

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

## NEWS & CHAT 3 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.

**Sunday 6 Feb.** 10am at Christ Church, the Minister  
10.30pm at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Ian Miller

**ALL-AGE WORSHIP REVIEW** We are about to start 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](mailto:minister@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk) THANK YOU

**ART CLUB** is this Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 12pm

**A reminder** - Mystery Tour with Kirbys Coaches Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
£269pp includes comfortable half board accommodation, exclusive coach travel and a secret itinerary.  
Contact Janine Danes 01702 511861 or 07719892728 to book your place.  
**Numbers are limited so a prompt response is recommended.**

### TIPS & IDEAS

An idea from #64MillionArtists January Challenge (a creative suggestion for every day in January):  
As I was watching *Green Planet* on Sunday, I thought about how many partnerships there are in nature (birds that get shelter from a cactus and then pollinate the cactus for e.g.), so this challenge caught my attention:

**Mix two things together, to create a new colour, texture or pattern.**

You might mix paint, oil or powder with water, and watch the ingredients swirl. Perhaps you could change the texture or consistency of ingredients with hot or cold temperatures. Or perhaps you watch milk swirl into your morning coffee...

Lots of things rely on other ingredients or components to grow or exist. Plants need water, soil and sun. **As you go through your day, notice the things that are working together. And think about how we all need each other – no one is an island!**

### RESOURCES

New reflections for the season of Epiphany from St Paul's Cathedral, by Patrick Craig - a countertenor and conductor. He is a Vicar Choral at St Paul's Cathedral. *A feast of lights*

<https://mailchi.mp/8d58a3fa9cfb/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251210?e=e30a1f608a>



**Fairtrade Fortnight and Church Open Day,  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2-5pm.**

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

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

## 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 Budiriro and the Show Your Heart Campaign.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **70 years reign.** We thank the Lord for our Queen Elizabeth II on this her platinum jubilee day. We thank You Lord that she is our sister in Christ who has faithfully, diligently, obediently, compassionately, and graciously served her Lord and we her people for all of those years. God bless our Queen.

### Particular prayer requests this week:

Audrey	Sheila S	Bill, Beth & Elizabeth G.
Phil and Grace	Mark E & family	Phil and Penny
Frank	Eve J	Judy H.
Peter C.	Della	Leeann, Pauline D's daughter

### We give thanks:

I would like to thank you for all the cards and support I received when I was in hospital recently. I was discharged to home on Monday and am looking forward to rebuilding my life. Many thanks again, Phil Gendall

It is with great pleasure that Sandy and Mike Brown would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild, born on 29<sup>th</sup> January to Joshua and Katherine. Willow Isabella Joy Brown is doing well and is absolutely adorable!

### News from Budiriro (email to Robert):

Good day Robert,

Thank you for your mail. I am happy to hear that you have started the New year well and that new cases of Covid have reduced. We are also encouraged to hear that we have friends praying for us in Rayleigh. Even here, covid infections have reduced significantly. It has been raining since the beginning of January and most people are busy in their small pieces of land farming. In urban areas some people have small pieces of land where they grow maize, which is the staple food for Zimbabwe. We have planned a Revival week from Monday 31 January to Sunday 6 February. We are planning to build a Pastor's house this year because to rent a Pastor's house is becoming more expensive.

### Prayer Requests:

- 1). The Holy Spirit will revive us as we reach out to the people next week.
- 2). Pray for the general good health of our people.
- 3). That God opens doors and avails resources for the construction of the Pastor's house.



Once again, thank you Robert for checking on us and reminding us that we are not alone in His service. Pass our greetings to the people of Rayleigh. Biggie.

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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.

### NAS' STORY:

Nas was only 14 when he arrived in the UK from his native Afghanistan, after a journey through Iran, Turkey and across Europe, in 2010. His mother paid for smugglers to take him to the UK after it became clear that the Taliban, who controlled the tiny village Nas's family lived in, wanted to recruit him. His father had been kidnapped for refusing to join the group, and his brother and sister were killed. "You go with this man," his mother said, handing him over to the smuggler. Nas didn't know where they were going, but followed his mothers' orders. Seven months later, he arrived in the UK in the back of a refrigerator lorry.

Once in the UK, Nas applied for asylum. He was placed with a foster family and started going to school in the West Midlands.

Nas still had to work extremely hard to get his asylum claim approved. He had to negotiate interviews with the Home Office, liaise with his MP and started a petition and media campaign to support his case.

Nas' claim was finally approved and he is a committed member of his community in the West Midlands. Nas supports the work of a national refugee charity and seeks to help people in a similar position to his to access the help they need and know their rights.

Because Nas was brought into the UK by an 'irregular route', under the proposed changes, he would not have been eligible to seek asylum. His story and his suffering would have been immediately dismissed.

**Full story in 'Migrant Voice' at:** <https://www.migrantvoice.org/archive/nas-story-keep-going-dont-100621152717>



### 3 THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT



**Pray**

Explore resources to help you make the safety of refugees part of your prayer life



1. Asylum Seekers - Pray for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Pray for their safety and the meeting of their needs throughout their time in the UK. Pray that they would be treated with dignity and justice.
2. Decision Makers - Pray that Parliamentarians would be moved to legislate in a way which protects the rights and needs of asylum seekers. Pray that they would listen to the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees and help that shape their decision making. Pray for successful amendments to the Bill which would remove the two-tier system and the differentiation between asylum seekers.

[jointpublicissues.org.uk/nationalityandbordersbill](https://jointpublicissues.org.uk/nationalityandbordersbill)

3. The Country - Pray for citizens of the UK. Pray for an attitude towards asylum seekers characterised by grace and welcome rather than fear. Pray for those working to create a welcoming society. Pray that organisations and individuals would act with generosity to serve the needs of asylum seekers.

