be ordering copies of these for anyone who would like to take them.

Fresh from the Word will cost approximately £13.50 and the **URC Prayer Handbook** will cost about £7 (including postage) depending on how many copies are ordered. I shall be contacting those friends who currently receive copies to check whether they wish to continue.

If you do not already take either of these publications and would like to do so, please would you let me know by Sunday 20th November. I can provide further information if you would like to know more.

You can contact me at cooper.janet77@yahoo.co.uk.

Janet Cooper

MARK JOHNSON

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mark Johnson, Christian Aid's Church Engagement and Fund Raising Officer for Kent and Sussex. Mark passed away on October 4 at St Peter and St James Hospice after a long illness.

Mark encouraged many churches, CA Groups and volunteers to support Christian Aid's vision of eradicating poverty and helping the most vulnerable communities around the world. His loss at such a young age will be felt by many across the area. Our thoughts are with his wife Elaine and the family.

ECO WORKING GROUP

TOP TIPS 7 - KEEPING YOUR HOME CLEAN

Chemical-based cleaning products have drawbacks: They're pricey, they may trigger health issues and their manufacture, use and disposal can harm the environment. So if you're cleaning your home, why not consider these effective all-natural cleaning alternatives?

1. Use Lemon. Lemons are one of nature's most effective cleaning tools. They have powerful antiseptic and antibacterial properties and are a natural deodorizer due to their high acidic content. Here are some suggestions for how to use lemons in your home:

Have your copper pans lost their shine? Dip half a lemon in salt or baking powder to scour your pans to their former glory. Mix a bit of lemon juice with baking soda to remove stains from plastic containers. Combine lemon peel and white vinegar in a jar, allow to marinate for a few days, then strain out the peel to use the vinegar as a cleaner. A small dish containing vinegar and lemon juice will absorb odours. Rub a slice of lemon across your chopping board to disinfect the surface.



2. Use Baking Soda. Baking soda, like lemon, is another one of nature's cleaners. Also known as sodium bicarbonate, this mildly alkaline substance functions as a gentle abrasive, deodorant and more.

A thick paste of baking soda and water can be useful in removing surface rust. A more liquid mixture of baking soda and water can

function as an all-purpose light cleaner that's particularly effective on grease.

3. Clean your oven. A thick paste of baking soda and water can be applied to the bottom of the oven to clean it. Let it sit for a couple of hours or overnight before scraping it off and wiping the surface.

4. Brighten the bowl. Baking soda also is a winner in the bathroom. Throw a cup of baking soda into the toilet bowl and let it sit for more than an hour. Then add a cup of white vinegar, let the mixture sit for a while longer, and flush.

5. Safely clean your clothes. Baking soda also is a great addition to your laundry room. When added to your washing machine, it can soften your clothes and remove any unpleasant odours.

6. Use White Vinegar. Mentioned a couple of times already, white vinegar is a weak acetic acid that can be used in almost all aspects of home cleaning, as it has strong antibacterial properties.

Vinegar diluted in water is an effective stain remover for various textiles. It's also a great natural deodorizer, and can be combined with various other natural products, such as lemon juice, to absorb odours. You can simmer vinegar with water on the stove while cooking to prevent cooking odours. Vinegar can help remove strong scents left over from fish, onion and garlic too.

7. Refresh your dishwasher. If your dishwasher could use a thorough cleaning, ditch the expensive chemical tabs and instead fill a dishwasher-safe bowl with two cups of white vinegar and set it on the top rack. Let the otherwise empty dishwasher run one cycle to get rid of any odours and bacteria.

8. Descale your kettle Vinegar is your friend again here, although you can use lemon juice, too. Pour a 50/50 mixture of white vinegar and water into your kettle, allow it to boil, then rinse the kettle out once it cools down a little but is still warm.

9. Make your windows shine. Vinegar comes to the rescue again. Fill an empty spray bottle with a 50/50 mixture of white vinegar and water and use a microfiber cloth to wipe down your windows and avoid any streaking. This also works wonders for mirrors.

10. Keep those tiles sparkly. The grout between tiles in the bathroom can quickly accumulate mould, which is both unsightly and unhealthy. Remove it by mixing one part carbonated water with one part white vinegar and spray it on the mouldy areas. If the grime still doesn't scrub off, add two parts baking soda to the vinegar-water mix to make a thick paste. Let the mixture sit on the grout for at least 15 minutes before scrubbing it off.

CHRIST CHURCH WALKS.

Our next walk will be on **Sunday November 20.**

Our planned October walk was cancelled, as many of our “regulars” were unavailable for various reasons. Therefore, we will try again in November with the same route.

The route starts at **Piddinghoe Village Green (near the church) at 1.30 pm.** It heads across the downs via Bullock Down to the attractive village of Telscombe, and then up to Telscombe Tye with its widespread sea views. It returns via Lodge Hill from which there are lovely long distance views up the Ouse valley to Lewes and down to Newhaven, Seaford and the sea beyond. The total distance is about 4 miles / 6km.



Piddinghoe Church



Telscombe Tye

NEVILL GOOD NEIGHBOURS (NGN)

This provides free volunteer-based help across the Nevill Estate. All volunteers are DBS checked and provide help free of charge, except for petrol costs of 50p per mile for lifts and any parking costs. NGN can help with things like:

- Occasional lifts for medical appointments, shopping, etc
- Collection of shopping or prescriptions
- Small household jobs
- Putting out bins
- Help with computers or paperwork
- Walking the dog or feeding your cat
- Popping in to provide company
- Letter writing or form filling

Nevill Good Neighbours are not able to provide specialist services or play any role that should be undertaken by professional, qualified people. Nor are they able to offer assistance to those living outside the Nevill estate.

How to request help

For assistance from the Nevill Residents Good Neighbour Scheme please text or call them on: 07548 069063 and leave a message. They will aim to get back to you the same day.

Or, alternatively you can email them instead:

nevigoodneighbours@gmail.com

If you are new to the scheme, a volunteer will visit to take simple registration details and review your needs. If you are already registered with the scheme, your request will be passed on to a volunteer who will get back to you to make final arrangements.



Join us for Tearfund's Big Quiz Night on Saturday 19 November. It promises to be a night like no other: people from every corner of the UK will be gathering online and in person for a quiz extravaganza – all in the name of ending poverty. And we'd love you to join in the fun with us!

6 pm Start

£5 per person entry – donate to our Justgiving page
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christ-church2 or pay on the night

Christ Church, Prince Edwards Road, Lewes

Light supper at 7pm

Bring a team of four or join with others on the night.

Contact Claire Bell at layworker@christ-church-lewes.org

Or ring 07725 592658

Thought from the Layworker

I am writing this thought sitting in the dining room of my new house in Bishopstone. It seems hardly any time since I wrote the first one in May and now we are fast approaching the end of the year. So many things have happened to us as individuals and as a church in such a short space of time. If this is how you are feeling, perhaps it is a good time to take stock and reflect on 2022 before we leap into a new year. It has been very heartening to have welcomed many of you to the Saturday morning prayer meetings and the Bible Study which we started last month, studying the Book of Acts. We have discovered that we can find much of value to us as individuals and as a church in the words of this book with its emphasis on hospitality and growth. We are using Tom Wright's Acts for Everyone, the bible study version which costs £5.94, but it is not necessary to buy the book. If you would like a drink beforehand, come at 1.15 and the session is expected to last between 45 minutes and an hour.

As mentioned last month, we have now officially joined the Warm Welcome Campaign. This is a mission to help provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter. We are part of a movement to provide free, safe, warm and welcoming spaces for anyone who needs a warm space. We have committed to be open on Wednesdays from 10 till 3 and may do so at other times if it is needed. If you would like to volunteer to serve tea and coffee and keep the premises open, please let me know.

Finally, please come along to our Big Quiz Night on 19 November – do encourage groups to bring a team along. This is a fundraiser for Tearfund and a chance to get back to meeting up with friends and spreading the Good News.

God Bless,

Claire Bell

Church Calendar for November 2022

- Wed 2 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study at the church - Acts for Everyone
- Sat 5 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
- Sun 6 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell
- Wed 9 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study at the church - Acts for Everyone
7.30 pm Church Council
- Sat 12 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
- Sun 13 9.30 am Prayer Meeting in the Quiet Room
10.30 am Second Sunday - Remembrance led by Claire Bell
- Wed 16 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study at the church - Acts for Everyone
7.30 pm Thinktank
- Sat 19 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
6 pm Tear Fund Quiz
- Sun 20 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell
1 pm Church Walk
- Wed 23 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study at the church - Acts for Everyone
7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup
- Sat 26 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
- Sun 27 10.30 am Advent Sunday worship with Holy Communion
led by Rev Dr Richard Goldring
- Wed 30 10 am - 12 noon Ukraine Café
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm Bible Study at the church - Acts for Everyone
- Sat 3 10 am - 11 am Saturday Prayer
- Sun 4 10.30 am Morning worship

Rotas for November 2022

	6	13	20	27
		Second Sunday		
Door Stewards	Brenda Vance	Janet Cooper	Graham Purdye	Linda Beddow
Vestry Steward	Gwyneth Watkinson	Gwyneth Watkinson	Gwyneth Watkinson	Gwyneth Watkinson
Coffee	Janet & Linda	Viv & Lindsay	Ian & Judy	Alan & Glenda
Powerpoint	Neil Fisher	Tom Lunt	Irene Gannon	Neil Fisher

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.