

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

NEWS & CHAT 21 APRIL 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 24 April, 10am, Robert Dart at Christ Church
10.30am, Margaret at BDC (the Minister attends the 350th anniversary at Billericay)

The Church Annual General Meeting is on Thursday, 21st April at 8 pm at the church.

Joyce Berry, Robert Dart, and Sue Deane have been nominated to stand as serving elders.

QUIET SPACE – We are in the process of becoming a **Dementia Friendly Church**, and to hopefully soon start hosting, jointly with Rayleigh Methodist, a **monthly Memory Worship**. As part of our commitment to becoming a Dementia-Friendly Church (as discussed at the March Church Meeting), we are required to have a Quiet Space available for those living with dementia to take some time out if they need to. We had spoken about the possibility of such a space as part of the building refurbishment, but the Elders feel it would be good to make this available as soon as possible.

We plan to make the Small Meeting Room into a Quiet Space, which can also be used as a space for more private conversation if people want it, when we start our drop-in café trial, and as a place for prayer after Sunday worship – rather than at the front of the church (with the door ajar for safeguarding). The room can easily be made into a quiet space with minimal decoration and cost.



Unfortunately, the carpet is badly stained, and this will not be replaced until all the carpeting is replaced towards the end of the building project, but Naomi has a neutral-coloured rug she will lend until we get new carpet. **If anyone has a very small sofa OR two chairs they would like to donate for this space, please speak to Naomi. This matter will be raised as AOB at Thursday's AGM, for people to ask any questions, so that we can proceed with this plan without delay.** (It is not a matter that needs Church Meeting approval.)

In addition to the Quiet Space, those of you who were in church over Easter will see that we have some **new signs** which meet our requirements as both a Sight-Loss Friendly Church and a Dementia Friendly Church. **Please do not remove these signs. If they fall down, please put them back up, or put them in the Vestry so that one of the elders can put them back up. If you think of other signs we need, please let Naomi know.**

We will also, in the near future, be changing all the toilet seats to black. Both the Sight-Loss Friendly and the Dementia Friendly check-lists say that this should be done to provide a contrast between the seat and the surroundings.

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TIPS & IDEAS

This Friday 22nd April is Earth Day! To celebrate, #64MillionArtists are inviting us to share gratitude for this Earth we call home.

Show your gratitude for the Earth and Nature.

What are you grateful for that Earth and Nature provides and why? It could be the trees and spring flowers you pass by, the house plant that brings the outside in, the sun that shines through the window, the food you eat, or memories of a place.

Write a poem, draw a picture, cook a meal, dance amongst greenery - anything goes!



RESOURCES

New reflections for April from St Paul's Cathedral, by Ayla Lepine *The Entombment of Michelangelo*
<https://mailchi.mp/26a2e04c5e09/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251290?e=e30a1f608a>

Ludlow Christmas Fayre - Kirby's are running a trip on 18th November for 3 days cost £289.00 sharing a double room, very limited singles at £44.00 per person. Phil has made a provisional booking for 13 but needs to confirm **urgently**, deposit £50.00 each **Please contact Phil Gendall on 01268 750324 or Phil.gendall@talktalk.net** if you're interested

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). **Café at church.** Our church has a desire to reach out, here is an opportunity to do that. Please pray for this venture, that our people will volunteer to be part of it, that we will be patient if it takes time to 'take off', and to be faithful in our prayers of hope in our God for it to succeed.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Jeff & Gwyneth
Doug & Margaret B, living in Bath
Phil & Grace
Bruce – Ian's friend
David – Bill and Beth's son in law



We give thanks:

that Charlotte, Richard and Louisa have become church members
for the life and health of Isha and Aarya
and for the confirmation in Germany last year of Pauline D's grandson Aaron

An excellent Eastertide reflection from the UCC – Hallelujah is Forever!

https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/hallelujah-is-forever/?inf_contact_key=b1344c9c09d6a58224c8b7d006930e8cf651f238aa2edbb9c8b7cff03e0b16a0

And, THANK YOU for your gift of eggs last Sunday which are being taken to HARP and Hopeworx.