

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

## NEWS & CHAT 23 JUNE 2022

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

**SUNDAY 26 June** 10am, Keith Berry at Christ Church  
10.30am, Margaret 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.**

**SUNDAY 3 JULY – Church Meeting at 11.15am** which will include an important decision on the Building Project. Please attend if you can. Agenda and papers will be circulated at the end of this week. Architect's plans of the three major changes – the organ screen, partition wall between Caley Hall and Primary, and the work to the front and outside, are now up on display in Caley Hall – **please try to have a look before the 3 July meeting.**

**Sunday 3 July, 2.30pm** – wedding of Thora Ker and Martin Santos

**Response to sermon** This from Sheila Smith on last Sunday's sermon:

'The other side of the coin.

I stand in a very different Rayleigh from where Naomi stood at the Trinity Fair. In the place where I am, Rayleigh is full of people showing kindness and caring.

My church friends ring for a chat or come for a cup of tea or take me out in their car for trips, making sure before they come that I don't need any shopping. My "street" friends look after me in so many ways - by fighting to put my bins out and always knocking before they shop, inviting me for a cup of tea, bringing me a slice of cake every time they bake, making sure that I have the chair I need for sunbathing in the garden. I see God's love and care working out in Rayleigh every day.' Sheila

I'm glad that Sheila has a different experience. It is good to get feedback on a sermon and hear different views. Naomi

### HARMONIE CONCERT

Harmonie Concert Band, A Summer Concert, **7.30pm 10th July**,

An eclectic mixture for all, from stage shows, films and TV

(see poster on the last page and around church, or talk to Helen or Janine for more details)

**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. **There will be a sign-up sheet at church soon.**

### TALENT FUNDRAISER

See Janine Danes or contact her on 01702 511861 to collect your £5 and make it grow.

### HEARING AID BATTERIES

Can you make use of hearing aid batteries PR41 size 312. Or do you know anyone who can? If so, contact Janine Danes 01702 511861 or 07719892728.

**REMEMBER** that our **Wednesday morning café** is happening every Wednesday, **10.30 - 12** in the worship area. **Do come along and bring a friend!**

## TIPS & IDEAS

This month #64MillionArtists are reflecting on how we **cultivate our listening**. This week is about listening to music rather than to people. A lot of research that shows how important music is to our sense of self, our relationships with each other and our experience of the world. Music creates emotional responses associated with memories of moments, people and places which are deeply tied to emotional responses within us – and this changes throughout our lives.



This week's challenge is to **Make a playlist of 3-5 songs that are important to you for different reasons**. Think about which artists, tracks, albums, or pieces of music are most significant to your life so far. What moments of your life, people or places do you associate with different music? This may also be hymns that are meaningful to you.

Make some time to listen carefully to your playlist. How do the songs make you feel? Who or what do they remind you of? Where (and who) were you when you first heard that music?

Write these thoughts and observations down while you listen and maybe draw a mind-map linking feelings with places or people.

**Listening to God** – I had just read about the listening task above, when the Daily Devotion from the UCC (United Church of Christ in the USA) came into my inbox and it is about listening too! So here is an extract:

**Tune in** by Kaji Douša

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness. – Isaiah 51:1 (NRSV) "Listen," God commands.

God already knows that this will be a struggle for us. Because there's a long list of voices that cause a cacophony in our heads, asking so much of us before our days even begin. This requires energy. Attention. The asks [things asked for] from the voices take from us without necessarily putting anything back. And when this is our steady state, how do we have the capacity to even begin to listen to what God has to say? How can God get through? Listening to God means changing your steady state. Tuning into God's frequency while tuning out some others.



My suggestion, today, is that if listening to God is our objective, then we need to turn the dial. And tune in. This works. It is powerful, and it works. But you know what doesn't work? Trying to tune into countless stations, all at once. That's just a jumbled mess. And while we would never try to do that with the radio, for some reason we try to do that with God. To hear God loud and clear, we really need to shut some things down. Turn off the stations - or at least, turn them down. Limit the asks.

## 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, *Kingship for a radically new era*

<https://mailchi.mp/4580dd55e162/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251374?e=e30a1f608a>

## THIS WEEK IS REFUGEE WEEK

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



### 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>
- 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/>

## NEW COMMITMENT FOR LIFE REGION

Commitment for Life is no longer working in Central America – the region we have been supporting – so on the advice of the Faith in Action Group, we have decided to move to supporting Israel/Palestine. There will be more information at the Church Meeting, and in future News & Chats and the Monthly News, but for now, here is some information from the latest CforL 'Moving Stories' Update.

Since 1967, Israeli checkpoints have been a common feature of the [Israeli] occupation. Of course, if you go on a standard 'pilgrimage' to Bethlehem, you might not notice going through the checkpoint because tour buses are simply waved through. But for most Palestinians, these barriers have become progressively more constraining of their movement.



Photo © Philip Brooks. URC

Gaza has effectively been sealed off. It is extremely difficult to obtain a permit to leave or enter Gaza without a compelling justification. In the West Bank, there are over 700 holdups: from 60 or so military checkpoints to earth mounds and concrete blocks across roads to restrict or thwart movement by Palestinians. The cumulative effect of corralling Palestinians into approximately 190 enclaves, surrounded by settlements, settler-only roads and

checkpoints renders the free movement of people and goods impossible for some, and for those able to travel, stressful, uncertain, expensive and time consuming.

Such restrictions violate International Human Rights Law. They cause significant human suffering. They separate families. They throttle the Palestinian economy and can turn a journey that ought to take ten minutes into a major schlep that could take hours.

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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. This week we pray especially for refugees and asylum seekers.

This week's prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Summer Solstice**. The middle of the year already. What are your hopes for the rest of this year? Lay them before the Lord. What are God's plans for us? Listen in prayer, be willing in response, be trusting in God's loving best for your future, whatever God asks of you.

### Particular prayer requests this week:

Sheila S.  
Frank  
Anna P.  
Judy H.  
David – Bill and Beth's son-in-law  
Susan – Penny's cousin  
Bill and Jenny, friends of Phil Thomas  
Jeff & Gwyneth

### BDC:

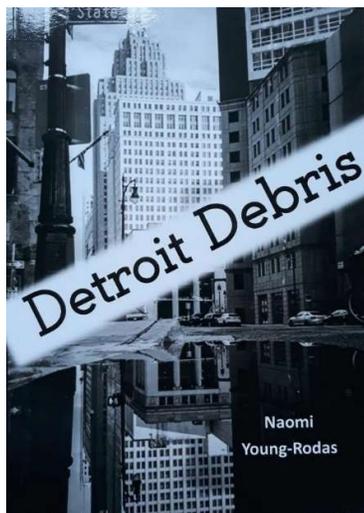
Barbara  
Cherry  
Margaret & Ted J.  
Margaret & Gerry  
Kate  
Clive & Jan

Martin and Janine Danes would like to thank the church family and everyone for their cards, flowers and kind words on the loss of Martin's mum Joyce.

Since there is half a page of space left – **MY LATEST NOVEL IS NOW AVAILABLE!**

My latest novel (written some years ago, in case you are wondering how I have time to write!), ***Detroit Debris*** is now available from TSL books - <https://tslbooks.uk/product/detroit-debris-naomi-young-rodas/>

However, **if you order from me, not only will it be cheaper - £10 instead of £10.95, but I will donate the difference from what I as an author pay (£5) to the Building Project. Please let me know if you would like a copy, so I can order in bulk which will reduce the shipping cost.** We hope to hold a Book Reading & Signing Event in October in aid of the Building Project. Thank you, Naomi



Clear your diary! This novel is one you will want to finish at a sitting. Fans of Peter James or Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch, would not be disappointed at this latest story from Naomi Young-Rodas. Punchy, well constructed, in places laugh out loud funny, with up to the minute political undertones, *Detroit Debris* is a worthy addition to the crime genre. Readers of Young's earlier novels (*If It Falls* and *Right of Possession*) will appreciate a maturity and richness she brings to this latest work.

Retired cop Arthur 'Danny' Daniels uncovers the link between several unusual deaths and his last case that he was never able to solve, aided by young journalist Alison who's looking to get her own by-line with a big investigative story. All against the backdrop of a corrupt, bankrupt and decaying city after the closure of the motor industry and fentanyl - the new killer drug leaving addicts dead all over the city...

On the next page is a poster for the Harmonie Concert on 10 July. If you can, please put it up in your window, or at any clubs you attend if they have a notice board for community events. Tell your friends and book your tickets with Helen – THANK YOU!

# Christ Church URC, Crown Hill, Rayleigh

## Presents a Summer Concert

An eclectic mixture for all, from stage shows,  
films and TV



Featuring



# The Harmonie Concert Band

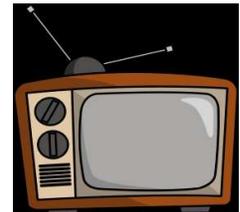
Conducted by Roy Dignum  
Charity No. 1129948



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

at

7.30 pm



**Tickets: £9.00, Concessions £8.00, under 18s £5.00 and a family ticket £16.00 available from: Helen Dart 01268 781258 or [bookings@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk](mailto:bookings@christchurchrayleigh.org.uk)**

**Proceeds going to the Church Building Project**  
**Visit our website: [www.christchurchrayleigh.org.uk](http://www.christchurchrayleigh.org.uk) and**  
**also visit us on our Facebook Page**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchrayleigh>**