

NEWS & CHAT 24 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.

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: we have now resumed collecting the offertory.
Stewards will come to you, rather than passing the plate from person to person.**

Sunday 27 Feb. 10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, The Minister
10am at Christ Church, John Amos

Next Wednesday, 2 March, is **Ash Wednesday** – the start of Lent. If you would like to watch the special online worship with Rayleigh Methodist, you can find it here: https://youtu.be/wfWNwn_g2E

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This Saturday at Christ Church - 26th February 10am – 3pm Fairtrade Fortnight 'BIG Brew' and Church Open Day postponed from last week

Tuesday, 1st March – 10.30 Film morning at The BDC – Film to be decided by the people there.

Lent Collection - We are collecting for **Water Aid** throughout Lent. Please bring your change to fill up the big jar at church.

Friday, 4th March World Day of Prayer Service 10.30 a.m. at St. Mark's Church, Hamlet Road, Southend -on-Sea SS1 1HS This year's theme is 'I Know I Have Plans For You' and the lead country is England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI).

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

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (Margaret)

Storm Franklin

The storm last week damaged a lot of properties.
The only damage at The BDC was to the notice board.
It's still there but not where it should be!



The Gang Show

I thoroughly enjoyed my first experience of a Gang Show.

I had no idea that so much work was involved. From all my years of teaching and being involved with children performing on stage I can hardly imagine how many hours of work must have gone into producing such a professional show – so many children taking part over a wide age range, so many songs and dance routines to learn, comedy sketches to practise, costumes to make, scenery, stage management, etc

Well done to everyone on stage and backstage. It was brilliant.

Southend & District Pensioner's Campaign Thank you, Bob, for bringing the Southend Pensioner's Campaign Newsletter to church. It's always interesting and informative. In the February newsletter I was

surprised to read an item about Royal Mail. **From 31st January 2023, 1st and 2nd class stamps will cease to be valid.** I'm someone who buys stamps in advance to use when the price has gone up but I now realise this is no longer a good idea. From 1st February next year all stamps will be bar coded so we need to start writing some letters and sending some cards or get ready to swap our old stamps. **From 1st April this year until 31st March 2023 it will be possible to exchange old stamps for new, free of charge.** Forms will be available from delivery offices or online (but not from the post office!). Commemorative stamps will still be valid.

TIPS & IDEAS - from #64MillionArtists: Mindful moving / slow walking

Try and get outside - and it's best if it isn't raining or blowing a gale! However you normally would walk, set off at your normal pace. Once you have been going for five or ten minutes, look for something interesting (and where you won't get in anyone's way!) - a park or a quiet stretch of pavement will do. If there is a hedge to look at, or shop windows to dawdle in front of, that's even better.

Now consciously take note of your speed, try and halve your pace. Take the opportunity to really look around you. Look harder and look for longer. Try and find something tiny - a crack in a stone, a nail in a wall, a bud on a plant. After a couple of minutes, halve your pace again. Maybe each time you stop to look – say a prayer of gratitude for God's creation.

RESOURCES

New reflections for February from St Paul's Cathedral, by John Swinton - Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen *A beautiful song* <https://mailchi.mp/3e0e5f3e8aa9/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251226?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 for Fairtrade Fortnight starting next week – that producers may receive just and fair payment for their work and produce.



In the light of news today we pray for the situation in Ukraine and for all those affected by the crisis.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Hope Everlasting.** Nations are in uproar and strife, so it was in Your days here Lord Jesus. Our political leaders are overwhelmed at best, integrity-free, humility-free, and consumed with greed for power at worst. Our faith is mocked and derided, as it was in Your days here Lord Jesus. Yet the tomb remains empty - Love really does conquer all. Lord Jesus, we pray for Your salvation-love and everlasting hope to blaze in our leaders, our commerce, our communities, our church, our homes and in our planet too.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Barbara: Cherry: Barry: 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 Kate's friend Frances and her husband, Bill, and everyone who knew and loved France's sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, Rufus, who died in their car during the big freeze in Ohio. Please also pray for Darren's son, Reuben, a teenager who is severely disabled and who has suffered terribly from a very rare disease for several years. He, and all his family, need God's love to surround them and God's strength to help them to cope both physically and emotionally.

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 and Anne: Della: Leeann, Pauline D's daughter: Gwyneth, Jeff and Amy.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

21 February to 6 March 2022

For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Since last Fairtrade Fortnight we have seen the G7 and COP26 take place. Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers and workers in backing the Be Fair With Your Climate Promise challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26 summit. But frustration came as the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023. We need to be louder than ever to make sure politicians turn their promises into action at COP27 in Cairo next year.

This year's Fairtrade Festival will be online, more details here: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>



Now something to make you smile (Thank you, Kate)

I think I may have included these before but I'm sure you will enjoy reading them again.

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.