

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

NEWS & CHAT 10 February 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 13 Feb. 10.30 am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Communion, The Minister
10.00 am at Christ Church, All-Age, Joyce Berry

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (Margaret)

Tuesday Church with Naomi – As there were so few people able to come on Tuesday, we didn't start The Lent Course. Instead, we chatted about all sorts of things over a cup of coffee.

Next Tuesday, 15th Feb 10.30 – 11.30 'Let's Chat about Books' – coffee and biscuits – starter topic – *'magazines we've enjoyed in the past or any we read nowadays.'* *Do bring along any books you want to chat about or could donate to our book stall. Please borrow or buy any books you like from the stall.*

Gang Show at The Palace Theatre (with some of our Guides taking part) **Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm:**
Thursday 17th at 2.30 & 7.30pm: Friday 18th at 6.00pm: Saturday 19th at 2.30 & 7.30pm.



6 of our Guides have been rehearsing since September and excitement is mounting for the Show. I asked them each for a comment as to why they do it. This is what they told me:

<p>"I love doing Gang Show because the rehearsals have been so much fun, and I can't wait to do the Show" Aimee – Junior Gang 1st Gang Show</p>	<p>"I'm having so much fun at rehearsals and it's going to be amazing to watch!" Anna Junior Gang 1st Gang Show</p>	<p>"I like singing and dancing and the show has lots of upbeat music for all to enjoy" Annie – Junior Gang 1st Gang Show</p>
<p>"I love Gang Show because it's so much fun. It has made me more confident and has helped me make some very good friends. The show is amazing to be in and to watch!" Ruby - Main Gang 2nd Gang Show</p>	<p>"I like Gang Show because if you don't like something in it, wait five minutes and you can watch something else. It's more fun than it seems, and you make lots of friends, enjoy yourself and learn important life skills" Megan – Main Gang 2nd Gang Show</p>	<p>"I like rehearsals and having fun with my friends, and it has made me much more confident. I love performing in the show. It will be fantastic to watch; please come and see us." Daisy – Main Gang 2nd Gang Show</p>

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Friday 18th Feb World Day of Prayer Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12.00 at 18, Fairmead Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9RX

Friday, 4th March World Day of Prayer Service 10.30 a.m. at St. Mark's Church, Hamlet Road, Southend -on-Sea SS1 1HS



Lent Silver Collection - Jars of Change appeal during Lent. Bring your coins for the jar at church to support **Water Aid**.



Lent starts on 2 March with Ash Wednesday.



May Fair on Saturday, 7th May Following discussion with people who were at church on Sunday and other conversations during the week everyone seems to be in favour of holding the fair on May 7th. Phil and The Community Group are happy to run a BBQ. Everyone we have asked so far agreed to help (depending on their ability to do so!). Michael has offered to run a raffle so please let him have suitable prizes. Val has offered to run her usual stall. We have lots of books and DVDs so we hope someone will volunteer to run a stall to sell some of them. Our cake stall is always popular, so we need people to make cakes and also someone to help to sell them. At the Christmas fair the Guides ran a very successful stall and activity and they are planning to do something again. We plan to invite just one or two charities to run stalls to add a bit of variety. I'm planning another 'Quiz for £1'. Please speak to Val or me to say what you feel able to do to help with preparations and on the day.

'Garden notes' from Val

I have never seen leaves stuck to the pavement like concrete. The street cleaners were using shovels to remove them.

January was a very dry month, but the shower was very welcome. Will it be 'February full dyke'? Time will tell.

In spite of the dryness weeds have grown and are not easy to remove but well worth the effort.

Birds are busy – I saw 30 birds and 2 squirrels when I did the RSPB bird watch. Other years I had none.

When the flowers of the amaryllis have died down cut the stem to the base but water sparingly so leaves can die naturally.

Buy seed potatoes and place each one in an egg box. Shoots will appear (chitting). Early potatoes can be planted in March, weather permitting.

Don't be too eager to sow seeds. The ground is cold and light levels are low. The result would be leggy plants.

Happy Gardening!

NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH RAYLEIGH

TAIZE – next Thursday, 17 Feb. at 10.30am – come and have a time of peace and rest with silence, readings and Taize music.



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)

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TIPS & IDEAS

A plant related idea from #64MillionArtists:

Pick a herb, spice, fruit or vegetable and bring it to life! Prepare it in your preferred way, this could be herbal tea or infused water for example. Take a moment of reflection as you taste your chosen herb or other natural food.

What does the smell remind you of? What does the taste remind you of? Try to visualise where the power of the plant is going in your body. Does it make you feel relaxed? Alert or energised?

Personify your plant! Who would they be if they were a person? What would they look like? What characteristics would they have? Describe them with words or a doodle. Perhaps they remind you of someone you already know!



Last Sunday's *Green Planet* with David Attenborough was about the relationship between humans and plants/food crops and how eating more plants and less meat is good for us and the planet. If you missed it you can see it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00149lg/the-green-planet-series-1-5-human-worlds>

RESOURCES

New reflections for February from St Paul's Cathedral, by John Swinton - Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen *Our Job is to Love* <https://mailchi.mp/0c8645ce82d9/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251218?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 peace and equity between different races and ethnicities as we celebrate Racial Justice Sunday on the 13th.



This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Lord of lords.** We pray with thanksgiving and awe that You, our Saviour and friend, are THE Lord above all others. You are mighty in power, relentless in kindness, keeper of our future, healer of our past, brother in our present. Praise You, glorious Lord God.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Barbara, Cherry and Barry (all now home): Colin: Clive: Celia: Sandra: Gerry: Yvonne: Marlene's daughter, Christine: Tom Hunter-Crump (recently diagnosed with cancer): Margaret's friends, Jean and Peggy. Prayers of thanks for Beth, now home from hospital. We ask for your prayers too for Jan and all her family following the death of her brother and for Margaret and her family. Margaret's brother, John, died suddenly this week.

Christ Church

Audrey: Sheila S: Judy C.: Phil and Grace: Mark E & family: Phil and Penny: Frank: Eve J: Judy H.: Peter C.: Sandy & Mike: Della: Leeann, Pauline D's daughter: Rachel S

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.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE We believe that as Christians, we are called by God to welcome the stranger and to build a society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre.

Make the safety of refugees part of your prayer life.

