

NEWS & CHAT 5 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 8 May, 10.30am, the Minister at BDC, Communion
10.00am, at Christ Church, Gwyneth

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (from Margaret)

MAY FAIR THIS SATURDAY We are setting up the church on **Friday morning** (from 10 o'clock onwards). Please come and help if you possibly can. The Fair on Saturday is from 11.00 – 2.00 but please come early to make sure everything is ready on time.

NEXT WEEK 10th May 'Tuesday Church' – 10.30 – 11.30 Bible study, coffee and a chat. Margaret will be asking us to 'think about prayer' – Examples of prayer in the Bible. Which prayers do we know off by heart? Did we learn any prayers when we were children? Which prayers have been special to us in the past? When do we pray? Which of our prayers have been answered? Do we pray silently or out loud? ... all this in one hour!!! Do come along and share your thoughts.

On Tuesday this week we watched, 'Carousel'. We all enjoyed it and there was some singing along. I'd forgotten some of the songs such as 'If I loved you' and 'When I marry Mr. Snow'. When I saw the film as a teenager I didn't think about the messages behind the film (and there were lots of lessons in there) – how foolish to fall in love with a fairground man, to meet him alone on a seat in the woods in the middle of the night, to marry him three days later etc etc Similarly, how crazy that Billy should decide crime was the only way to get hold of some money when he lost his job at the fair, that carrying a knife was a good idea etc It was a pity we didn't have time to chat about the idea of Billy being escorted from heaven back to earth to sort out his daughter's problems. Definitely not 'just another musical'. Next time we plan to watch 'Bruce Almighty'. If anyone has the DVD please could I borrow it?

NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH, RAYLEIGH, URC

The Concord Ladies Club at Christ Church has organised a coach outing to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday 22nd June, leaving at 10am. This is open to anyone who may be interested. At the moment the price is £23. If we get a few more (ladies or men) it will go down to £20. This is cheaper than Kirby's coaches. If interested please phone Eileen Hardy, 01268 784431.

NEWS FROM KINGS ROAD URC (Crowstone Road, Westcliff SS0 8LH)

We are invited to an Arts and Crafts Fair at Kings Road URC from 10.30 – 3.00 on Saturday, 14th May and from 12.30 – 2.30 on Sunday, 15th May.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



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

TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea comes from **The School of Sanctuary**. This is a national network of over 300 primary and secondary schools all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

What does the word 'sanctuary' mean to you?

Create a sanctuary in your mind for yourself, someone else or an object. Your sanctuary could be for an animal, an insect, a bird or a plant. What will make your sanctuary special? How will it feel safe and welcoming?

RESOURCES

New reflections for April from St Paul's Cathedral, by Ayla Lepine *Flowers in a Vase* by Rachel Ruysch
<https://mailchi.mp/29f03cb990bf/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251310?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 continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Minister**. We thank the Lord for Naomi's leadership through the last few difficult years and pray for her as she leads our mission in Westcliff and Rayleigh. We pray for her that as she grows into her calling to ministry here and in her relationship with the Lord, she will lead us all to deeper faith and greater witness to the community around us.



Particular prayer requests this week:

Phil and Penny G, Mark E, Doreen, Sheila S., Audrey, Judy H., Bill and Jenny.

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

If you have any items for next week's N&C (12 May) please send them to Margaret. I will be at the URC Minister's Gathering 9-12 May, so will be pre-preparing N&C by this Friday.

Thanks, Naomi

Gardening and 'eco' tips for May

May is 'No Mow May' – don't mow your grass all month. Even better don't mow from April to August to create a flower-rich lawn with new habitat opportunities for grasshoppers, moth caterpillars, bees and other pollinating insects. Even reducing cutting to once a month will help.



THIS WEEK, May 2-8, is National Gardening Week. So get gardening or simply sit out in the garden, maybe invite a friend. Send your garden photos in to share in News & Chat.

The Bridgwater Drive Church (United Reformed)

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