

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

NEWS & CHAT 27 January 2022

The online service is live-streamed every week from Christ Church, on the Christ Church Facebook page.

Though no longer legally required by the government, masks must be worn for singing and are strongly recommended to be worn throughout Sunday Worship.

To continue to keep Covid-19 safe, please remember to:

- Wear a mask at all times (unless you have an exemption) **required when singing.**
- Sanitise hands when entering the building
- Keep at least 1m from people you are not in a 'bubble' or live with, including at groups meeting at church.
- Try to keep conversations after worship 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 30 Jan. 10.30pm at The Bridgwater Drive Church, the Minister
10am at Christ Church, John Amos

TIPS & IDEAS

An idea from #64MillionArtists January Challenge (a creative suggestion for every day in January):

This week's 'challenge' is about **listening** – something we could all do more of, and something we could do as a church – many churches now have listening sessions where anyone can drop-in and be listened to, without being given any advice or prayer. Sometimes all someone in distress needs is to be properly listened to and to feel that they have been heard.

Take a few minutes to think about what it feels like for you to feel listened to.

How can you convey that feeling? You could choose a colour and draw the word 'listen' in big letters, or use torn up magazines, newspapers or words to express what it feels like. Or, write down the words 'When I feel listened to I...' and finish your statement. Fold it up and carry it around with you.

RESOURCES

New reflections for the season of Epiphany from St Paul's Cathedral, by Patrick Craig - a countertenor and conductor. He is a Vicar Choral at St Paul's Cathedral. *Life in Abundance*

<https://mailchi.mp/d7551b9b519e/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251200?e=e30a1f608a>

NEWS from The Bridgwater Drive Church *from Margaret*

I wish I'd taken some photos last Sunday afternoon. It was good to see so many people in church for the service led by our new moderator, Revd Lythan Nevard, and good to have a chance to chat afterwards over tea and delicious cakes. Thank you to Jan and Val for the cakes and to everyone who helped to make the afternoon go so smoothly.

You will see below that the folk at Christ Church are planning well ahead. Do we have any plans for special events at The BDC? Please let Naomi and the elders know if you have any suggestions. The only thing on the immediate horizon is our **film morning this coming week, 1st Feb at 10.30**. Note - on Thursday our hall will be used as a polling station for the byelection triggered by the death of David Amess. Remember to book tickets for **The Gang Show** (with some of our Guides taking part) at **The Palace Theatre Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm, Thursday 17th at 2.30pm and 7.30pm: Friday 18th at 6.00pm: Saturday 19th at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.**

Looking further ahead on **Friday, 4th March The World Day of Prayer Service** this year will be held at **10.30 a.m. at St. Mark's Church, Hamlet Road. A coffee morning** to support this event will be held on **Friday, 18th Feb.** (see flier for more details)

FUTURE EVENTS at Christ Church

- **Saturday 19th February 2-5pm. Fairtrade Fortnight and Church Open Day**
We are combining the Fairtrade 'Big Brew' and Fairtrade stall, with another 'open day' (More Tea Vicar) when the church will be open with displays about what we do and who we are. There will be art for sale and a games area (Scrabble, Monopoly, that sort of thing) – if you have any games you'd like to play, please bring them along.
- **Saturday 19 March, Quiz night**

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- Sunday **15 May**, from 12.30pm 'away afternoon' at St Michael's Dawes Heath, led by the Revd John Proctor who will also preach at morning worship. Sign up sheet in the church.
- **27-29 May** – Mystery Tour with Kirbys Coaches Friday 27th May to Sunday 29th May 2022 £269pp Includes comfortable half board accommodation, exclusive coach travel and a secret itinerary. Contact Janine Danes 01702 511861 or 07719892728 to book your place.
Numbers are limited so a prompt response is recommended.

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 peace in Ukraine and for the people of Tonga following the tsunami there. This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Encouragement.** In all our prayers, let us encourage and uphold each other, seeking God's blessings for those we love and those we loathe, encouraging one another to find God in our deepest need and highest joy.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Barbara and Cherry (both now home from hospital): Barry (not yet home): Colin: Clive
Celia: Sandra: Gerry: Yvonne: Marlene's daughter, Christine: Margaret's friends, Jean and
Peggy. We have been asked to pray for Beth. Please also thank God for Janet's good news!



Christ Church

Audrey: Sheila S: Joy and Steve A: Phil and Grace: Mark E & family: Phil and Penny: Frank: Eve J:
Judy H: Bill, Beth & Elizabeth G: Peter C.

Prayer request from Budiro: 'We have planned a Revival week from Monday 31 January to Sunday 6 February. Please pray for the Holy Spirit revive us as we reach out to the people next week'

Over the next few weeks, the Faith in Action Group will be sharing information about the **Nationality and Borders Bill and the JPIT Show Your Heart – Together with Refugees** campaign. Please educate yourselves on this matter and pray for refugees and those opposing this Bill.

A campaign from the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is calling on churches and local groups to take action, to **Show Your Heart for refugees and asylum seekers** in the UK.

WHAT IS THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL? It is a proposed new law, in the UK Parliament in Westminster, which would change the way that decisions are made about asylum claims for people who come to seek safety and sanctuary in the UK.

WHAT WOULD IT CHANGE?

New legislation in the bill seeks to:

- Make it a criminal offence to knowingly arrive in the UK without permission.
- Create a difference between 'regular' and 'irregular' routes into the country.
- Reduce the rights of those who enter the UK via unofficial routes. Including limiting welfare support, family reunion rights and their long-term right to stay in the UK.

WHY IS THE BILL CONCERNING?

- It would create two classes of asylum seeker based not on what forced them to flee their home but on the opportunities available to travel to seek sanctuary in the UK.
- It would give the government powers to expel people seeking asylum to a 'safe country' they have passed through on the way to the UK, regardless of whether they have connections there.
- The Bill outlines a shift to putting people seeking asylum in out- of-town 'reception centres', rather than housing them in the community where they have access to practical support.
- The Bill fails to set any clear target for resettling refugees in the UK through international resettlement programmes.

Make the safety of refugees part of your prayer life

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Hall Booking Secretary Margaret Bates 07890 162322