

NEWS & CHAT 5 MAY 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 8 May, 10am, at Christ Church, Gwyneth
10.30am, the Minister at BDC, Communion

TALENT FUNDRAISER - Based on the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30 or Luke 19:12-28) Our treasurer Keith is giving money away!! Collect £5 from Janine this Sunday, 8th May, and make it grow. For example - Put the cash towards craft materials and sell your wares, host an event at your home provide refreshments and make a fixed charge or ask for a donation. Let your imagination run wild, the sky's the limit! **Collect your cash from Janine Danes this Sunday, or call her on 01702 511861.**

The Concord Ladies Club have organised a coach outing to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday 22nd June, leaving at 10am. This is open to anyone in the church that may be interested (male and female) at the moment the price is £23 if we get a few more it will go down to £20. This is cheaper than Kirby's coaches. If interested please speak to Eileen Hardy, 01268 784431

Remember ART CLUB is on this Saturday (7 May), 10-12. Do come along just for a chat and a cuppa if you don't want to be artistic. Come and make a URC fish or Jubilee decorations!

UPCOMING EVENTS for your diaries:

- **Sunday 15 May** – Away Afternoon led by Revd John Proctor – if you haven't signed up yet (for catering purposes) please do so **THIS SUNDAY**
- Our '**drop-in' coffee morning** (café trial) starts from **Wednesday 18 May, then weekly 10-12.** Please come along to support this new venture and bring a friend or neighbour! The idea is not to be a 'fancy' coffee shop, but to offer a cheap (or free if people can't afford it) and friendly place to meet for a chat and going forward maybe advice from groups such as Citizens Advice and the Dementia Team. More information next week.
- **TAIZE** on Thursday 19 May – do come along and give it a try, it is very calming.
- **Saturday 21 May** The Headley's Garden Party for Christian Aid Week **details next week.**
- **Sunday 29th May** will be café style, interactive worship led by Sandy.
- **Friday 3 June 'Jubilee' Messy Church** – if you have not been to Messy Church before, this might be a good one to go along to and see what it is all about. Speak to Sandy for more details.
- **Saturday 4 June Jubilee ART CLUB** we haven't worked out the details yet, but there will be Jubilee related creative stuff to do!
- **Sunday 5 June – Jubilee and Anniversaries Sunday.** We will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, the Church Anniversary, and all the 'big' wedding anniversaries of church members which were missed during 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. **A Jubilee Street Party-style bring and share lunch will follow – sign-up sheet and more details nearer the time.** And it's Pentecost too!
- **Sunday 12 June – Rayleigh Trinity Fair, 12-4pm.** Hopefully we will have the church open during the fair – more details (and a request for volunteers!) coming soon. **Hold the date!**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



TIPS & IDEAS

This week's idea comes from **The School of Sanctuary** is a national network of over 300 primary and secondary schools all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

What does the word 'sanctuary' mean to you?

Create a sanctuary in your mind for yourself, someone else or an object. Your sanctuary could be for an animal, an insect, a bird or a plant. What will make your sanctuary special? How will it feel safe and welcoming?

RESOURCES

New reflections for April from St Paul's Cathedral, by Ayla Lepine *Flowers in a Vase* by Rachel Ruysch
<https://mailchi.mp/29f03cb990bf/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251310?e=e30a1f608a>

one school's visual symbol of welcome:



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 continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Minister.** We thank the Lord for Naomi's leadership through the last few difficult years and pray for her as she steers us through another challenging time of renovation and renewal for our buildings. We pray for her that as she grows into her calling to ministry here and in her relationship with the Lord, she will lead us all to deeper faith and greater witness to the community around us.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Phil and Penny G Mark E who has hip surgery this week
Susan Penny's cousin Doreen
Sheila S. Audrey
Judy H.
Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil T



Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Irene who turned 96 on 1st May!

BDC - please pray for Barbara, Pat, Cherry, Barry, Colin, Clive, Celia, Sandra, Tony, Gerry, Phil, and Yvonne.

If you have any late items for next week's N&C (12 May) please send them to Sue. I will be at the URC Minister's Gathering 9-12 May, so will be pre-preparing N&C by this Friday.

Thanks, Naomi

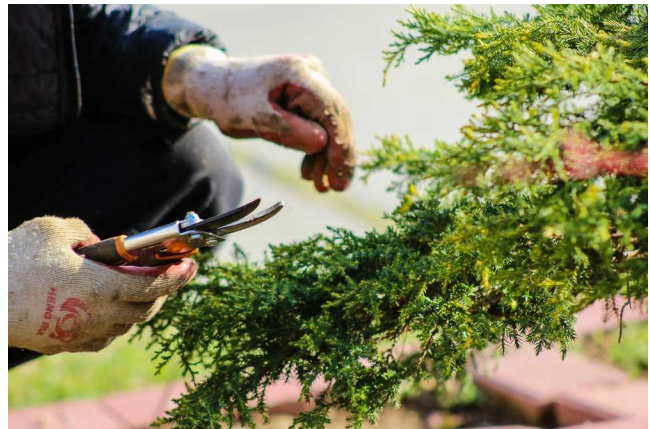
Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC)

Gardening and 'eco' tips for May

May is 'No Mow May' – don't mow your grass all month. Even better don't mow from May to August to create a flower-rich lawn with new habitat opportunities for grasshoppers, moth caterpillars, bees and other pollinating insects. Even reducing cutting to once a month will help.



THIS WEEK, May 2-8, is National Gardening Week. So get gardening! If you're not too active, weather permitting, simply sit out in the garden, maybe invite a friend. Send your garden photos in to share in News & Chat, or if social media is your thing, you can share photos of your love of gardening or to inspire others at #nationalgardeningweek



CHURCH GARDEN

As we have entered the church garden in the upcoming Rayleigh Religious Grounds competition, we need people to volunteer on **SATURDAY 14TH MAY, from 10am to tidy up, plant and generally make the garden look good again. Hand tools are in short supply, so please bring your own, if you can.**

Please let Penny know if you are able to help, and supply any bedding plants.