

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

## NEWS & CHAT 3 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 6 Feb. 10.30pm at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Ian Miller**  
10.00am at Christ Church, the Minister

### TIPS & IDEAS

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

As I was watching *Green Planet* on Sunday, I thought about how many partnerships there are in nature (for example - birds that get shelter from a cactus and then pollinate the cactus), so this challenge caught my attention:

**Mix two things together, to create a new colour, texture or pattern.**

You might mix paint, oil or powder with water, and watch the ingredients swirl. Perhaps you could change the texture or consistency of ingredients with hot or cold temperatures. Or perhaps you watch milk swirl into your morning coffee...

Lots of things rely on other ingredients or components to grow or exist. Plants need water, soil and sun. **As you go through your day, notice the things that are working together. And think about how we all need each other – no one is an island!**

### 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. *A feast of lights*

<https://mailchi.mp/8d58a3fa9cfb/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251210?e=e30a1f608a>

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

**Film morning last Tuesday** – As we hadn't chosen a film in advance, I put out a selection on the table and those present decided we would watch 'The Queen' (Helen Mirren). It proved a good choice. We had plenty to talk about afterwards. Thank you, Laurie, for lending us the DVD and thank you too to Val for making cakes to go with our coffee. We have a lot of DVDs at church. Do please ask to borrow any of them any time.

**Next Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10.30 a.m. Tuesday Church** – will be led by Naomi – We will be starting our Lent Course early because we only meet once a month. I don't think it matters that we will still be doing the course well beyond Easter!

**The following week - Gang Show** (with some of our Guides taking part) **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.** at The Palace Theatre

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

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

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**Suggestions for future events** – Following my request last week for ideas for future events, one or two people have been asking whether we are going to have a **May Fair** this year. I think it's a good idea and so does Val. Val has suggested **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Phil and the Community Group have offered to do a BBQ – always a good way to draw people in to the fair! Michael has offered to help. Val and I thought it would be good to meet after worship this Sunday to hear what you all think of the idea. If you can't be there, please let me or Val know what you think about the idea of a fair and of the date – also what stalls or other activities you think we might have.

Following on from thoughts for future events - As I researched some information for our plan for a street party commemorating the Queen's platinum jubilee with a Big Lunch on June 5<sup>th</sup>, I found this, '*The King failed to recover from a lung operation and died in his sleep on 6 February 1952 at Sandringham; he was aged 56.*' This Sunday is the anniversary of that day, the day Elizabeth became queen – very young, no choice about her career or life plan, huge responsibility ... and, at the same time, coping with the death of her father. Since then, she has given 70 years of service. Let's remember that in our prayers.

## CHRIST CHURCH NEWS



### Fairtrade Fortnight and Church Open Day at Christ Church Rayleigh, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2-5pm.

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)

**A reminder** - Mystery Tour with Kirbys Coaches Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 **Christ Church Rayleigh's church partners in** Budiriro, Zimbabwe and the Show Your Heart Campaign.(see news below)

**News from Budiriro, Zimbabwe** (email to Robert):

Good day Robert,

Thank you for your mail. I am happy to hear that you have started the New year well and that new cases of Covid have reduced. We are also encouraged to hear that we have friends praying for us in Rayleigh.

Even here, covid infections have reduced significantly. It has been raining since the beginning of January and most people are busy in their small pieces of land farming. In urban areas some people have small pieces of land where they grow maize, which is the staple food for Zimbabwe.

We have planned a Revival week from Monday 31 January to Sunday 6 February.

We are planning to build a Pastor's house this year because to rent a Pastor's house is becoming more expensive.

### Prayer Requests:

- 1). The Holy Spirit will revive us as we reach out to the people next week.
- 2). Pray for the general good health of our people.
- 3). That God opens doors and avails resources for the construction of the Pastor's house.

Once again, thank you Robert for checking on us and reminding us that we are not alone in His service. Pass our greetings to the people of Rayleigh. Biggie.

### Particular prayer requests this week

**Prayers for Tom Hunter-Crump** – Those of you who were in our church family during the time that Rev. Charisa Hunter-Crump was our minister will remember her husband, Tom. Tom has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and his condition sounds serious. Please pray for him and for all the family.

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### 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. We have been asked to pray for Beth.

### Christ Church

Audrey: Sheila S.: Bill, Beth & Elizabeth G.: Phil and Grace: Mark E & family: Phil and Penny: Frank: Eve J Judy H.: Peter C.: Leeann, Pauline D's daughter: Phil G.:

It is with great pleasure that Sandy and Mike Brown would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild, born on 29<sup>th</sup> January to Joshua and Katherine. Willow Isabella Joy Brown is doing well and is absolutely adorable!

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.

### NAS' STORY:

Nas was only 14 when he arrived in the UK from his native Afghanistan, after a journey through Iran, Turkey and across Europe, in 2010. His mother paid for smugglers to take him to the UK after it became clear that the Taliban, who controlled the tiny village Nas's family lived in, wanted to recruit him. His father had been kidnapped for refusing to join the group, and his brother and sister were killed. "You go with this man," his mother said, handing him over to the smuggler. Nas didn't know where they were going, but followed his mothers' orders. Seven months later, he arrived in the UK in the back of a refrigerator lorry.



Once in the UK, Nas applied for asylum. He was placed with a foster family and started going to school in the West Midlands.

Nas still had to work extremely hard to get his asylum claim approved. He had to negotiate interviews with the Home Office, liaise with his MP and started a petition and media campaign to support his case.

Nas' claim was finally approved and he is a committed member of his community in the West Midlands. Nas supports the work of a national refugee charity and seeks to help people in a similar position to his to access the help they need and know their rights.

Because Nas was brought into the UK by an 'irregular route', under the proposed changes, he would not have been eligible to seek asylum. His story and his suffering would have been immediately dismissed.

**Full story in 'Migrant Voice' at:** <https://www.migrantvoice.org/archive/nas-story-keep-going-dont-100621152717>



Explore resources to help you make the safety of refugees part of your prayer life



### 3 THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT

1. Asylum Seekers - Pray for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Pray for their safety and the meeting of their needs throughout their time in the UK. Pray that they would be treated with dignity and justice.

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**2. Decision Makers** - Pray that Parliamentarians would be moved to legislate in a way which protects the rights and needs of asylum seekers. Pray that they would listen to the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees and help that shape their decision making. Pray for successful amendments to the Bill which would remove the two-tier system and the differentiation between asylum seekers.

**3. The Country** - Pray for citizens of the UK. Pray for an attitude towards asylum seekers characterised by grace and welcome rather than fear. Pray for those working to create a welcoming society. Pray that organisations and individuals would act with generosity to serve the needs of asylum seekers.



## Found on The World Day of Prayer website

### The Knots Prayer

Dear God:  
Please untie the knots  
that are in my mind,  
my heart and my life.  
Remove the have nots,  
the can nots and the do nots  
that I have in my mind.  
Erase the will nots,  
may nots,  
might nots that may find  
a home in my heart.  
Release me from the could nots,  
would nots and  
should nots that obstruct my life.  
And most of all,  
Dear God,  
I ask that you remove from my mind,  
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'  
that I have allowed to hold me back,  
especially the thought  
that I am not good enough.  
AMEN

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 Booking Secretary Margaret Bates 07890 162322

**Web site** [bridgewaterdriveurc.org.uk](http://bridgewaterdriveurc.org.uk)