

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

NEWS & CHAT 10 February 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.
- Try to keep conversations after worship to a minimum

During services and other events, we will endeavour to keep the Church as warm as possible whilst maintaining good ventilation, so please dress accordingly.

PLEASE NOTE: from a week on Sunday, 20 Feb, we will resume collecting the offertory. Stewards will come to you, rather than passing the plate from person to person.

Sunday 13 Feb. 10am at Christ Church, All-Age, Joyce Berry
10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Communion, The Minister

ALL-AGE WORSHIP REVIEW We are conducting a review of All-Age worship – if people like it, how we could do it better, etc. To help with this, every Sunday in February there will be a questionnaire available at church for you to complete (anonymously) on the day and leave at church. This questionnaire is also at the end of this News & Chat. If you are not able to get to church, please complete it and either post it to the church or email it to Naomi – minister@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk THANK YOU

CONCORD LADIES CLUB celebrated its 47th anniversary this Wednesday (9 February).

TAIZE – next Thursday, **17 Feb. at 10.30am** – come and have a time of peace and rest with silence, readings and Taize music.

CC Envelopes this month are for Bar 'n' Bus, and the Pop-It-In Box is for HARP.

Saturday 19th February 2-5pm - Fairtrade Fortnight and Church Open Day,

We are combining the Fairtrade 'Big Brew' and Fairtrade stall, with another 'open day' (More Tea Vicar) when the church will be open with displays about what we do and who we are. There will be art for sale and a games area (Scrabble, Monopoly, that sort of thing) – if you have any games you'd like to play, please bring them along.

If you are in a church group (Concord, Caley Men, Taize, Needles & Natter, Messy Church etc etc) **please come along and 'promote' your group and chat to people.**



Advance notice - World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March at Rayleigh Baptist Church at 10.30am

This year the WDP service is at the Baptist Church. This year's theme is 'I Know I Have Plans For You' and the lead country is England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI).



TIPS & IDEAS A plant related idea from #64MillionArtists:

Pick a herb, spice, fruit or vegetable and bring it to life! Prepare it in your preferred way, this could be herbal tea or infused water for example. Take a moment of reflection as you taste your chosen herb or other natural food. What does the smell remind you of? What does the taste remind you of?

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Try to visualise where the power of the plant is going in your body. Does it make you feel relaxed? Alert or energised? Personify your plant! Who would they be if they were a person? What would they look like? What characteristics would they have? Describe them with words or a doodle. Perhaps they remind you of someone you already know!

Last Sunday's *Green Planet* with David Attenborough was about the relationship between humans and plants/food crops and how eating more plants and less meat is good for us and the planet. If you missed it you can see it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00149lg/the-green-planet-series-1-5-human-worlds>

RESOURCES

New reflections for February from St Paul's Cathedral, by John Swinton - Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen *Our Job is to Love* <https://mailchi.mp/0c8645ce82d9/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251218?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 this week for our Concord Club which is 47 this week, and for peace and equity between different races and ethnicities as we celebrate Racial Justice Sunday on the 13th.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Lord of lords**. We pray with thanksgiving and awe that You, our Saviour and friend, are THE Lord above all others. You are mighty in power, relentless in kindness, keeper of our future, healer of our past, brother in our present. Praise You, glorious Lord God.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Audrey
Phil and Grace
Frank
Peter C.
Leeann, Pauline D's daughter

Sheila S
Mark E & family
Eve J
Sandy & Mike
Rachel S

Judy C.
Phil and Penny
Judy H.
Della



All those in care-homes, affected by Covid.

LENT HOUSE GROUPS

Lent House Groups, joint with the Methodist Church will take place on Tuesdays for five weeks **from 8 March**:

Tuesdays at 2.30pm at the Methodist Church
Tuesdays at 7.45pm on Zoom



We will use this year's York Course – *God has No Favourites*

“Dr Carmody Grey explores how each of us is called to discover that God is completely inclusive. He does not apportion his welcome or love according to our prejudices or preferences. God Has No Favourites, because God favours everyone.” We have ordered 10 copies, so there will be 9 available. **If you would like a copy please let Naomi or Jean know.**

These will be free of charge, unless you would like to make a donation to the church. (cost £2.99)



LENT SILVER COLLECTION

Christ Church will again have its Lent Silver Collection - **Jars for Change** appeal during Lent. Bring your coins for the jar to support **Water Aid**. Lent starts on 2 March with Ash Wednesday. This year we will again have an online Ash Wednesday service jointly with the Methodists – more details nearer the time.

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Over the next few weeks, the Faith in Action Group will be sharing information about the **Nationality and Borders Bill and the JPIT Show Your Heart – Together with Refugees** campaign. Please educate yourselves on this matter and pray for refugees and those opposing this Bill.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

We believe that as Christians, we are called by God to welcome the stranger and to build a society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre.

Part of that call is to seek to change any narrative which opposes these values.

There is often a culture of suspicion towards asylum seekers in the UK. New legislation in the Nationality and Borders Bill may associate asylum seekers with criminality, which could heighten suspicion. This can make it difficult for refugees to integrate economically and socially into communities, and instead creates a society which is hostile towards them. We believe the by engaging in the 'Show Your Heart' campaign, we are turning the volume down on distrust and hostility and turns the volume up on hospitality and welcome. We can change the narrative to be one of cohesion rather than separation or fear.



Make the safety of refugees
part of your prayer life.

