

## NEWS & CHAT 9 December 2021

The online service will remain 'joint' while each church has its own service as pre-pandemic. For the foreseeable future, the online service will be live-streamed from the church where the minister is leading, but always on the Christ Church Facebook page.

### In order to keep Covid-19 safe, please remember to:

- Where possible, wear a mask at all times (unless you have an exemption)
- Sanitise hands when entering the building
- Keep at least 1m from people you are not in a 'bubble' or live with
- Try to keep conversations to a minimum

During services and other events, we will endeavour to keep the Church as warm as possible whilst maintaining good ventilation, so please dress accordingly.

**Sunday 12 Dec. 10.30am The Minister at BDC, Communion**  
10.00am Nativity Service at Christ Church led by Sandy Brown

### The Bridgwater Drive Church News

At film morning this week we watched 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles' – very funny but I'd forgotten there is some bad language in it. Sorry!

Margaret

Several people have asked for contact information about the BDC to be included in the news and Chat

Minister: Revd. Naomi Young-Rodas 07555 705530

minister@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk

Church Secretary: Cherry Winder 07377 067908 [thebdcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:thebdcsecretary@gmail.com)

Hall and Meeting Room Bookings: Margaret Bates 07890162322

website <https://bridgwaterdriveurc.org.uk>

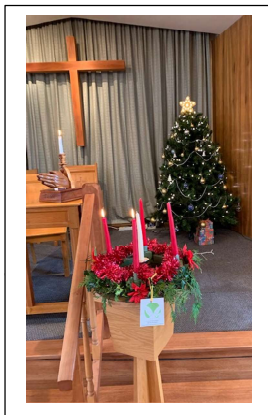
**Cats and Dogs Quiz** - The winner of the £10 voucher will be announced on Sunday. Answers to the quiz are on the back of this newsletter.

**HARP** Kate has received this message, "*The managers and staff at HARP thank you for your continual contributions.*

*With Christmas approaching, it is always lovely to give the residents a small gift. A selection box or other small gifts would be particularly acceptable.*

*Thank you all again.*"

### The Bridgwater Drive Church Dates



**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December - Carols Round the Tree - from 3.00 – 4.30** (apologies for putting the wrong time last week) Mulled wine, mince pies, cups of tea, good company and lots of carols to enjoy.

**14<sup>th</sup> December - Tuesday Church – 10.30** Naomi leading the second session of our **Advent Course.**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service - 10.30 a.m.**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December - 10.30 - 11.30 'Let's Chat about Books'**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve Communion 6.00 p.m. Note the new time** following the discussion at the Church Meeting it was agreed that the communion service, traditionally held at 11.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, should be brought to an earlier time.

**Christmas Day - 10.30 – 11.00 a.m.** - Margaret will lead a short service of Carols, Readings and Prayers.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December - NO SERVICE**

Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC)

### Christ Church News and Dates

**Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare the Christmas dinner last Sunday.**

**Sunday 12 December** - The **Harmonie Concert** at 3pm, with Covid restrictions including **compulsory mask wearing and there will be no audience singing**. Numbers are limited so please contact Naomi if you plan to attend.

**TORCH** the umbrella organization for Sight Loss Friendly Church are holding **an online Carol Service on Thursday 16 Dec at 2pm**. All are welcome, via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641163967?pwd=T29lWmVaQ2NKNnFHMlFmbEYya1V5dz09>

Meeting ID: 856 4116 3967

Passcode: 904610

**or via Telephone** - Dialling from the UK use one of the following:

0203 481 5240      0203 901 7895      0131 460 1196

and when prompted enter: Meeting ID: 856 4116 3967 Passcode: 904610

OR, via YouTube - <https://youtu.be/YzjFtKzLfAM>

### TIPS & IDEAS

This week's creative idea from #64MillionArtists involves reflecting on 2021. It feels a bit early to me, but maybe you would like to be thinking about it to do in the week between Christmas and New Year!

**Reflect on your 2021. Can you identify four things that you have learnt this year?** Maybe you learnt new words, or a new hobby or have met new people and learnt more about them? Find a way to share your learnings! You could record a short video, take a photograph, doodle a list or record a voice recording.

### RESOURCES

An Advent reflection by Revd Dr Cally Hammond who is the Dean of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. <https://mailchi.mp/d1b0394c08f8/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251156?e=e30a1f608a>

### PRAYER CORNER

I invite all of you to set aside time daily to pray for our churches and members but also for the whole nation and world. We pray especially this week for children and young people.



This week's prayer theme, **The Gift**. We are reminded again of Your incredible gift to us all, our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Particular prayer requests this week:

##### The BDC

Barbara: Barry: Clive: Yvonne and all her family: Marlene's daughter, Christine: Janet: Colin: Celia: Sandra: Margaret and Ted: Gerry: Margaret's friends, Jean, Peggy and Doreen.

##### Christ Church

Mark E and his family: John, Ian's nephew: Audrey: Sheila S: Phil and Grace: Peter C: Joy A: Beth, Bill & Elizabeth G: Thora: Jenny & Tom.

## An Advent Devotion from the UCC (United Church of Christ, USA)

### Really Ready by Kenneth L. Samuel

"The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? For he will be like a blazing fire

that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes."  
Malachi 3:1-2 excerpts (NLT)

Have you ever been ready for something until you got it ... and then found out you were not really ready for it at all? Sometimes what we think we really want comes with changes we didn't expect and are not prepared for.

Everyone who thinks they're ready for a pet may not be prepared to take care of one. The walks, the food, the medical care, the pet-sitting when you're away. All these things and more come along with the advent of pets.

Relationships, too, are much more than sentimental feelings. The constant communication and compromises require much more than sensual romantic episodes.

And many of the professional promotions we are so eager to attain place increased demands on our time and concentration.

With all our eager expectations, it behoves us to pause and consider what will be required of us when those expectations arrive. When our heart's desire is delivered, how will it change our hearts?

Advent is the time of joyous anticipation for the coming of the Messiah. But are we really ready? Are we really ready to be purged from the dross of elaborate but empty religiosity? Are we really ready for a deep dive of the Spirit into our personal contradictions? Are we really ready to be bleached and scoured into a newness of life?

Much more than a glorious expectation, Advent requires real preparation.

## Prayer

"Fix me for my starry crown.  
Fix me Jesus, fix me.  
Fix me for a higher ground.  
Fix me Jesus, fix me."

