

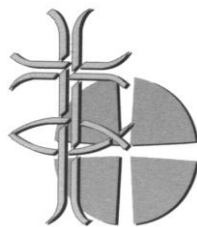
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
United Reformed and Methodist

# **CHRIST CHURCH**

## ***LINK***



**February 2021**



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**[www.christ-church-lewes.org](http://www.christ-church-lewes.org)**

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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

It seems a long time since our last “Christ Church Link” was published at the end of November. Since then, we have come out of one lockdown, been through Advent, had some brief hopes of a return to church worship and Christmas gatherings dashed, and then – with the New Year - a return to yet another, even tougher, lockdown from which there is as yet no clear way out.

The covid-19 virus has been spreading rapidly over this time, with infection rates in the Lewes area – previously very low – growing at an exponential rate. This has meant many more people falling ill, sometimes for prolonged periods; some having to get intensive care in hospital; and, sadly, more deaths.

There has also been a lot of economic hardship, as businesses have had to cut back or shut down, leaving many people struggling financially. Children’s education has been badly disrupted. The pressures of our current situation are harming the mental health of many people. These harsh impacts of the pandemic have affected us here at Christ Church.

At such a time, it is important to remember God’s unfailing, unchanging presence as a comfort and solace in difficult times, as set out in this prayer :

*Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices* (Prayer of St Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582)

Over recent weeks, we have lost two members of the church family: Marjorie Tory and David Lang, both of whom contributed greatly to church life over a long period. We remember them in an article elsewhere in this issue and extend our sympathies to their families in their loss.

On a brighter note, the covid vaccination programme has started to roll out in recent weeks and a number of our church members have already had their jabs and others are anxiously awaiting a letter or text with the summons to roll-up their sleeves. Hopefully, infection rates will fall, vaccinations will increase, and the outlook will seem a lot better over the coming weeks.

Our church services have continued on Zoom throughout December and January. With Andrew's illness, we have been very grateful indeed to Tom Lunt, Norman Vance, Claire Bell, Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring, Rev. Roger Wood and Rev. Barbara Evans-Routley for stepping in to provide us with a varied and inspiring set of services. Happily, Andrew is returning to work and hopes to be "back in the saddle" (or its clerical equivalent) for our morning service on Sunday February 7.

On the same day, we have our first Congregational Meeting of 2021, on Zoom directly after the service. This is a chance to get up to date on church life and discuss some of the current issues we are facing. Among them is the choice of charities for 2021. Church Council are recommending the Beachy Head Chaplaincy as home charity and Christian Aid as the overseas charity.

Neil Fisher (Church Secretary )

Lindsay Frost ( Administrative Secretary)

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## Some Good News!

**Mavis Elliott** will be celebrating her **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on 16 February, to become our 6<sup>th</sup> nonagenarian member.

I'm sure I can speak for the whole of the congregation in congratulating her and wishing her a very happy day. Mavis became a member of Lewes Congregational Church in June 1964, and has served us faithfully since then, in particular as our Treasurer for over 35 years.

Neil Fisher





## **Marjorie Tory**

Marjorie died in the early hours of January 3rd at the grand age of 96. She was our oldest member, and second longest serving, having become a member of Lewes Congregational Church on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1956 (one month after Daphne).

The following is part of a Facebook post by Marjorie's son , Neil :

*She came from Ipswich and moved down here to Lewes in 1948 and then, via a stint in Hove, permanently to South Way, marrying my father Ralph in 1953 – he too was a primary school teacher at South Malling. I came along in 1955 and my brother Dave in 1957.*

*Ralph died in 1982, so Marjorie went from being a golf widow to being a real one, and this phase lasted for the remaining 38 years of her life.*

*She was a stalwart of the Congregational Church in Fitzjohns Road, which then became the United Reformed Church and finally Christ Church, where she still attended until Covid-19 came along. The sad*

*irony is that the steps taken to “protect” her age group resulted in an increasingly depressing final 9 months of her life, deprived of seeing friends or attending her small social groups and left instead to reflect on her increasing frailty. Until that time, she was remarkably independent (and stubborn), generally fit (a long-term member of the Lewes Footpaths Group) and kept her brain active until the end.*



Marjorie and Daphne meet in a garden centre in Hassocks in Sept 2020.

*Indeed, she quite remarkably hung on in South Way by herself until her ailments caught up with over New Year and she finally left her home of 64 years by ambulance on the first day of 2021. She leaves behind Dave and me, our wives Liz and Leanne, five grandchildren and a*

*great-granddaughter – she missed the coming birth of her second great-granddaughter by a mere couple of weeks.”*

Our former Secretary Robert Smith mentioned in an email that:

*“She was our next-door neighbour when we first moved to Lewes in 1968, and may have been responsible for introducing us to Lewes Congregational Church, as it then was. She was a strong woman who was never afraid to express her views, and I liked and respected her”*

Her cremation took place on 14 January, and the family are planning a short service thanksgiving for her life, at the church, followed by food in the hall afterwards on Sunday 11 July 2021 (Covid permitting).

In the meantime in place of flowers, if anyone would like to make a donation in her memory instead, she had many favourite charities. Her family were astonished to see how many different charities she regularly sent money to. The main ones were:

- The Martlets Hospice, Hove,
- The Bible Society
- Marie Curie

She also gave frequently to Oxfam, Lepra, The National Trust, Battersea Dogs Home, London City Mission and Pestalozzi

## **David Lang**

David Lang, died aged 85 on December 23 from a covid-related illness. He leaves two children, Robin and Helen, and six grandchildren and will be hugely missed, both by his family and by his many friends.

David practiced as a Veterinary Surgeon in Lewes for thirty years, and was a partner in Cliffe Vets.



He was a member of Christ Church, and Lewes United Reformed Church before that, and was a regular member our Sunday evening congregation and of the choir, for which he wrote a number of musical pieces.

He was an expert on orchids and combined this with travel to remote places. He gave talks to Friendship evenings and the Thinktank on his trips to Antarctica and Bhutan. He retired to Barcombe and gave up his membership of Christ Church in 2015 when travel into Lewes became too much for him. Lately he was in Barons Down Nursing home following a fall.

## **Revd Peter McIntosh**

Revd Peter McIntosh, a former Moderator of the URC General Assembly and Director of The Windermere Centre, died on 26 January 2021, aged 82.

Interestingly, during his preaching career, he moved from Crossway Church (Elephant&Castle) to Christchurch (East Dulwich), before serving as Southern Synod Training Officer 1987-1992.

It was while he was Southern Synod Training Officer that he spoke at one of our Church Meetings about evangelism and reaching out to our neighbourhood, and famously advised us to “chop down the hedge!” He later served as Director of Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, from 2005 – 2009 and eventually retired to live in Haywards Heath.

He preached at Lewes Congregational/Christ Church occasionally over the years, most recently in August 2014.

## **Revd Ann Cole**

Revd. Ann Cole passed away on 27th December 2020. Ann served at Grafton Square & Battersea Road, Clapham from 1983 and was invited to Lewes United Reformed Church in 1987 to “preach with a view” to replace Revd Ken Walters. If you were at the service, you may remember her walking down the centre aisle blowing bubbles. We decided that she wasn't for us, but soon afterwards she accepted a call to Seaford URC (later part of Cross Way), where she served from 1987 to 1998. She eventually retired to live in Polegate.

# THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL

The above draft legislation has been presented to Parliament for debate as a Private Members' Bill, rather than the more usual route of a Bill introduced and promoted by the Government. A second reading of the Bill will be the subject of debate in Parliament in March 2021.

If enacted, the Bill would introduce a range of measures to reverse the alarming rate of global warming and the growing degradation of the natural environment, and their harmful impacts on the health of the planet and its habitats, wildlife and plants.

Churches in Lewes – led by TRINITY - have been urged to lobby our MP, Maria Caulfield, to support the Bill. Church Council's December meeting agreed to do so and a copy of our exchange of correspondence with her is set out for information below.

If any individual church member would like to add their voice, they may wish to find out more about the Bill here <https://www.cebill.uk> and whether they also wish write to her. Individual letters from constituents will add additional weight to the argument.

Lindsay Frost

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## E-MAIL TO MARIA CAULFIELD FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Dated 20 December 2020

Dear Ms. Caulfield

### Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Bill

The Church Council discussed the above Private Members Bill at its meeting on December 9 2020.

Along with other churches in your constituency, Christ Church Lewes is writing to seek your support for the Bill, which is proposing new legislation to tackle the climate and ecological emergency facing the UK and the rest of the world.

More information on the Bill can be found at <https://www.cebill.uk/> . We understand that a second reading of the Bill, and a debate on it , will be held in the House of Commons early in 2021.



Parliament acknowledged more than a year ago that we are in a climate and ecological emergency. Whilst we are very pleased to hear the package of initiatives announced by the UK Government earlier this month, we think the scale and urgency of the situation demands even more vigorous action and much more challenging targets.

The CCEE Bill is a proper response to the scale of the problems we face. It is based on science and fairness. Please read and give thought and time to the Bill. Representatives of local churches would be happy to meet with you to discuss the principles included within the Bill.

The UK has a huge opportunity to lead the world towards a safer future with our chairing of the COP26 conference in Glasgow next year. The CEE Bill provides a blueprint both for our country and other countries to follow. We hope that the UK Government will want to seize this opportunity for global leadership.

More locally, from all the constituency work you have done, we are sure you are aware how vulnerable this part of Sussex is to climate change, flooding, coastal erosion, and the loss of wildlife habitats and the animals and plants they support. At the same time, mitigating and adapting to climate change offers the local area great economic opportunities, as we emerge from the covid pandemic, such as extension of the Rampion wind farm.

Thank you for reading this letter. Be assured of our prayers as you decide how to respond. A matter of such overriding importance should not be party political and we hope MPs of all parties can work together for the good of our country and the planet that sustains us all.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Frost

Administrative Secretary

Christ Church, Lewes

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E-MAIL RESPONSE FROM MARIA CAULFIELD MP dated 4 Jan 2021

Dear Lindsay

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

This bill was introduced to Parliament as a Private Members Bill by Caroline Lucas MP and will have its second reading in March.

I do welcome some elements of the bill, but I also have concerns regarding other aspects of the bill.

I do not believe that setting a legal target of Net Zero by 2030 would be realistic. The assessment of the independent Committee on Climate Change has concluded that the 2050 target is feasible, deliverable and can be met within the same cost as was estimated for our previous target of 80 per cent which was set back in 2008.

The bill is also dismissive of the role of technology such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), which has £800 million in funding from government, and Direct Air Capture (DAC) which has £100 million in funding for research and development. Although these technologies can't be solely relied on to reach net zero, I do believe they are an important part of the solution.

I also have concerns regarding the use of a Citizens Assembly described as having 'bite'. I believe that democratically elected MP's represent citizens, although of course there is a place for external input such as the recent Climate Assembly UK which has published its report into the path to Net-Zero.

I look forward to further study of the bill in more detail and the debate that will take place in March.

Thank you for your prayers and for taking the time to write to me.

Best Wishes

Maria

Maria Caulfield MP

Member of Parliament for Lewes

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



## Ecumenical Lent Course 2021

### Caring for Creation

Last year the Churches Together Lent group ended after only two sessions because of the first lockdown. Since then we have found new ways of meeting 'virtually' so the 2021 ecumenical Lent Study course will be held via Zoom, and hosted by Ian Hempshall, on Tuesday evenings, starting on 23 February. We will be using a new York course, 'Caring for Creation' which is designed for virtual meetings, with digital resources. The materials are similar to those which we have used for the last few years.

We very much hope that you will wish to join us on Zoom but it is still possible to order printed course booklets and transcripts of the recorded material for those who would prefer to have their own copies for private use. You can find an introduction to the course, the presenters and the resources here:

<https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation>

Each session will run from 7.15 till 8.45 pm, with time at the beginning for greetings and prayer at the end.

Everyone is welcome to join. Please email [CTLAsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:CTLAsecretary@gmail.com) to register. Joining details will then be sent out a few days before the first session but please do not share them with anyone else or publish them via Social media.

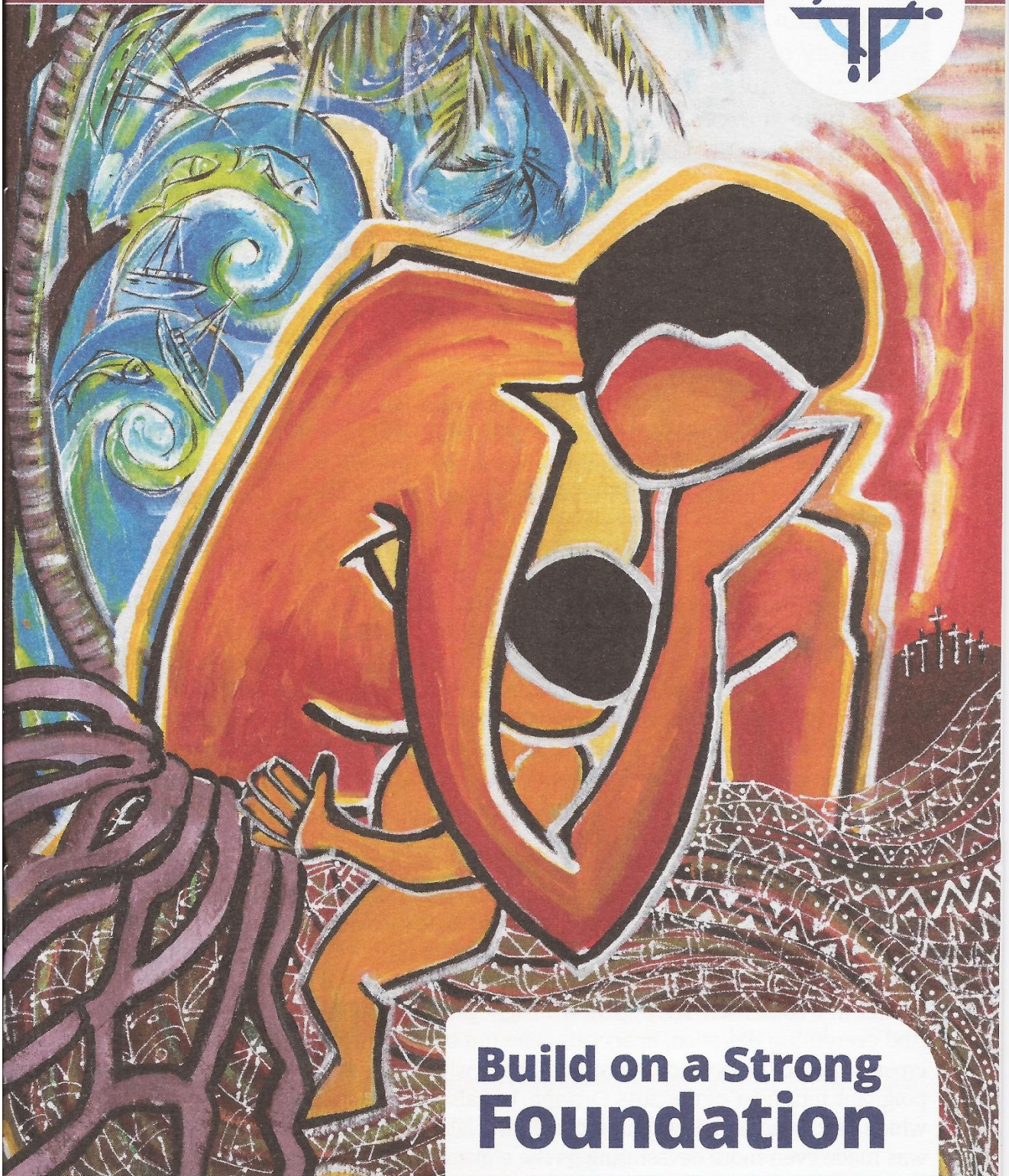
I am sure you will agree that Caring for Creation is a topic of vital importance for everyone.

Gretel Scott.

# World Day of Prayer

A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

5 March 2021



**Build on a Strong  
Foundation**

PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF **Vanuatu**

## **World Day of Prayer Service**

**Friday March 5th 2021 – CANCELLED – but read on.....**

This year's service was written by the Christian women of Vanuatu, an archipelago of 80 scattered islands in the South Pacific, just over 1100 miles east of Australia. Many of us may not have been aware of their existence before! The famous explorer, Captain James Cook, mapped the island group in the 18th century, and named it the New Hebrides. Vanuatu became a Republic in 1980, under its first Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini.

Their chosen theme is to "Build on a Strong Foundation", based on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27). The islanders understand all too well the need for safe buildings, as they are situated in the "South Pacific tropical cyclone zone". Artwork by Juliette Pita, on the front cover of the order of service, depicts the 2015 Cyclone "Pam II" on 13 March. A subsequent devastating Cyclone, "Harold", occurred in April 2020, while Vanuatu was itself in a state of emergency during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid restrictions, the Lewes Committee of the WDP has reluctantly decided to CANCEL this year's service. But we hope that many of you will nevertheless wish to join in the Day of Prayer with the rest of the world that day and pray with the people of Vanuatu. I have some orders of service (see opposite), which I can distribute if you let me know. (Some towns may be holding live-streaming/Zoom services, and details will be on the WDP website – see below).

As the Day of Prayer is the only source of income to enable the World Day of Prayer Committee to continue to support the many world-wide charities who rely on them, we encourage people to make a donation to WDP, either via their website (<http://www.wwdp.org.uk>) or direct to their office (Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2RR. Please don't send to the Lewes Committee Treasurer!

Thank you for supporting the WDP; and please note that next year's service on Friday 4th March 2022 is being prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland, on the theme "I know the plans I have for you".

Hazel Freeman

## From the Central Sussex United Area

### New for 2021!

To get around the problem of printing and distributing printed material in the current situation, Jenny and Carole of the CSUA admin team are producing an **e-newsletter** for viewing online.

You can find the first edition of the newsletter, which was published just before Christmas, [here](#)

If you would like to receive a regular copy, data protection rules dictate that you must sign up, so click <http://eepurl.com/hl7kED> to subscribe.

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## Thinktank

Our next meeting will be by Zoom on:

Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7:30 pm.

The speaker will be Professor Norman Billingham who will be speaking on:

### “Plastics in the World of Art ”

The last century saw the development of a range of new materials that we call polymers or plastics. Although the disposal and recycling of discarded plastics has received much attention, we have heard little about the preservation of plastic artefacts in our cultural heritage. Norman Billingham, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sussex, will review advantages and disadvantages of the use of plastics in works of art and in wider society. He is an ardent theatre- and operagoer and celebrated retirement by gaining a BA in cultural studies. He continues to supervise conservation students' projects at West Dean College and to sit on a joint committee that advises Arts and Science Research Councils where their areas overlap.

If you would like an invitation to this meeting, please email [secretary@christ-church-lewes.org](mailto:secretary@christ-church-lewes.org). All are welcome.

## Church Calendar for February 2021

- Sun 7 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion from led by Revd Andrew Mills (by Zoom)  
11:45 am Congregational Meeting
- Mon 1 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Sun 7 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew Mills (by Zoom)
- Mon 8 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Wed 10 7.30 pm Church Council
- Sun 14 10.30 am Morning worship led by Gwyneth Watkinson (by Zoom)
- Mon 15 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank  
8 pm Ecumenical Housegroup via Zoom
- Wed 17 7.30 pm Thinktank
- Sun 21 10.30 am Morning worship led by Claire Bell (by Zoom)
- Mon 22 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Tue 23 7.30 pm Churches Together Lent Course starts
- Wed 24 7.45 pm Nevill Housegroup
- Sun 28 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rev Andrew Mills (by Zoom)
- Mon 1 10 am - 4 pm Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Wed 3 7.30 pm Mission Committee
- Sun 7 10.30 am Morning worship led by Rev Andrew Mills (by Zoom)

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.