

NEWS & CHAT 12 MAY 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 15 May, 10.30am, Ian Miller at BDC
10am, at Christ Church, Revd John Proctor preaching. Followed by Away Afternoon

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (from Margaret)

May Fair last Saturday What an excellent day! It was lovely to have so many visitors. The weather was kind (for most of the time). Thank you to everyone who helped and who came to enjoy themselves. Special thanks to Val for organising everything and raising lots of money on her plant stall. The cake stall, the raffle and the 'books and bric-brac stall' did well too. It was lovely to be able to find space for our WI to have a stall and also The Salvation Army.



Special thanks too to the Community Group for the BBQ (sorry you got wet) and for providing refreshments in the kitchen.

Thank you to the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and their leaders for their support. Their stall was very popular. (Sorry you got wet too)

I sold lots of copies of my new quiz, 'Things you might see in the sky', – please ask for a copy if you didn't get one – the closing date for entries is 29th May. Only £1 entry and there's a £10 voucher on offer for the winner.



Sunday Service – Naomi based her service on the 23rd psalm. We sang the traditional and the modern versions of 'The Lord's my shepherd' and had a chance to write our own version.

Here is Naomi's version –

The Lord is my shepherd
Who gives me a nice comfy bed to lie in.
Every day is like walking by the beach in the sun.
I feel content, even when times are hard.
I'm not afraid of anything, not even death,
Because I know God is with me.

I have all the food I could ever want,
And cruel words or mocking are like
Water off a duck's back because my God
protects me.
If I trust in the Lord and follow God's ways
I will have peace and tranquillity, always.

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

'Tuesday Church' this week – Not many of us there but we had a good chat about prayer and we prayed for things on our hearts both personal and for family and friends, for our church and the wider community and, of course, for Ukraine.

Next Tuesday, 17th May 10.30 – 11.30 'Let's Chat about Books' Our starter topic 'well known sayings'. (notice in Naomi's 23rd Psalm, 'Water off a duck's back!') Even if you can't come, please share with Margaret any sayings you think we might enjoy, especially if they have a special memory for you. Of course, as usual, please tell us what you're reading at present or bring along a book you've enjoyed to share or maybe lend to someone.

Val's Gardening Notes

What a wonderful day we had at our May Fayre – lovely to see so many children and lots of new faces – well worth all the effort. Middle of May – hopefully frosts are behind us (or are they?) but so terribly dry – my soil is like concrete or dust.

Summer planting can be done but make sure you soak the ground first. Tubs need extra care as they tend to dry out very quickly. I have never had so many birds on the feeders and bird bath. I have to fill up sometimes twice a day especially when crows and pigeons use it.

Try if possible to keep on top of the weeds (I wish I could). It is a constant battle. I wish plants grew as quickly. Happy gardening.

Val.

News from Christ Church URC Rayleigh

Friday 3 June 'Jubilee' Messy Church – if you have not been to Messy Church before, this might be a good one to go along to and see what it is all about. More details nearer the time.

Saturday 4 June Jubilee ART CLUB we haven't worked out the details yet, but there will be Jubilee related creative stuff to do!

Sunday 5 June – Jubilee and Anniversaries Sunday. We will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, the Church Anniversary, and all the 'big' wedding anniversaries of church members which were missed during 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. **A Jubilee Street Party-style bring and share lunch will follow – sign-up sheet and more details nearer the time.** And it's Pentecost too!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Pray for those struggling with mental health issues.

Be a listening ear for those who need to talk.

Just be there...

Raise awareness.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 MAY



In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children.

And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe.

Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate

and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

TIPS & IDEAS Think of new ways to raise awareness and money for Christian Aid Week.

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

RESOURCES

New reflections for May from St Paul's Cathedral, by Revd Sharon Prentis *Audacious Hope*
<https://mailchi.mp/8e4beadaebe6/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251314?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. This week we pray especially for Christian Aid Week and Zimbabwe and for all those living with mental health issues and those who care for them. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the war in Ukraine. We thank God for people who have welcomed refugees into their homes and pray that they will overcome the problems of the language barrier, the cultural differences and the traumas of the last few months.

Particular prayer requests this week:

BDC - please pray for Barbara, Pat, Cherry, Barry, Colin, Clive, Celia, Sandra, Tony, Gerry, and Yvonne.

Christ Church - Bill: Beth & Elizabeth G: Doreen: Audrey: Peter and Jacquie (friends of Di): Della: Mark E.

Garden Photos

Last week Naomi asked people to send her photos of their gardens.

Here are some of mine – I know what they are – Do you? *Margaret*

Two taken at home



and one at Hyde Hall



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