

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

NEWS & CHAT 21 APRIL 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.

SUNDAY 24 April,

10.30 am, Margaret at BDC (Naomi is attending the 350th anniversary at Billericay – her childhood church)

10.00 am, Ian Miller at Christ Church

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (from Margaret)

Good Friday, several of us attended the service in Chalkwell Park last week. It was a beautiful morning with a good crowd of people. The singing was led by a group of musicians from The Chalkwell Group of Churches and there was an excellent (short) address with a great message delivered by Andrew Marshall of Westcliff Baptist Church with a strong Yorkshire accent and a great sense of humour.

On Tuesday this week six of us met and enjoyed another morning, 'Talking about Books' – In fact the only books we talked about were poetry books. This was because our starter topic was 'poetry' and we had so much to talk about that we ran out of time. Some people had brought along poetry books. Jan had a new book with a poem for every day in the year including background information about the poet and the poem. I had a very old copy of Palgrave's 'Golden Treasury' poems. Laurie read two of his own poems, the first, one of his First World War poems and the second, in complete contrast, a story of a £5 note (some of us remember them!). Jan's was the only poem connected with church. When she was about 10, she recited William Blake's poem, 'Little Lamb' – well, actually, she didn't recite all of it because she was so frightened by the occasion that she only managed the first few lines then ran off the stage!

In complete contrast Laurie had chosen Laurie Lee's, 'April Rise', which starts with the lines,

*If ever I saw blessing in the air
I see it now this still early day
Where lemon-green the vaporous morning drips
Wet sunlight on the powder of my eye.*

As we each shared our poems the conversation turned to Simon Barnes, and a quotation from his son who has Downes Syndrome, 'I am what I am' an attitude we discussed at some length – I mentioned Rudyard Kipling's Poem, 'If', which has great significance in my family to the extent it was read at my brother's funeral recently. Kate had brought along another of Kipling's poems, a commentary on the class divisions of his day,

*Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye ...*

There is no meeting next Tuesday, 4th Tuesday, but the following week, 3rd April, will be film morning – watching, 'Carousel'.

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

Jars for Change We have filled two large jars with our **Lent Collection** for **Water Aid**. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We haven't counted the money yet!

TIPS & IDEAS This Friday 22nd April is Earth Day! To celebrate, #64MillionArtists are inviting us to share gratitude for this Earth we call home.

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Show your gratitude for the Earth and Nature.

What are you grateful for that Earth and Nature provides and why? It could be the trees and spring flowers you pass by, the house plant that brings the outside in, the sun that shines through the window, the food you eat, or memories of a place.



Write a poem, draw a picture, cook a meal, dance amongst greenery - anything goes!

RESOURCES

New reflections for April from St Paul’s Cathedral, by Ayla Lepine *The Entombment of Michelangelo*
<https://mailchi.mp/26a2e04c5e09/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251290?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 the people of Ukraine.



Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Barbara: Barbara’s friend, Pat: Cherry: Barry: Colin: Clive: Celia: Sandra: Tony: Gerry: Phil: Yvonne: Marlene’s daughter, Christine: Tom Hunter-Crump: Margaret’s friends, Jean and Peggy: Sally-Ann (Laurie’s friend’s daughter): Patrick’s neighbour, Sylvie: Laurie’s daughter and husband and their children in Norway: Darren’s son, Reuben, and all his family.

Christ Church

Jeff and Gwyneth, Doug & Margaret B, living in Bath, Phil & Grace, Bruce – Ian’s friend, David – Bill and Beth’s son in law

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Please tell your friends about the **Bridgwater Drive May Fair**.

Please put the poster in your window or ask your local shop or library to display it.

Minister: Revd. Naomi Young-Rodas 07555 705530 minister@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk

Church Secretary Cherry Winder 07377 067908 thebdcsecretary@gmail.com

Web site bridgwaterdriveurc.org.uk