

NEWS & CHAT 7 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.

Palm Sunday 10th April, 10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Communion, The Minister
10.00am at Christ Church, All Age, Keith & Joyce Berry

Next Thursday, 14th April at 8.00pm at Christ Church, there will be a Tenebrae service with Communion for Maundy Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

Note from Margaret – I didn't know what a Tenebrae service was, so I did a Google search. This is what I learnt. Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning darkness. For the service, the story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel is usually divided into 16 readings. (Naomi says the version she uses has 12 readings because it stops before the crucifixion as that comes on Good Friday). A candle is extinguished after each reading. People leave in silence and semi darkness.

Good Friday, 15th April 11.00 am Service in Chalkwell Park (near Cricket Pavilion), St. Michaels if wet.

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (from Margaret)

It's good to have Naomi and Claudia back after their holiday. We're looking forward to hearing more about their trip and finding how Dexter enjoyed his holiday without them.

Tuesday 12th April 10.30 Tuesday Church – thinking about Easter

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 are continuing to ask you to bring any change you have, to fill the big jars at church. This is our **Lent Collection for Water Aid.**

On Tuesday at Film Morning - 8 of us watched, 'Driving Miss Daisy'. Set in Atlanta in 1948 - it paints a picture of life in the South of the USA at that time. People's attitudes and the many issues they faced are illustrated through the two main characters, Miss Daisy and Hoke. Miss Daisy, a rich, white, cantankerous, obstinate, rude, Jewish widow employing black people as servants but, nevertheless, treating them well and gradually coming to understand them better and show kindness and compassion. Contrast, Hoke, a black, illiterate man who was born at a time when black people were hanged and abused by white people just because they were black and where the police assumed the worst of a man just because of his colour. Hoke was unfailingly patient, polite, sensitive, honest and kind. A classic film with all the ingredients, a serious theme but a story with humour, sadness and kindness. Of course, the same racial problems exist today, not just in America, but it was a film to make us realise that some progress has been made in the last 75 years. More is needed. Next time, by popular request, we plan to watch 'Carousel'.

Val's Garden Notes – April

April – Yes, lighter evenings 'BUT' oh what frosts we have had! – the bird bath solid ice - grass pure white then sleet followed by 3 blizzards. The birds are very hungry so don't forget to feed them. They will appreciate it. The squirrels are busy eating everything in sight and uprooting plants. The seedlings are slow but thank goodness, I can put them under netting. A collared dove held onto a bird feeder containing sunflower hearts, flapping its wings then falling off. He cleared the lot! hope to have a few shrubs for the fayre, but they are slow to shoot. Runner bean plants will (fingers crossed) be on sale.

2nd Westcliff Guides, Brownies and Rainbows



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

Last Tuesday there was a very special evening at The BDC. I was able to attend along with the girls, the leaders and many of their parents. Syl has sent some detail of all that went on – including her receiving an award for 35 years' service as a leader of 2nd Westcliff Guides. Congratulations, Sylv. (see end of News and Chat for more detail and photos)

TIPS & IDEAS

This week's artistic challenge from #64MillionArtists seems aimed at people who regularly do something creative but, having just come back from a long 'big' trip, the title and idea appealed to me and I'm sure you could adapt it even if you are not 'regularly' creative (and who defines 'regular' anyway!)

A Journey - Take a moment to reflect on where your creativity has taken you up until now. Capture your journey through a map, timeline or drawing.

It might be a recent adventure or one you've been on for a long time! See if you can include where your creativity has connected you to someone or given you a new perspective. Were there moments of joy, disappointment, or other emotions, along the way that led you to new places?

Perhaps reflect on your Lenten journey, as Lent comes towards its end. Or your faith journey. Or maybe an actual journey you have been on recently – maybe make a photo collage or scrapbook rather than a map.

Or, as we journey towards Easter in Holy Week next week, why not create your own *Via Crucis* (stations of the cross) map or picture. **Along these lines – note that *Pilgrimage* the TV programme, where a group of celebrities undertake a pilgrimage, starts this Friday on BBC2 at 9pm.**



RESOURCES

New reflections for April from St Paul's Cathedral, by Ayla Lepine *Cezanne's Old Woman with a Rosary*
<https://mailchi.mp/7fd71553e219/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251274?e=e30a1f608a>

The Trussell Trust Race Against Hunger

On Saturday 2 April, thousands of Trussell Trust supporters all around the UK took part in the Race Against Hunger 5K challenge and Robert and Helen were part of it.

Between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed 5,100 emergency food parcels a day to people in crisis. This is an increase of 11% compared to the same period in 2019. Almost 2,000 of those parcels were provided for children every day. This isn't right. Everyone should be able to afford the essentials and put food on the table.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work of the Trussell Trust please click on the link below
<https://trusselltrust.enthuse.com/pf/robert-dart>

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

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

Sheila S: Mark E & family: Phil and Penny: Frank: Eve J: Sandy, Mike and Annie: Della: Judy and George: Gwyneth, Jeff and Amy: Terry W & James: Susan, Penny's cousin:



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

As I'm not fully up to date with the news yet, and, at the time of writing, it is cold and cloudy, here are a few holiday pics to cheer/warm us up! Naomi



Something to think about – while all restrictions are ended here and few people are wearing masks anywhere, cases are soaring, while in Colombia, where the vast majority of people are still wearing masks on all public transport, all public offices and shops, and some people even in the street, there are now hardly any cases of COVID-19...

As mentioned earlier – here is Sylv's **2nd Westcliff Guides Newsletter – A very special evening!**

Tuesday 29th March was a very busy night for the Guiding groups. As it was the end of term and Covid restrictions have now lifted slightly it was a pleasure that several parents were able to join us for the various ceremonies. Although many Guiding groups in the country have closed following the pandemic, our groups continue to grow both in membership and leaders.

At the Rainbow ceremony, Libby, who was our Young Leader, made her adult promise and she becomes our 'Fluffy Owl' now in training for Adult Leadership. Similarly, our Rainbow Helper, Daisy, having reached 14 years, made her Young Leader (YL) promise, kept her 'Little Owl' name and commences her YL qualification. Jess and Sienna made their Rainbow promises with very clear, proud voices. Sadly, Covid hit the household of Lottie who was due to also make her promise, but she will make hers early in the summer term. Saffy received both her Animal Lover badge and the first post pandemic Theme Award – a huge achievement considering the last two years experiences. All Rainbows that have been with us from the start of the term received their Butterfly badge from Fluffy Owl. To gain this badge Fluffy Owl organised the girls to make butterfly cakes, butterfly welly pegs, and play

Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC) caterpillar games. We were all entertained by 5 of our 6 Gang Show guides (1 had a school commitment) performing a snapshot from the Gang Show items. Easter egg filled decorated glass pots, made by Little Owl, were given out to all Rainbows to store their precious promise badges when uniforms are being washed. Finally, Millie literally 'Flew over the Rainbow' to Brownies to conclude the ceremony.

The Brownies also finished their evening with a Promise ceremony and presentation of badges. Enola, Ilyana, Jeyda and Layla all made their promise in front of their proud family members and had obviously worked hard all week to be word perfect on the day and get their tongues around some of the tricky words. We have welcomed Mia to our leadership team who is completing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and we are all really pleased that Chloe (Cinnamon Owl) has decided to become a leader and signed up to work on her Leadership Qualification. A variety of badges were presented including new group (six) emblems. The girls discussed and voted to change from woodland creatures, Squirrels, Rabbits and Hedgehogs to world animals and we now have Dolphins, Lions and Pandas. This term we have been working on the Know Myself Network badge which included thinking about what makes a good friend and practising teamwork and problem solving. Several girls had worked on badges at home including Baking, My Rights and Inventing. Finally, we were delighted to present three higher awards, Brownie Bronze awards, to Emily, Emily and Renai with their very proud parents in attendance. They have all been very busy with excellent attendance at Brownies to achieve these and are well on their way to gaining Silver very soon. We are now looking forward to a Brownie Fun day at our local campsite in April and an exciting summer term.

The Guides finished the special evening celebrations. Again, the Gang Show 5 entertained before Freya, Harriet, Nancy & Rosie made their Guide promises to Sally. Guides were then awarded a variety of badges gained both at home and during Guide meetings. Laura highlighted each Guides personal termly achievement as these were presented by Sally. Then followed Sylv presenting the Crystals (older Guides) with higher level skills badges. Badges this term were centred around the Be Well and Express Myself themes. This was intentional as leaders encouraged Guides to look after themselves both physically and mentally following the pandemic and have the courage to speak out when needed.

The evening closed with a flower presentation to Sylv for 35 years' service as a Guide Leader with 2nd Westcliff Guides.



Thanks, Sylv, for this report and the photos. It was good to be there and see so many girls and a few of their parents. Previously I didn't know what special ceremonies were involved in becoming a Rainbow or moving up into Brownies. I certainly didn't know you were going to receive a special award otherwise I would have stayed longer. Congratulations – 35 years of service as a leader with Second Westcliff Guides is a wonderful achievement. Well done, too, to the Gang Show group. It was fun to have a reminder of the performance a few weeks ago at The Palace Theatre.

Margaret