

# CHRIST CHURCH

## Scripture for the Year

*"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth" (Job 19.25).*

## EASTER LILIES

Every year, a donation of £2 buys an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. The lilies will decorate the Church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase one or more Easter lilies this Easter please complete a form which is now available on the welcome table, and your loved one(s) name will then be included on the Easter Memorial Board.

## DEFIBRILLATOR

As you may know, we have a defibrillator installed at the front of the Church. It was managed by Chris Davis but, due to illness, he is now unable to take care of the administration. We have now registered the defibrillator with the Church office who will be able to take care of it whilst the office is open, but we need another two volunteers as "second" and "third" who would be willing to be available to re-set the defibrillator system after it has been used out of Church office hours. This is not likely to happen very often, but if you are willing to be available, please speak to Catherine in the office.

## MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE COMPANY EASTER EGGS

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a book telling the real story of Easter in the box. The eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate, and profits support charitable projects. As in previous years, Christ Church has purchased a number of these chocolate eggs at a cost of £5.50 each. They will be on display in the Church or available from the Church office if you would like to buy some.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT COURSE 2026

The Team Lent Course began on Thursday, 19 February at St John the Divine at 7.30 p.m. and will run until 19 March. We are using the 2026 Diocese of Blackburn Lent Course which includes sung worship, teaching video, and group discussion and reflections. The Course this year is called "Knowing Jesus". Each session is led by one of the Team Clergy.

## PARISH PRAYERS

The next Team Parish Prayer date is Tuesday, 3 March at Emmanuel at 7.30 p.m.

## SECOND PARISH MEETING

A second meeting to discuss the future of the Parish has been set by the Archdeacon of Southend, Rev Dr Sue Lucas, accompanied by Rev Andy Griffiths on Monday, 9 March 2026 at Christ Church at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

## GREENING CHRIST CHURCH - GARDENING TEAM

When the weather allows, the gardening team work on the Church grounds on a Thursday morning between 10 a.m. - 12 noon to do weeding, trimming back shrubs, or sweeping up the leaves. If you are able to help us and aren't sure whether we plan to meet due to weather conditions, please email Jennifer Anderson [jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk) or Margaret Fowler [m.j.fowler@btinternet.com](mailto:m.j.fowler@btinternet.com)

We could really do with some extra help!

## RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY "NIGHT FALLS"

**Thursday, 26 March at 7.30 p.m. Christ Church**

We are delighted that Christ Church has been accepted as a venue for this Easter production by the Christian theatre company, Riding Lights. "Night Falls" is a vivid and dynamic retelling of the Easter story blending music and powerful drama alongside space for reflection and worship.

Tickets are now available via Ticket Source at £15 each/£10 for concessions at:- <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights/t-zozlpzl>

However, booking through Ticket Source does involve a booking fee of £1.50, so we have arranged that Church members can book directly with Christ Church office without paying the fee. When you book please give your name, number of tickets required, and pay for the tickets. Bookings cannot be accepted without payment. It is recommended that this performance is only suitable for children 12 yrs old and above.

## WELL DONE CHRIST CHURCH FOR CHRISTINGLE FUNDRAISING

We have received thanks from The Children's Society for raising £956.03 at our Christingle Services on Christmas Eve. This is the highest amount ever raised by Christ Church!

## LADIES DAY AT MULBERRY HOUSE

**25 February from 9.45 a.m.**

The speaker for the next Ladies Day is former actress and singer, Fiona Hendley-Jones. The theme scripture for the day is from Joel 2.25 "I will restore the years the locusts have eaten." The cost is £26 which includes refreshments and a two course lunch.

## EASTER UNWRAPPED AT MULBERRY HOUSE

**With Abby Guinness - 25 March at 8 p.m.**

Abby is an author, engaging speaker and an experienced performer. Until recently Abby was Head of Spring Harvest. This event is one which is also suitable for non-Christian friends or family. The cost is £12. There is an optional buffet from 7.15 p.m. for a further £12, and drinks can be purchased from the bar.

**To book either of the above events please call 01277 367124 or email [mpitt@nctuk.org](mailto:mpitt@nctuk.org)**

## AUTOMATIC NUMBER-PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Please be alert to any visitors to ensure they enter their registration number when visiting the Church. There is no need to do so on a Sunday between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** If you change your vehicle please email: [parking@christchurch-billericay.co.uk](mailto:parking@christchurch-billericay.co.uk).

However, this email address is not for NEW registrations. Requests for new permanent registration of vehicles for Church members only should be entered on the list on the Welcome Desk.

## JUNIOR MUDDY CHURCH IS EVERY SUNDAY!

Muddy Church for 7 - 11 yr olds is held every Sunday in the small hall with opportunities for the children to sometimes go outside and learn about Jesus from Creation. We still need helpers to join the team. Please speak to Paul Hunt or Rev Margaret Fowler if you feel this exciting new venture is for you.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 24 Feb** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 24 Feb** Bishop's Study Day, Chelmsford Cathedral
- 25 Feb** Ladies Day at Mulberry House
- 25 Feb** MU Lent Reflections 1.30 p.m. Emmanuel
- 26 Feb** Lent Course (2) St John the Divine 7.30 p.m.
- 1 Mar** Messy Church 10 a.m.
- 2 Mar** Pensioners' Praise 2 p.m.
- 2 Mar** DCC 7.45 p.m.
- 3 Mar** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 3 Mar** Parish Prayers Emmanuel 7.30 p.m.
- 4 Mar** Pray Together in Church 7.45 p.m.
- 5 Mar** Lent Course (3) St John the Divine 7.30 p.m.
- 9 Mar** Parish Meeting Christ Church 7.30 p.m.
- 10 Mar** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 12 Mar** Lent Course (4) St John the Divine 7.30 p.m.
- 15 Mar** Mothering Sunday
- 15 Mar** Bubble Church 9.10 a.m. (Breakfast from 8.55)
- 17 Mar** Anna's Place, 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 18 Mar** Pray Together in Church 7.45 p.m.
- 19 Mar** Lent Course (5) St John the Divine 7.30 p.m.
- 26 Mar** Riding Lights 'Night Falls' 7.30 p.m.
- 29 Mar** Palm Sunday Team Service Christ Church 10 a.m.

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

**For Rev Margaret Fowler:** Please pray for Margaret as she begins to prepare for Lent and Easter.

**For children and young people:** Please pray for Junior Muddy Church, and the initiatives that we are praying about for 18-30s. Also for Bubble Church and Messy Church for younger children.

**SUN****MESSY CHURCH**

First Sunday of the month 10 a.m. in the Hall.  
Contact Angela Wood for details.

**Next service: 1 March**

**JUNIOR MUDDY CHURCH - EVERY SUNDAY 10 a.m.****BUBBLE CHURCH**

Third Sunday of the month 9.10 a.m. (Breakfast from 8.55 a.m.) **Next service: 15 March**

**MON****PENSIONERS' PRAISE - 2.00 p.m.**

First Monday of the month. All welcome. You don't have to be retired! **Next Service: 2 March**

**TUE****MORNING PRAYER - 9.30 a.m.**

Join us in Church.

**'ANNA'S PLACE' 10.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

A warm welcome and activities every week in the Church hall for older adults. Lunch and refreshments included. Just come along. Free

**WED****HOLY COMMUNION AT ST MARY****MAGDALEN**

"The Church in the High Street" at **10 a.m.**

**PRAY TOGETHER**

An opportunity to pause, reflect and pray.

**ONLINE**

See 'Christ Church Billericay' FaceBook page

**IN CHURCH**

1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings at **7.45 p.m.**

**Next meeting: 4 March**

**THU****LADIES ON THURSDAY (LOTS)**

Fortnightly 9.30 a.m. **Next meeting: 26 February**

**FRI****CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP**

10 - 11.30 a.m. Contact Church Office for details.

**SAT****DAMBUSTERS**

For dads and children under 5. Third Saturday of the month at 8.30 a.m. in the Hall.

**Next meeting: 21 March**

**CORNERSTONE COFFEE-SHOP**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
8.45 a.m. to 12 noon  
(closed during school holidays)

## Prayer Focus

If there is an urgent prayer request to be sent round our prayer circle please email the Church Office:-  
[office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk](mailto:office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk)

**For our Mission Partners:**

St Francis Church Ciamanda & Ciamanda Primary School, Kenya; Pappy Daniel (Light of Hope Mission, India), Verity Butt (YWAM); LMDC, Schools Ministry Billericay, Prison Fellowship, Anvil House, Church Urban Fund, Billericay Foodbank, LMDC (Clergy Support Charity)

**Associate Priest: Rev Margaret Fowler**

Tel: 07974 720510

Email: [m.j.fowler@btinternet.com](mailto:m.j.fowler@btinternet.com)

Day off: Friday

**Church Warden**

**Jennifer Anderson** [jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaanderson45@yahoo.co.uk)

**Church Office & Hall Bookings**

Open Monday to Thursday 9.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Tel: 01277 630144 Twitter: @ChristChCM12

Email: [office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk](mailto:office@christchurch-billericay.co.uk)

Website: [www.christchurch-billericay.co.uk](http://www.christchurch-billericay.co.uk)

## Christ Church, Billericay

*"To know Jesus better and to make Jesus better known"*

**22 February 2026 - First Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 a.m. Family Communion**

**Lead:** Catherine Benbough

**Preach/Preside:** Rev Margaret Fowler

**Bible Readings:** Genesis 2: 15-17 & 3: 1-7  
Matthew 4: 1-11

**Worship Songs:**

What a Friend we have in Jesus  
You alone can rescue  
Change my heart, O God  
He will hold me fast  
There is a Redeemer

**Collect for the First Sunday of Lent**

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**1 March 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 a.m. Messy Church (Hall)**

**10.00 a.m. Muddy Church (Small Hall)**

**10.00 a.m. Morning Worship**

**OUR 10 A.M. SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED**

**HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE**

**NO PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE SERVICE PLEASE**

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

**ALSO VIA QR CODE – SEE LEAFLET**

**ON WELCOME TABLE**

We do not pass a collection plate around during the Service, but if you would like to make a donation to Christ Church, the card machine and collection plate are next to the Welcome Table.