

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

NEWS & CHAT 16 JUNE 2022

The online service is live-streamed every week from Christ Church, on the Christ Church Facebook page.

SUNDAY 19 June 10am, the Minister at Christ Church, Communion and induction of elders
10.30am, Ian Miller at BDC

If you would like a quiet prayer said for you, after church worship, there is someone who can be by your side in the 'Quiet Space' behind the servery.

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped to have the church open during Trinity Fair.

Thursday 16th – **TAIZE** at 10.30am

Being a DEMENTIA FRIEND TRAINING will take place NEXT TUESDAY, 21 June at 10am at Rayleigh Methodist Church. This is ideal training for Elders, Stewards, Pastoral visitors, carers and anyone who wants to volunteer to help with Memory Worship (starting in September).

BREAKING NEWS – Hold the date – on Tuesday 26 July at 11am, Andy Jackson, Head of Communications for the URC, will come and lead a session for us on publicity and how to better promote our events and activities, including: branding, publicity, press releases, social media and websites.

Please don't think this is not for you – if you don't do social media, or you're not interested in publicity and websites. While we have 2 or 3 people in the church who focus on this, if we want the church to grow and people to attend our events, **EVERYONE** needs to be promoting the church and what we do, by talking to friends, family and neighbours and inviting people. Research shows that most people come to a church for the first time because of a personal invitation.

So come along, you may pick up some helpful tips. There will be a sign-up sheet at church soon.

REMEMBER that our Wednesday morning café is happening every Wednesday, 10-12 in the worship area. Do come along and bring a friend!
You may be musically entertained by Gerald, Craig and friends who Usually practice in the church on Wednesday morning.

TIPS & IDEAS

This month #64MillionArtists are reflecting on how we **cultivate our listening**. This is something we do at church in various ways. Every week in June there will be a prompt to encourage active listening and enable us to better understand our community, family and friends.

This week - **let's practice our listening in an active and sensitive way.**

Ask someone in your social circle to tell you a story or memory from their life. Listen carefully and patiently: try not to interrupt and not add your own ideas or experiences. This can be 5 minutes or 20 minutes, it's up to your participant and how much they want to share with you.

Then take time to digest the story and try to represent it in a drawing. If you don't feel so 'artistic' – maybe write the memory for our Church News (with the person's permission), especially if it is a story or memory from church life.



RESOURCES

The new set of reflections from St Paul's Cathedral for June are by Revd Janet Tollington, retired URC minister and retired tutor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Westminster College. This week, *The tricky issue of succession*

<https://mailchi.mp/6ab620f354d8/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251370?e=e30a1f608a>

Next week is REFUGEE WEEK

This year's theme is 'Healing' and Refugee Week 2022 (20-26 June) will be a celebration of community, mutual care, and the human ability to start again.

"Healing means recovering from a painful experience or situation, so that we can continue to live. No-one understands this better than those who have lost their homes and had to build new lives from scratch. We have much to learn from refugees about holding onto hope when going on seems impossible – as well as about how art, creativity and community can help us to heal. Those going through the asylum system also know that healing is an ongoing process, made harder by poverty, housing difficulties and the threat of being detained or deported. Asking for change, so that refugees can truly feel safe, is an act of care."



Things you can do:

- Pray for refugees and asylum seekers
- Sign petitions/support campaigns against the Government's policy of sending refugees to Rwanda – opposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and many other church leaders. e.g:
 - Safe Passage <https://www.safepassage.org.uk/>
 - Refugee Action <https://act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/106452/petition/1>

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- Do one of the Refugee Week 'simple acts' - <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/> and if you're able post about it on social media
- Learn – read reputable new sources about refugees, and the new government plans. Refugee Council <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/refugee-asylum-facts/the-truth-about-asylum/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/children-deemed-adults-by-home-office-could-be-deported-to-rwanda>
JPIT <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/asylum-and-migration/>
- Read about Welcome Churches <https://welcomechurches.org/>
"Whether your church is big or small, old or young, urban or rural, traditional or contemporary, there IS something you can do to join with our vision. No matter how refugees are arriving in your area, we want to help you to be a welcoming community for them."
Is this something we could do as a church?

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. This week we pray especially for fathers and those children who don't have fathers and for the asylum seekers who may be sent to Rwanda and the activists fighting on their behalf.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Dads (and Mums)**. Thank You Lord for Dads. Such awesome and often challenging responsibilities fathers carry, some well, some not so well. We pray for the fathers in our church and community, for Your presence with them Lord, to enable and strengthen them in to be the 'best' they have a deep, God-given desire to be.

Particular prayer requests this week:

Susan S, Paula's mum
Frank
Audrey
Doreen
Beth and Elizabeth G
Sheila S.
Peter C

BDC:

Barbara
Cherry
Margaret & Ted J.
Margaret & Gerry
Kate
Clive & Jan

A Reminder that throughout June, we are hosting the tapestry made by Southend District (now the Area Partnership) for the 25th anniversary of the URC. Some members of Christ Church helped create the Faith & Fellowship panel (featuring Peter Elliot) and Ted Jeffry from Bridgwater Drive made the wooden stands.

