

NEWS & CHAT 2 JUNE 2022

The online service is live-streamed every week from Christ Church, on the Christ Church Facebook page.

SUNDAY 5th June, 10.30am, Robert Dart at BDC



'If you want to come to a **street party after the service**, do come and join Gerry and me at the party in Merilies Gardens (at Mannering Gardens end). It's an **'everyone welcome - bring some lunch and a chair event'** from 11.00 – 3.00. There's a suggested donation of £5 per household to cover costs. Any money left over is going to The Red Cross. If you can't bring a chair let me know and someone will bring one for you.

10.00am, Naomi at Christ Church, Special Jubilee worship with recognition of 'big' wedding anniversaries from 2020, 2021 and 2022 and the Church Anniversary with a 'bring and share Platinum Jubilee lunch' in Caley Hall afterwards.

NEWS AND DATES - THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (from Margaret)

Last Sunday I led worship as Celia was away on holiday. I focussed my thoughts on prayer as I'd prepared something for our discussion at the last Tuesday Church. I was happy with the way things went but have now realised that several people had responded to my request for suggestions of hymns, readings and prayers but I hadn't seen their emails. I hope to include them the next time I lead worship but thought I would share the following message from Jack, a regular customer at Thursday morning coffee mornings. (You may remember the lovely pictures of his and Amber's wedding at The BDC last year.)

'Morning Margaret,

I hope you are well on this sunny morning!

*I think at a time like this, where we may have struggles due to the economic crisis with inflation, it has a play on the community's wellbeing- this is so important to consider. **In a world that is so negative - try to keep positive, and in a world where you can be anything, be kind.***

'Our Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today to pray for our community. We are facing a difficult situation right now, Lord, as you know, and we ask that you bless us with your peace and hope. Give us strength to face the adversities and to overcome the obstacles in our way. But above all, Lord, give us hope for the future. Amen.'

Although we may not be there on Sunday, I hope the above may help with the service and will help to lift the community's spirit/wellbeing. It's a difficult and trying time for everyone.

Below are some useful contact details for some free organisations that can offer assistance during troubling times:

Payplan: 0800 280 2816, this is a free independent money advice service for those struggling to manage their finances and debts.

AGE UK: 01245 346106 provides information and advice on money, wellbeing, health, lifestyle and much more (see the website which reached over four million people in the past year).

MIND: 0300 123 3393, We all experience and talk about mental health differently. But we aren't always listened to. And we aren't always represented. MIND wants to change that.

Thank you, Jack. I really like the instruction to keep positive and be kind!

Tuesday, 7th June 10.30 Film Morning – I seemed to be the only person who wanted to watch 'Bruce Almighty' so there's a change of plan. I will take along a few DVDs (all light and cheerful – including at least one musical) and there will be a democratic decision by people who get there before 10.30.



Following the positive response to my pictures of people's doorsteps last week – I'm still on the lookout for more pictures. It was no surprise to discover this information on Janet's door and this lovely decoration beside it.



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

TIPS & IDEAS – This week's challenge from #64MillionArtists involves thinking about the emptiness, the 'void' caused by suppressing emotions.

Do something this week that fills your 'cup'.

'We all spend time on things that make us who we are, some that bring us joy, some that are responsibilities - things that 'fill our cup'. Maybe right now your cup feels half full, full to the brim or it's overflowing. Some might say the empty space feels like a 'void' within us. If you identify empty space in your 'cup' - what does that look like and what would you like to do to fill it? If it's overflowing, how might you pour out some of what's inside to make space?

If the empty space or 'void' is feeling distant from a person, why not write them a card and send it to them to reconnect. Or if the empty space is spending time on yourself, take a moment to do something you love!

Do some gardening, or something creative, write a poem, make a collage...

Of course as Christians, Jesus and our faith fill our cup. Maybe reflect on that...

Or failing that, make some bunting for the Jubilee; make some scones or Coronation Chicken sandwiches...!

Psalm 23

...you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

RESOURCES

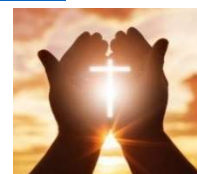
New reflections for May from St Paul's Cathedral, by Revd Sharon Prentis *A song in a weary world*

<https://mailchi.mp/ee4ad0d185e9/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251346?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 the Queen as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of her reign, and for the Bar 'n' Bus team as they interview for a new Youth Development Worker to cover the Rochford District.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Pentecost Jubilee**. We would pray for a fine, dry weekend, for You Holy Spirit to be present at every street party and celebration, wherever love is felt, given, and exchanged. We thank You for our Queen and pray that she too will have the health and strength to enjoy her special weekend, her country's tributes, and heartfelt gratitude.



Particular prayer requests this week:

BDC: Barbara, Cherry, Sandra, Barry, Clive and Jan, Celia and Geoff, Margaret and Ted, Gerry, Nicola, Yvonne

Christ Church Jeff and Gwyneth, Doreen, Audrey, Keith (a relative of Amber and Peter), Della, Peter and Jacquie (friends of Di), Martin, Janine & family

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Well done, Jennette. It was well worth a bike ride to see your Jubilee Garden. I love the way you made your steps red, white and blue and even painted the stones on the flower bed. I spent ages looking at the detail.



Well done, Janet. Good to see your bunting and poster. Thank you for my poster – not in my window yet!

