

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

MAY 2022



THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

- Pray for peace
- Get a team together for the Christian Aid Quiz or come ready to join one
- Make sure your name is on the church electoral roll
- Nominate someone for the PCC or to be churchwarden or stand yourself
- Get your red, white and blue ready for the Jubilee
- Sign up for the Jubilee Big Sing

THIS MONTH

Sunday 1st May 3rd Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)
God's Gang meeting during the service

Wednesday 4th May

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th May 4th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)
12 noon & 1pm Holy Baptism

Tuesday 10th May

11am Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Audrey Price.

7.30pm Mothers Union –
Medical Detection Dogs



Wednesday 11th May

7.45pm Parochial Church Council

Thursday 12th May

11am Pilgrim Group

Saturday 14th May

9.30am Church working party – come and help keep the church fine and dandy!

15th-21st Christian Aid Week

Sunday 15th May 5th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
1 God's Gang meeting during the service
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

11.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 18th May

10am Holy Communion

Thursday 19th May

Mustard Seed

Saturday 21st May

12.30pm and 4pm Holy Matrimony
7pm Christian Aid Quiz Night

Sunday 22nd May 6th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)
Wednesday 25th May
10am Holy Communion



Thursday 26th May Ascension Day

11am Pilgrim Group
7.30pm Festival Eucharist

Saturday 28th May

2.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 29th May 7th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 1st June



10am Holy Communion

Friday 3rd June

11am (TBC) Jubilee Service on the Big Screen
6pm Jubilee Big Sing

Sunday 5th June Pentecost

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by community lunch) God's Gang meeting during the service

MORNING PRAYER will be said in church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am (not on public holidays) You can join us on Zoom – see Church website for link

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy Communion at 10am continues throughout the month

PILGRIM GROUP continues to meet twice a month on Thursday mornings. 11am Come and join our lively discussions!

PENTECOST *Breathe on me breath of God*

One thing we've all learnt in recent years is just how potent our breath can be. Something so basic, an essential part of our existence has suddenly taken on a new significance. Normally we are aware of each other's breathing only when we get close – not least on public transport or a crowded situation. Breath carries life – even if it is a life destroying virus. Breath is potent.

In Genesis God breathes the breath of life into clay to make Adam, in Ezekiel the valley of dry bones is animated brought to life by God's breath, in John's Gospel the disciples receive the Holy Spirit on Easter Day when Jesus breathes on them in the upper room. The ancient oriental churches still use breath as well as the laying on of hands as part of the ordination service.

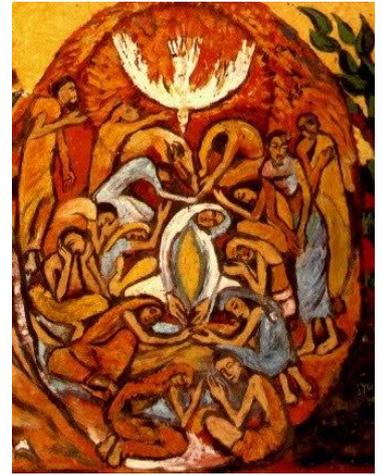
Breathe on me breath of God fill me with life anew



On the day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit – the breath of God. They were occupied, possessed, saturated, infected. They became unlikely voices who spoke a remarkable word.

They are accused of being drunk. The freshness of their words is an explosive wine, not containable in old wine skins, making demands, sparking and exhilarant, offering new words, new language, new meaning. It is God's Spirit who works through them, who enables communication to happen. Unlike a drunk, Peter is able to speak eloquently about the significance of what is happening.

Pentecost does not make the churches' leaders showmen, performing miracles and tricks to gain public attention. The Holy Spirit is not a power to be manipulated. The Holy Spirit frees us, Christ's peace gives heart and courage to those who are open to the leading of the Spirit making us participants in God's mission, agents of God's intervention in human life.



For us Pentecost is not some weird supernatural phenomenon but the door to an everyday possibility that God will work in and through us. The Holy Spirit should help us to be attentive to the accents and stories of others – Gravesend as we know is complicated (increasingly a place of many tongues) but we are called by this foundational story to allow the Holy Spirit to orientate our hearts and minds to those who are different, to strangers, that together we might learn to speak of the spaciousness of the Kingdom. In the words of St Paul: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Breathe on me breath of God...

Gaia

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL 24TH MAY - 12TH JUNE 2022



If you loved the 'Museum of the Moon', you won't want to miss Luke Jerram's 'Gaia' arriving at Rochester Cathedral in May 2022.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, *Gaia* features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface*. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions.

The installation creates a sense of the *Overview Effect*, which was first described by author Frank White in 1987. Common features of the experience for astronauts are a feeling of awe for the planet, a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

The artwork also acts as a mirror to major events in society. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the artwork may provide the viewer with a new perspective of our place on the planet; a sense that societies of the Earth are all interconnected and that we have a responsibility toward one another. After the lockdown, there has been a renewed respect for nature.

A specially made surround sound composition by BAFTA award winning Composer Dan Jones is played alongside the sculpture. In Greek Mythology Gaia is the personification of the Earth.

Hope for a Gaia in Crisis - Tools for faith-filled resilient living Dr Ruth Valerio, will be speaking on 'Hope for a Gaia in Crisis - Tools for faith-filled resilient living' on Wednesday 8th June. Dr Valerio is the Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral.

You can book free tickets to see GAIA in the day time on the [Rochester Cathedral website](#). Evening tickets and tickets for concerts and talks are also available.

Andrew has some tickets to see GAIA on Wednesday 25th May – let him know if you would like to visit after the Wednesday morning service. He also has a few tickets for the Ruth Valerio talk on Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm.

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families.

Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.



Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

‘My children crave a good meal, but I can’t provide.’ Jessica says. ‘It pains me to send them to bed hungry.’

Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.



From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
- **Act** and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign.
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

Find out more at www.caweek.org

A poster for a Christian Aid Quiz Night event. The background is dark with a brick pattern. At the top, it says 'CHRIST CHURCH ECHO SQUARE'. On the left, there is a yellow ticket icon that says '£5 Per Person'. In the center, there is a red and white Christian Aid logo and the text 'Quiz Night' in a yellow, cursive font. Below that, it says 'SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2022 AT 7PM IN THE CHURCH HALL'. At the bottom, it says 'TO BOOK A TABLE FOR 6 TO 8 QUIZZERS PLEASE EMAIL OFFICE@CHRISTCHURCHGRAVESEND.COM'. On the right side, there is a large, glowing red question mark. At the very bottom, it says 'RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON ON THE NIGHT!' and 'BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS'.

Book as a team or come as a potential team member.

CHRIST CHURCH 2022 WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our Annual Church Meeting will take place after the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 15th May. What role might you play in Christ Church in the coming year? Our Church is dependent on people being willing to contribute and stand for offices. We will be looking for two churchwardens, for Church Council members – please consider what you could contribute. Steve has indicated that he would like to have someone working with him with a view to taking on responsibilities as treasurer. Please think and pray about this, and speak to the Vicar, to Jan our Churchwarden or Steve our treasurer if you would like to know more. These are real opportunities to make a difference to our Church community. Nomination papers are available in church. If we are not able to fill these roles it puts more pressure on those who are willing to stand and the Vicar ends up doing more admin.

A background image for a poster showing a field of purple crocuses in the foreground and bare trees against a blue sky in the background.

Gravesend Entertainment & Musical Society
present their
Spring Concerts
in aid of
House of Mercy
on
Friday 13th May at 7.30pm
and
Saturday 14th May at 3.00pm
with special guests
'The Unique Trio'
A concert of Jazz Classics to include
*Misty, I've got you under my skin, What a wonderful World,
Come Fly With Me, Night and Day, plus many more*
Concerts at
Christ Church, Echo Square, Gravesend DA12 1NR
Tickets £8 on the door

CHRIST CHURCH TOTS

Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers

Welcoming pre-schoolers and those who care for them: parents, nannies, grandparents and childminders.

We have a wide range of toys and equipment for all ages, and a large garden for when the sun is shining.

Allergy friendly refreshments

FRIDAYS 1.15-2.45pm

(term time)

£2 per family

CHRIST CHURCH HALL

(go thru the church car park)

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER DAY



Thanks to everyone who made Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day so memorable. A full range of services was possible and the church looked great. And the weather was great!



**You are warmly invited to join the
Christ Church community to celebrate
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend**



Friday 3rd June – watch the Service of Thanksgiving from St Pauls on a big screen in church followed by a glass of cheer. 1030 for 11am (time to be confirmed by BBC)

Friday 3rd June – Join our scratch choir to in the afternoon, from 2pm, to sing songs of the water and Gravesend, to be performed at a concert in the early evening, 6pm – tickets £5 on the door.

Sunday 5th June – The Big Jubilee Lunch to be held after the Sunday Service, outside in the Park Avenue and the Pleasance (in church if wet)

To make this all happen we need help: setting up, serving refreshments, welcoming others and clearing up afterwards!

WATCH OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION DURING MAY

If you wish to help with any of the above please speak to Veronica Read - Angela Kirby - David Williams or email jubilee@christchurchgravesend.com


CHRIST CHURCH GRAVESEND
near Echo Square
Friday 3rd June
JUBILEE BIG SING
SONGS OF THE RIVER & THE SEA
celebrating Gravesend's watery connections
COME AND SING!
OPEN
CHOIR
REHEARSAL from
3pm (2.30 registration)
CONCERT 6pm
with Semiquavers
£5 on the door

PRAYER DIARY

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwardens and PCC
5	Schools	The children in our church God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	The police	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon Those choosing the new Bishop
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals & chaplains	Christian Aid
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Baptism families
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	The preparation of our Mission Acton Plan
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Those who are housebound or isolated
31	Care Homes	Give thanks for our diversity

FROM OUR REGISTERS

EASTER DAY 17th April Baptism

Gary Barham

Luke Barham

Bethany Barham

Jessica Ballantyne

