

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

## NEWS & CHAT 3 March 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 6 March** 10am at Christ Church, + Church Meeting, The Minister  
10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Ian Miller

**World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at Rayleigh Baptist Church at 10.30am**

### 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**.



#### The LENTEN CROSS

Throughout Lent, each week we add symbols to the Cross in church

Week One -INRI

Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews

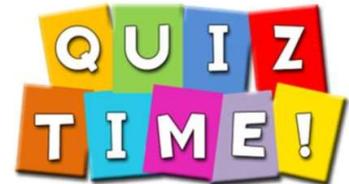
The notice nailed over Jesus on the cross

**QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 19th March** 7.00 for a 7:30 pm start.

Tables up to 8 people. £6 per person Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits served during interval.

Contact Janine 01702 511861 07719 892728



### TIPS & IDEAS

This week #64MillionArtists are supporting Rotherham – the Children’s Capital of Culture 2025 and the artistic challenge comes from **Challenge Rotherham** a six month programme of weekly Challenges, all designed by children and young people.

**Pass It On - Write a secret note and pass it on.** Think about who your secret note is for. What do you want to tell them? Is it something you’ve learnt, a memory, or maybe some exciting news, or an affirmation you’d like to pass on? Decorate your note to reflect the words you write.

### RESOURCES

New reflections for February from St Paul’s Cathedral, by John Swinton - Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen *Love has its speed* <https://mailchi.mp/08ed146a360d/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251234?e=e30a1f608a>

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## 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 for the people of Ukraine.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Compliments.** A sincere compliment can brighten someone's whole day, make a positive difference to a downcast spirit, and bring joy to the giver. What can we give in Lent? A seeking for opportunities to give compliments. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver.

### Particular prayer requests this week:

Audrey  
Phil and Grace  
Frank  
Peter C.  
Judy C & George

Sheila S  
Mark E & family  
Eve J  
Sandy, Mike & Annie  
Gwyneth, Jeff & Amy

Joy A & Steve  
Phil and Penny  
Judy H.  
Della  
Peter & Jacqui



## LENT HOUSE GROUPS

Lent House Groups, joint with the Methodist Church **start next Tuesday, 8 March** for five weeks:

**Tuesdays at 2.30pm at the Methodist Church**

**Tuesdays at 7.45pm on Zoom:**

<https://zoom.us/j/99345651990?pwd=OW45UkVzZVJDN08wM05WY2JNWDYwZz09>

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.”

It is not essential to have a copy of the course, but it would be helpful. **Copies are available at the back of the church** along with transcripts of the audio. These will be free of charge, unless you would like to make a donation to the church. (cost £3.99) Each week in News & Chat, we will give a summary of theme for the following week's session and two or three sample questions. **For Week 1, 8 March:**

### The Best Picture of God:

God has no favourites “God cannot be relied on to have the same social standards and expectations as everyone else.”

We do not know what God looks like. But God created human beings in God's image – if we want to know what God 'looks like', we simply need to look at one another – although we are different colours, genders etc – those things don't matter as we are all a picture of God.

God does not have a body. God is not visible. God is not part of creation because he is the source of creation. God entered creation, became human in Jesus.

God is completely identified with every human being, so what we do, or don't do, for others, we do, or don't do, for God (Matthew 25:31-46, 1 John 4.20)

Jesus is most identified with anyone who is suffering, “those whose sacredness is probably the hardest for us to recognize. It is our attitude towards broken people that is the ultimate test of our relationship with Jesus.”

1. Do you find an inability to visualize God a hindrance to believing in God?
2. How do you see God in others?
3. Which person or group of people do you struggle to see as loved by God?

**Come to the Lent meetings for more questions and discussion!**

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### **Prayer for Ukraine** (from the URC Daily Devotions)

God of all,  
with alarm and concern we bring before you  
the military intervention in Ukraine.

In a world you made for peace and flourishing,  
we lament the use of armed force.

We mourn every casualty of this conflict,  
every precious life extinguished by war.  
We pray comfort for those who grieve  
and those who are fearful.

Hear our longing that leaders and nations  
will honour the worth of all people  
by having the courage  
to resolve conflict through dialogue.

May all our human failings be transformed  
by your wonderful grace and goodness.

We ask this in the name of Christ,  
the author of peace and sustainer of Creation.  
Amen.



## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

**We are now in the second week, until 6 March**

This year's Fairtrade Festival will be online, more details here:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

