**NEWS & CHAT 17 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: from this Sunday, 20 Feb, we will resume collecting the offertory.**

**Stewards will come to you, rather than passing the plate from person to person.**

**Sunday 20 Feb. 10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, John Amos**

10am at Christ Church, Communion, The Minister

**NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH** (Margaret)

**On Tuesday this week** five of us enjoyed chatting about books and all sorts of other things over a cup of coffee. We chatted about the magazines we had brought, talked about the books we are reading at present then discussed whether we enjoyed watching films based on books. We also started to sort out the hundreds of books that have been donated to the church ready for the May Fair. **Please borrow any books you like from those on the tables in Room 3** (previously the prayer Room).

A bird flying over a field of flowers

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Another thing we chatted about was the fact that there is now something on at church on the first three Tuesdays in every month - **1st Tues (Film Morning), 2nd Tues (Tuesday Church) and 3rd Tues (Chatting about Books)** but **nothing on the** **4th Tuesday**.

We discussed an idea that’s been put forward that, on the fourth Tuesday morning

each month, we might think about and learn about, all sorts of things to do with

**nature – gardening, bird watching, trees, flower arranging, the weather** etc –

maybe with the title, **‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’** or **‘What a wonderful**

**World!’** We have experts in our church family on these and many other topics**.**

It might be possible to do some practical things indoors (learn how to take cuttings

or plant some bulbs or seeds), or go out sometimes on a visit – perhaps to the

allotments or to the ‘Growing Together Garden’ or just to one of our own gardens.

I’m sure some of us could even help with the church garden. Do let Naomi and the

elders know what you think of this idea.

I’m putting together a list of **useful numbers – gardeners, plumbers, electricians** etc like the list we used to have in the magazine. Please let me know if you want to recommend someone and give me their contact information and some idea of what sort of work they do. I will then check that they are happy to be on the list which would go out from time to time with News and Chat.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**This week - 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

**Sat., 7th May 11.00 – 2.00 May Fair** – please let Val or Margaret know if you are able to help.

**TIPS & IDEAS** This week’s tip from #64MillionArtists is music inspired. ‘Mixtape’ (people of a certain age will remember making mixtapes as teenagers!):

**Make your mixtape of memories!**Choose three songs (or more) that remind you of an important moment in your life and write whatever memories and emotions come up. Draw out the images that come up in your mind to create artwork for your mixtape. You might sit listening through a few songs or reading lyrics and taking in the memories that immediately pop into your mind. What moment in your life does the song remind you of? Can you remember how you felt at that moment in time? How does it make you feel today? Or do this with hymns that remind you of special moments in your life.

**RESOURCES**

New reflections for February from St Paul’s Cathedral, by John Swinton - Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen The Politics of Love <https://mailchi.mp/1d63c92ac1b0/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251222?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 in Ukraine.

This week’s prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Love Eternal.** Timeless, unending, unquenchable, personal. Your love knows every atom of my being, every thought of my waking and my sleeping, every word in my head and from my lips. And yet You love me. Even knowing all that, You still love me totally, utterly, completely, eternally. I don’t understand, but I know it is true.

**Particular prayer requests this week:**

**The BDC**

Barbara, Cherry and Barry (all now home): Colin: Clive: Celia: Sandra: Tony: Gerry: Yvonne: Marlene’s daughter, Christine: Tom Hunter-Crump (recently diagnosed with cancer): Margaret’s friends, Jean and Peggy. 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 last 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: Gwyneth, Jeff and Amy.

**News from Budiriro** (partner church with Christ Church in Rayleigh)

Extract of an email from the minister, Biggie, to Robert:

“The purpose of the revival week was to reach out to people for prayer meetings in our members' homes. Our members had stopped their weekly worship meetings in their homes about 2 years ago due to covid pandemic. So we wanted to revive that. It enhances fellowship of our members and also reaches out to people as we will be taking the Church to the people. We had 6 homes from Monday 31 January to Saturday 5 February. We met from 2 PM to 3:30PM with the Theme :"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you" (Psalm 85:6).

In our church we have 3 sections of where people live. From next week each section will choose a day they want to meet for worship in their homes on rotation for an hour or hour and half at most. It encourages people to fellowship and to pray and encourage each other, also to learn new hymnal songs etc. I, as the minister, will be visiting those sections on a rotational basis.

We will continue to pray for Rayleigh Christ Church as you will be finishing works on your sanctuary and also preps for the Queen's Jubilee day.”

**LENT HOUSE GROUPS** will take place jointly with Rayleigh Methodist Church for 5 weeks from 8th March on Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. at The Methodist Church and at 7.45 on Zoom. The course will follow this year’s York Course – *God has No Favourites* “Dr Carmody Grey explores how each of us is called to discover that God is completely inclusive. He does not apportion his welcome or love according to our prejudices or preferences. God Has No Favourites, because God favours everyone.” We have ordered 10 copies, so there will be 9 available. **If you would like a copy please let Naomi know. These will be free of charge, unless you would like to make a donation to the church.** (cost £2.99)

**Ash Wednesday 2nd March –** We are collecting for **Water Aid** throughout Lent. Please bring your change to fill up the big jar at church.

By giving something up for Lent and donating the money you save, you can give people the gift of clean water – and with it, the power to keep their families safe and healthy.

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Alineta’s Story: In Malawi, where Alineta and her 21-year-old daughter Bridget live, women must give birth in a hospital or health centre – but when there's no clean water or good hygiene facilities, this can be no safer than staying at home.

**REMEMBER:**

**THIS Saturday - 19th February 2-5pm Christ Church, Rayleigh is having a Fairtrade Fortnight ‘BIG Brew’ and Church Open Day**

**ALL WELCOME!**