

# *Christ Church News*

*with Great Baddow & Howe Green*



*December 2018 & January 2019*



**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope.**

*Romans 15:13*

[www.Christ-Church-Chelmsford.com](http://www.Christ-Church-Chelmsford.com)

## Sunday Church Services at 10:30 every Sunday

Evening Services as advertised

Young Church during 10:30am service

Super Sunday Club 1st Sunday of each month

for children aged 3-12 years

**Minister** Paul Stein 01245 493377

**Family and Community Worker**

Dawn Fazackerley 07711 701652

**Church Office**

01245 354529

The following activities take place on our church premises during the week...

Parent and Toddlers contact Veronica 01245 264689

Rainbow Guides contact Michelle 07506 685445

Beavers contact Mary 07748 222385

Cubs contact Lynne 07778 700722

Scouts contact Mark 01245 462477

Saturday Fellowship contact Sylvia 01245 353975

The Guild contact June 01245 263405

Day Centre contact Christine 01245 260566

Activity Centre contact Audrey 01245 471987

Church Choir contact Jane 01245 259590

Meditation Group contact Pam 01245 440526

If you would like any information about the groups above please ring the appropriate telephone number.

You will also find lots of information about our church on our website [www.Christ-Church-Chelmsford.com](http://www.Christ-Church-Chelmsford.com) or



It costs 50p to produce each copy of Christ Church

News. All contributions to cover this cost are welcome and can be placed in the boxes provided.



Ah it's that time of year again – when I walk through the town centre and smell all the smells of Christmas and see all the Christmas decorations in the shop windows... IN OCTOBER!

As you read this we will be in the season of advent. So, what is advent? Advent is the season of four Sundays in December that lead up to Christmas. It's a period of waiting until Christians celebrate the arrival and birth of Jesus into our world.

It's also a period of waiting until Christmas. Some children and households will have advent calendars that count down the days before Christmas.

I'm sure, like me, you remember being a young person waiting for Christmas, was always very difficult. Waiting for Christmas morning was tough. And as time has passed, not much seems to have changed. We don't really like waiting, do we? We don't like waiting for a bus, waiting in the check-out line or the bank, or maybe even waiting for the new John Lewis advert on the television.

We live in a society where the technology revolution has meant that we have access to most things instantaneously. We have Instant meals, Instagram. We can sit on our sofa and with a smartphone (or smart speaker) browse, order and find out anything, anywhere at any time of the day. We don't have to wait long these days for very much.

I was in London the other day and it was so busy. I needed to stop and find out which direction I needed to go, much to the dismay of those passing me. There wasn't any time to stop or wait and take in what's around me, to find my way. People were bumping into me and pushing me, and I was getting in their way, and their facial expressions showed how much they appreciated me being there that day.

It seems though we have lost the art of waiting. Because in waiting there is an expectation. There is a period that one gets to have space and think. There is an excitement that builds as we consider and ponder the 'what could be...'

I have a suspicion that this lack of waiting often affects our relationships. We can become impatient waiting for someone, or perhaps even for God to move or work in a situation.

God sent Jesus Christ into the world to show us what God is like. To show us God's character and what awaits those who follow Jesus.

My prayer this Christmas is that we learn to wait again. Learn to wait for God, learn to wait in God's presence and learn to wait for the excitement of meeting with God again.

That we may stop and look at the surroundings and we can consider once again the 'what could be...'

God bless you and may you have a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Paul**

### **Christ Church Flowers**



During the months of December and January those sponsoring flowers will be Jean McAslan, Angie Garner, the flower fund, Pat Bruguier and Joy Brown.

## DIARY for DECEMBER 2018



Image from  
blackcanyona  
z.com

- Sat 1 2:30 Family Panto - Robinson Crusoe in the Church Hall (see p26)
- Sun 2 10:30 **First Sunday in Advent**  
Morning Worship & Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Stein
- Sun 9 10:30 Morning Worship  
led by Rev Paul Beasley-Murray
- Tue 11 7:00 Elders Meeting
- Thurs 13 7:30 House Group at the home of Sylvia Hutchins
- Sat 15 3:00 Fellowship Tea in the Church Hall
- Sun 16 10:30 Morning Worship led by Kay Beighton
- Wed 19 8:00 Beer & Carols at the Woolpack,  
23 Mildmay Road, Chelmsford. CM2 0DN
- Sat 22 7:30 Essex Police Band Concert in the Sanctuary
- Sun 23 10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Stein  
6:30 Candlelit Carol Service
- Mon 24 4:00 Crib Service at St Johns Church, Moulsham St
- Tues 25 10:30 **Christmas Day Celebration**  
led by Rev Paul Stein
- Fri 28 2:00-4:00 Messy Church at St Johns Church, Moulsham St
- Sun 30 10:30 Morning Worship led by Nicola Grieves

## DIARY for JANUARY 2019

- Fri 4 10:30 Meditation in Room 2 recommences today  
10:30 Friday Soup Lunch recommences today
- Sun 6 10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Stein
- Mon 7 2:00 Fabric Committee
- Thurs 10 7:30 House Group at the home of Sylvia Hutchins
- Sun 13 10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Stein
- Tue 15 7:00 Elders Meeting
- Sat 19 3:00 Fellowship Tea in the Church Hall
- Sun 20 10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Paul Stein
- Mon 21 10:00 Legacy Group  
7:45 Finance Committee
- Sun 27 10:30 Morning Worship led by Dianne Hodgkinson  
12:00 Church Meeting in the Church Hall

## REGULAR WEEKDAY EVENTS

Monday - Friday at 12:00 Celtic Daily Prayer  
in the Vestibule or Chapel

Tuesday	10:30	Coffee Morning	Elders Vestry
	6:00-7:15	Beavers	Church Hall
	6:00-7:25	Cubs	Youth Hall
	7:30-9:00	Scouts	Youth Hall
	8:00-10:00	Explorer Scout Unit	Room 5
Wednesday	10:00	Activity Centre	Room 3
	11:30	Coffee and Biscuits	Church Hall
	12:00	Lunch (£3.00)	Church Hall
Thursday	1:30-3:30	Parents and Toddlers	Youth Hall
	4:00-5:00	Rainbow Guides	Church Hall
Friday	10:30	Meditation Group	Room 2
	11:30	Coffee and Biscuits	Church Hall
	12:00	Soup Lunch (£2.00)	Church Hall

## Pastoral Care



*Image from  
woywoyanglican.org*

We have been saddened by the passing of Peter Croxon and remember in our thoughts his wife Jean and his family.

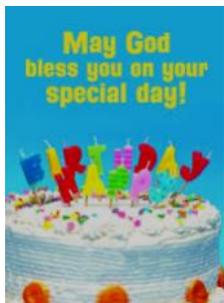
We also remember Susan Simons on the death of her son Paul and uphold her and her daughter Nicola before God in their sad loss.

Those in special need because of illness are Robert Orr, Susan Simons and Joan Smith.

May all those mentioned, and indeed all of us, be conscious of the love of God for us at all times.

**Sylvia Hutchins, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: 01245 353975**

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE WITH BIRTHDAYS



December		January	
Ruth Hilton	9	Gretel Warn	4
Ben Kolozsi	11	Ellen Purse	8
Margaret Wisbey	20	Betty Walls	8
Robert Malyon	22	Susan Jones	9
Moe Watts	22	Pam Barker	13
Benjamin Hodds	24	Alison Sands	23
Phil Baker	27	Aiden Lee	24
		Rosemary Raynor	31

## Fellowship Tea

Our next Fellowship Teas will be on Saturdays 15 December and 19 January at 3:00pm in the Church Hall

## Sunday Lunch Group



LET'S DO LUNCH!

*Image from socialmail.com*

The December lunch will be at The Grange, Main road, Boreham CM3 3HJ at 12:45pm on Sunday 9 December. Names to Diana Lewis 01245 472437 by 2 December please.

The January lunch will be at The Horse and Groom, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford. CM1 3RU at 12.45pm on Sunday 13 January. Names to Jane Humphreys by 6 January please.

**ALL WELCOME!**

## Christ Church Guild Tuesdays at 2:30 in Room 2

**18 December** Join us for our Christmas Celebrations  
**29 January** A talk by the Rev Paul Stein



**ALL WELCOME!**

For more details contact Monica on 472037 or June on 263405.



**Howe Green URC**



## ***Working Together with St Andrew's Church, Sandon***

### **Diary for December**

- Sat 8 6:00 Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Green, Sandon  
Sun 9 4:00 Christingle Service at St Andrews  
Sun 16 3:00 Café Church at Howe Green  
6:00 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Andrews  
Tue 18 7:00 Beer and Carols at The Crown, Sandon  
Thu 20 7:30 Candlelit Carol Service at Howe Green  
Mon 24 4:00 Crib Service at St Andrews  
11:00 Midnight Communion Service at St Andrews

### **Diary for January**

- Sun 20 10:00 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at St Andrew's, Sandon  
3:00 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at Howe Green  
Sat 26 10:30 'Burn's Night' Coffee Morning at Howe Green

### **News from Howe Green**

We seem to be having a bit of a lull between our busy Harvest events and looking forward to Christmas. But we still maintain our fellowship here and had a most enjoyable Coffee Morning at the beginning of November. So thanks to all who came and supported us. We are now planning our Candlelit Christmas Carols Service, which is usually a popular local event in Howe Green and we look forward to welcoming local residents to take part in the celebration of this wonderful time of the year. It is on 20<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.30 p.m. - followed of course by delicious refreshments, so do come and join us if you can.

***Pam Knott***



## Great Baddow URC

We offer a warm welcome to all who come to join us for worship at 10:45 am each Sunday.

### Worship Leaders in December

- Sun 2 Peter and Margaret Watchorn  
Sun 9 Penny Bloom and Bob Pearson  
Sun 16 Rev Paul Stein  
Sun 23 **Carol Service** led by Graham Handscomb

**Christmas Day** Joint Service at Christ Church at 10:30 am

- Sun 30 Joint Service at Christ Church at 10:30 am

### Worship Leaders in January

- Sun 6 Liz Hudson  
Sun 13 John Amos  
Sun 20 Rev Guy Goodall  
Sun 27 Including the celebration of Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Stein



## Prayer for Christmas Joy



Loving, generous Father,

This Christmas, please help us to keep you at the centre of our preparations and celebrations. May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son, Jesus, motivate all that we think and say and do. May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who don't know what Christmas really means, so that they want to find out!

In Jesus' name and for His glory,  
Amen.

***by Daphne Kitching***

God, our loving Father, you sent your Son,  
Jesus Christ, into this world to counter  
all the forces of evil: sin, suffering and death,  
and to overcome evil with the force of good;  
hatred with the power of love,  
your great love for us in Jesus.

Help us never to curse the darkness,  
but to join with you in bringing  
Your light into this world,  
the light that is your Son,  
born of the Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem.  
Help us to be instruments of your light  
and love by doing one special act of kindness  
or by being your special instrument  
of reconciliation this New Year.

May the Christ Candle we light symbolize  
our desire to bring light into a world of darkness  
and hope into a world of despair.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



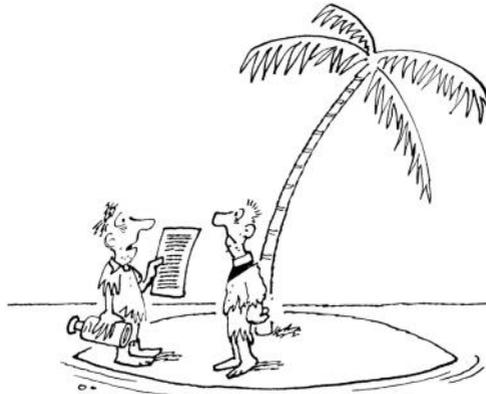
## Christ Church Flowers

Our very grateful thanks to Susan who has so generously given time over many years to managing the flower sponsorship and the rota of arrangers providing flowers in the Sanctuary, which contribute so much to our worship each Sunday.

Gill Stevens and Margaret Wisbey have agreed to now keep the lists. Gill will keep the list of sponsors. If you are not already on that list and would like to become a sponsor please contact her. Margaret will manage the list of arrangers. There are a number of gifted people in the congregation who regularly give us the benefit of their flower-arranging skills and we are most grateful. If, however, you don't feel able to create a formal arrangement but would be willing simply to fill a vase of flowers, please let Margaret know, that offer would also be very welcome.

Sponsorship money should be given directly to Norman Sands, our Bursar (please do not put money or cheques in his pigeonhole) and the cost of flowers purchased (together with relative receipt) should be recovered from Norman.

*Gill Stevens*



It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers Christmas party?

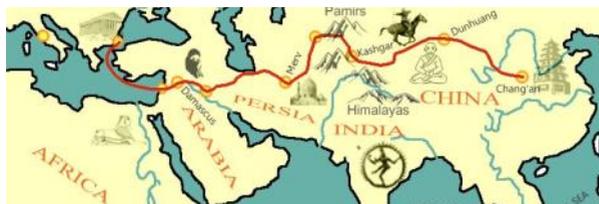
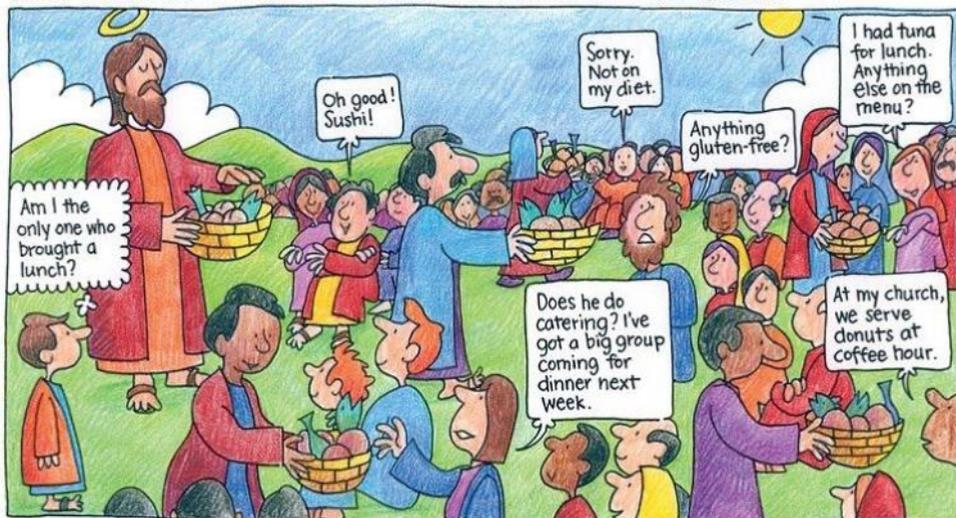
## Catering

Margaret Atkinson has generously agreed to take on the role of organizing the catering for “in-house” church events.....for example the recent bring-and-share lunch on Harvest Sunday. She will need our support and practical help.....I'm sure that we'll be glad to give it!

Thanks from us all, Margaret.

**Jean Mac**

CROWD REACTION TO THE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES: THE UNCUT VERSION.



## Travelling the Silk Road

What does 'the Silk Road' conjure up in your mind? An exotic caravan of

camels? That programme from telly with Joanna Lumley? I spent two weeks in October travelling part of the Silk Road by train, from Ashgabat in Turkmenistan, through Uzbekistan, to Almaty in Kazakhstan.

The term 'Silk Road' was coined in Victorian times by a German writer to describe the historic trade route between China and the Roman empire. It's hard to imagine how at the time Christ was living in Palestine, silks and

spices and much else was being traded all across Europe and Asia by land. It would take over 3 years to make one journey, but in practice that rarely happened. A parcel of silk would be traded many times as it moved from China westwards and ended up in a Roman toga. The perilous land trade route was replaced by sea when Vasco da Gama sailed round Africa to India in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Central Asia is bleak and desolate, flat and featureless, but bordered by mountain ranges. No wonder the wise men from the east followed a star to find where Jesus was born – travelling by day without the benefit of GPS and a satnav would be perilous. These are the lands where Islam spread rapidly from its birth in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and was then crushed by Genghis Khan in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. 100 years later Timur (aka Tamerlane) married a Genghis descendant and built his own empire – the Uzbeks regard him as a hero and there are statues everywhere but I think that is partly a reaction to the Soviets having taught that he was a murderous tyrant. The Soviets closed or demolished the ancient mosques and mausoleums, together with other places of worship. The whole area is an active earthquake zone so it is amazing that any historic buildings have survived the combined forces of man and nature. Registan Square and Gur-e-Amir in Samarkand are stunning.

Today these post-Soviet countries are creating new identities. They are officially Islamic, but only about 20% of people are practising. Most women wear traditional dress, and Turkmenistan has banned the wearing of any veils. Turkmenistan is rich in oil and gas, Uzbekistan is the second biggest producer of cotton in the world (but has a desperate problem finding water). The towns we saw are quite modern, with a determination to remove Soviet era buildings – and in Almaty we went down a street with Marks & Spencer, Monsoon and La Senza. Our guides were lovely people, and in Uzbekistan the ordinary people were just as interested in us as we were in them. At one village in the south the trainload of us (about 130 people from Europe, US and Australia) were entertained by local families in a garden, and I felt joy to be part of one great global family.

Politically Central Asia is still pretty bleak. In Turkmenistan our phones said 'welcome to Iran'. That village in south Uzbekistan was about 250 miles from Afghanistan. The mountains we drove into on the edge of Almaty come down the other side in China – where I will be next March to continue my travels on the Silk Road.

**Jane Humphreys**

# Christmas Wordsearch

h	k	n	h	t	h	f	a	m	i	l	y
s	t	a	b	l	e	n	e	b	d	h	m
g	p	z	u	c	j	h	g	s	a	n	a
e	m	a	n	g	e	r	u	y	v	b	r
y	v	r	c	l	u	i	e	r	i	r	y
w	o	e	h	e	n	s	s	i	d	o	v
b	j	t	r	i	r	t	t	a	j	o	p
v	e	h	r	y	p	b	a	u	o	m	b
b	s	i	u	h	o	m	e	x	s	s	e
f	u	l	i	v	i	n	g	d	e	q	a
q	s	e	m	p	i	r	e	w	p	s	n
v	i	s	i	t	o	r	s	s	h	n	u

baby

living

Nazareth

Quirinius

family

bed

Mary

Bethlehem

everyone

home

visitors

Augustus

space

Joseph

Empire

guest

born

David

room

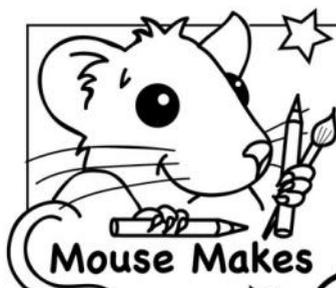
Jesus

manger

Syria

taxes

stable



## Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.



A picture to colour for Christmas



## Family and Community Work

By the time you read this article the Christmas Festivities will be well underway, or indeed coming to the end for another year. Hopefully the lost sheep we have hidden for our second Sheep Trail around Chelmsford will all be found. Christmas dinners will be consumed and presents graciously received. We now look forward with renewed faith to the New Year and, for some, new beginnings. At Christ Church preparations for Messy Church in 2019 will begin after a successful Christmas themed one at the end of December. Our next one is in the February half-term - see our website for up to date information.

January is a quiet month often due to the inclement weather. Its also a time of clearing and tidying and for some a difficult time, so now is a good time to remember those who are less able and find this time of year challenging. We have several groups that meet at Christ Church to support seniors, one being the Activity Group that meets on a Monday morning.

For those with young children it can also be a stressful time as we try to keep them amused. We run a friendly, welcoming Parent and Toddler group on Thursday afternoons during term-time. Even if these groups do not apply to you, you will be warmly welcomed at any of the varied activities during the week.

You can find out more about what happens for children and seniors at Christ Church on our website [www.christ-church-chelmsford.com](http://www.christ-church-chelmsford.com) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

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### **6 December: St Nicholas – patron saint of children**

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of

Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6<sup>th</sup> December as his day.

Since the 6<sup>th</sup> century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many people 'on the fringe', including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6<sup>th</sup> December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after a time his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishkinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

***from the Parish Pump***



In complete contrast to the March meeting in snowy and icy Ipswich, we basked in the warmth of Witham for the autumn meeting of Synod. It was probably just as well, as we had five guests from the Presbytery of Zimbabwe with which Eastern Synod is twinned. They spoke about the very difficult situation in their country, one year on from the deposition of Robert Mugabe, but said that prayer really makes a difference. The five represented contrasting churches, from the traditional style with a mixed congregation in Harare working through home groups (good for evangelism), to the rural church near the Zambian border thriving on evangelism through music and led by a ministerial couple who have moved out of their manse to allow it to be used for a clinic. I for one gave thanks that we don't need a security guard at the entrance to Christ Church to protect worshippers.

Alan Yates, immediate past General Assembly Moderator, shared his thoughts on how to support local churches. This was best described as an administrator's view (so chimed well with my approach) rather than a spiritual view. Membership of the URC has nearly halved since 2000 to around 50,000. At this rate by 2027 the average church will have 24 members, and the remaining ministers will each be responsible for 6 or 7 churches. Nobody will be able to cope with the admin, everyone will get frustrated, and we will be in a vicious circle of decline. Or perhaps we could simplify and centralise (not 'Londonise') the admin and focus on local missionary work. The denomination may not be viable in the long-term but we are likely to run out of human resource long before we run out of money. So we should dare to spend our money, and encourage pioneer ministry and Church Related Community Workers. We don't need 14 separate trusts/Synods, but we do need a mechanism for taking decisions close to local need.

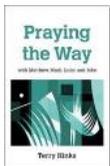
See Alan's presentation here:

[http://www.urch-eastern.org.uk/images/pdfs/synod\\_meetings\\_minutes/Visions\\_of\\_the\\_future\\_13-10-18\\_002.pdf](http://www.urch-eastern.org.uk/images/pdfs/synod_meetings_minutes/Visions_of_the_future_13-10-18_002.pdf)

Our Moderator, in his address, encouraged us to engage with Walking the Way using Holy Habits, and to think afresh about ancient practices which still work – pilgrimage, tithing, fasting and sabbath. The reports from the various Synod committees included news that there will be a review of how Eastern Synod works – I wonder if we will think about what Alan Yates said? It was a particular pleasure to be able to vote in favour of the resolution “Synod welcomes the formation of North Avenue Christian Centre Mission Project (Chelmsford) and offers its prayerful support.”

I am looking forward to not having to write a report about the next meeting of Synod because you will all have the opportunity to be there – it is at Christ Church on Saturday 16 March. Please put the date in your diary now.

**Jane Humphreys**



## **Book Review: Praying the Way**

The Rev Terry Hinks, a regular writer for the URC, and minister of Trinity Church High Wycombe and Cores End URC, has written a book of reflections entitled *Praying the Way with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*. This is published by the Bible Reading Fellowship and priced at £10.99. It is a collection of prayers and reflections, aimed at helping people enter into the stories and teaching of the four Gospels and to pray with them.

General Secretary, John Proctor writes: *'This mature collection of prayers draws on important texts from across the four gospels and from all around the themes of the Christian year. The primary tone is reflective, coming near to God in measured, thoughtful praise, and with deep confidence and hope. The language is both reverent and accessible, moving yet not complicated. These prayers would work very well in a church service, a small housegroup or in private devotion. This is a resource to return to, time and again, for one's own faith and in the service of others.'*

## **Margaret Wood**

13 January 1923 – 3 September 2018



Margaret, with her husband Stanley, joined Christ Church in 1969 having previously worshipped at Trinity Methodist Church. They were regular worshippers until Stanley died in 2009. Margaret continued in fellowship with us attending The Guild, Fellowship Teas, House Group and Book Club and made a valuable contribution to any discussions, showing friendship to many. When unable to any longer attend services at Christ Church she greatly valued the Communion Services held in her own home conducted by the Rev. John Cox.

At the Memorial Service and Thanksgiving for Margaret's life Father John Thackray, a long standing friend of Margaret, Stanley and their late son Brian, spoke of the first time he met Margaret and how impressed he was by her motherly smile and welcome. He spoke of their holidays and particular affection for the Lake District. Margaret and Stanley enjoyed visiting churches, particularly headstones, and Cathleen remembers being taken to see the stone of George Herbert several times.

Margaret, a one-time librarian, loved books, reading and writing and, for many years, wrote for the Peoples Friend. She also wrote articles for our Church Magazine under the pseudonym of Jack High. Stanley worked for some time at Marconi's as an archivist and now, as their home has been cleared, his work can be found in the Chelmsford Industrial Museum at Sandford Mill.

We remember Margaret with love and thanks to God for her life – she was a valued member of the Church and friend for many years.

Our sympathies are extended to Cathleen, Trevor and Elizabeth.

***Sylvia Hutchins***



Image from  
[footballblogspot.co.uk](http://footballblogspot.co.uk)

## Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society

The Society was founded on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.15 pm to 9.45 pm in room 1. Except when the afternoons are chosen for a few meetings in the middle of winter. There are no meetings in July and August.

Meetings are normally one or two speakers displaying parts of their collection. Speakers can range from our own members, members from other local philatelic societies and sometimes visiting national or international collectors.

A **programme of events is on the Notice Board outside Room 1**. So why not come along one evening to find what stamp collecting is all about – you will be assured of a warm welcome.

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### Poster found in a church in France (*translated*)

As you visit this church this Christmas, it is possible that you may hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile, so thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, please choose a quiet corner here, and talk to Him. If you want to see Him later, send Him a text while driving.

#### Church Meetings 2019 at 12:00 in the Church Hall



27 January  
17 March

28 April  
26 May  
28 July

13 October  
8 December



By the time you read this I hope Church Meeting will have agreed the budget for 2019. It's not easy to think through and make sense of the figures, I know.

The budget I presented plans to spend over £214,000 which will be at least £25,000 more than we receive next year on our regular activities. We feel relatively relaxed about that because we will use £21,000 from the Underhill legacy to reduce the deficit to £4622. The Underhill legacy is also paying for Dawn and all her activities as our Families and Community Worker. And the provision we have made for repairs and maintenance is very unlikely to be enough for what we want to do, particularly by way of refurbishing the Sanctuary. If we had no legacy money, but wanted to continue paying all our current staff and properly maintaining the building we would probably be looking at making a loss of over £60,000 in the year.

Don't panic! We have been here before. I was turning out old copies of Christ Church accounts recently. In 1978 the Church Secretary (someone called John Tyler) noted that a tidy-up of the Church Membership roll had come to a more realistic number of just over 500 Members – but the budget for 1979 expected that there would be a fall in income combined with a steep rise in spending to over £31,000, creating a deficit of £4125. The first accounts I produced as your Treasurer were for 2000 when we had a deficit of £15027 on expenditure of over £158,000.

As we go into 2019, Christ Church has just over 100 Members – 5 times fewer than 40 years ago. Both our income and expenditure are 7 times bigger than then. Obviously over the last 40 years we have found the funds to pay our way otherwise we would have closed long ago. We are so lucky that we have the Underhill legacy money to enable us to employ people to do things and try new activities as we explore what it means to be Christ Church now and in the coming years. It won't last forever (we have about £500,000 still not committed) but it does allow us to work and pray together with Paul towards being the church of the future.

**Jane Humphreys**



## CHES Homeless Update

In his report to the CHES AGM, held at Christ Church on 8 October, the Chairman; David Hodgkinson, spoke about the exciting day last June when the new Hub for Homeless Services was opened in New London Road (in the former Red Cross building) by the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, with the support of the Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Yvonne Spence.

David emphasised that CHES was entering a new phase of development and, within its 5 year plan, will meet the challenges of today's homeless through a closer engagement with other services, working towards and with appropriate resources, offering 24/7 availability for service users as well as developing ways to reach rough sleepers in providing a permanent place of safety.

During the year 2017/2018 51 homeless people used accommodation provided by CHES, 18 clients moved on in a positive way, slightly lower than the previous year, mainly due to an above average number of short stays by those not willing to engage with the support services on offer. Overall 10,539 bed nights were taken up and a further 849 bed nights to rough sleepers during the Winter Project. The Trustees are grateful to all who have supported CHES during the year, enabling CHES to manage the challenges of moving into a new home and operate successfully in a difficult financial climate.

For many years, we at Christ Church, have had a special collection for CHES during our Christmas Day Service. I hope that Church Meeting will again agree to having a collection this year and, in anticipation of that agreement, we will be asked to contribute by placing our gifts in an envelope, specially marked CHES. For those unable to be present at our Christmas Day service gifts can be placed in the service offertory bags between now and the 25th. Cheques should be made payable to Christ Church and the givers name should be written on the envelope if a gift-aided tax refund applies.

**John Tyler**



## My First Year is Over

I have really enjoyed my first year at university and I'm looking forward to the couple I have left; but let me take you back to the start of my year. In September 2017 my parents drove me to the University of Hertfordshire, where I was to study philosophy with journalism and religious studies.

They helped me move all my belongings into my room, which was luckily on the ground floor, as I had decided to take absolutely everything with me. I waved goodbye and realised I now had to fend for myself.

In the first week there were lots of activities offered and introductory meetings. This allowed me to bond with all my flat mates apart from one who rather kept to himself at the beginning but has now become one of my closest friends. It was in one of my first lectures that I met Tara; we were both late and so snuck in together. The lecture was three hours long, and me being timid, did not make a fuss when she fell asleep on me. We then found out we were both taking journalism and I believe this was a solid start to our friendship. We were also offered a free trip to Bletchley Park, the secret decoding facility in the Second World War. It was a lovely trip to start the year. I met two new people who are now the people that I would sit with in my lectures. The trip was really interesting as we got to see where the decoders worked during the war and it really made me appreciate them and how hard they worked without any recognition, as only recently has their work been publicised.

While at university I decided that I wanted to try new things so I chose to sign up and join the hockey team, a sport I have never played before. I was thrown in at the deep end as all the other people on the team had been playing for most of their lives. Everyone was very nice and helped me so much and I was playing matches almost immediately. I fell in love with it. Even now I still love it even though it cost me two teeth the day after my twentieth birthday. Hit in the face with a hockey ball, I had my retainer in and still two of my teeth came out, I split my lip and

fainted. I was rushed to hospital to have my teeth shoved back into my head.

I also learned how to play pool. Several of my flat mates were going and I was invited although I didn't know how to play. They decided to teach me and I'm pretty good now – it's just hard playing against engineers as they are very good at getting the angles right. Closer to the end of the year one of my basketball-crazy roommates offered to teach me how to play that game. He is really good and is training to be on the University basketball team. So off we headed, three of us. So, I'm not that good at playing, especially when I'm the only girl, but I did beat three boys at three pointers, one who is on the basketball team, another who is training to get on it and the last who has been 'shooting hoops' since he was a child. I know what you're thinking, but no, they did not let me win. You should have seen their faces when I did.

I went to university not really interested in journalism, but we had to choose another subject to study so I chose that and I really enjoyed it and did really well. Now I know that I want a career in journalism. It was a great year and I'm looking forward to the next couple and moving into my house. University really is an experience; I feel more independent and know that I will have made friends for life. But I did miss my mum and cat – honestly.

***Holly Clark (Pam Knott's granddaughter)***

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## **Christmas stamps**

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.' What denomination?' asked the clerk. 'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

## **And finally...**

Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

**2018 Family Panto**



**Saturday 1 December  
2.30pm  
in Christ Church Hall**

**Tickets: £8 per person  
Family ticket £30 for 4  
persons**

**Tickets available from 1 October**

**All enquiries to Veronica on 01245 264689**

**Deadline for November Christ Church News**

Items for the November Christ Church News should be sent to [editor@christchurchchelmsfordurc.org.uk](mailto:editor@christchurchchelmsfordurc.org.uk), with the subject line CC News or placed in the Editor's pigeon hole by **Sunday 13 January**

*Thank you*

**The theme for the February edition is  
Holy Habits: Service**

New contributors welcomed. Articles, poems, prayers, crosswords, word-searches and art work are all appreciated.

## **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The United Reformed Church is not a subsidised Church but depends for its financial support on the voluntary offerings of its members and adherents. Each member therefore is invited to make an honest self-assessment of money, time and service so that the church may be maintained and its many-sided work at home and overseas continues.

### **FREE WILL OFFERING SCHEME**

To help and encourage regular support, Christ Church operates an envelope scheme (F.W.O. Scheme) and the secretary will be pleased to give further details to anyone who is interested.

**F.W.O. Secretary   Mr Russ Gibson   01245 352191**

### **GIFT AID SCHEME**

The Church uses the Gift Aid Scheme to reclaim tax from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. This has the advantage that tax can be reclaimed on all giving including gifts to the Communion Fund, Harvest and Special Appeals. Details of the scheme may be obtained from either Gift Aid Secretary.

**Mrs Margaret Bell   01245 445012**

**Mr Ray Walls   01245 472254**

**Correspondence (but not money) for the F.W.O. and Gift Aid Secretaries may be left in their pigeonholes outside the Elders' Vestry.**

***CHRIST CHURCH URC ,CHELMSFORD***

***164 New London Road, Chelmsford. CM2 0AW***

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev Paul Stein</b>	01245 493377
<b>Family and Community Worker</b>	<b>Dawn Fazackerley</b>	07711 701652
<b>Church Office</b>		01245 354529
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>Sue Fleming</b>	07971 462649
<b>Organist &amp; Music Minister</b>	<b>Gareth Bennett</b>	01371 499956
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jane Humphreys</b>	01245 259590
<b>Bursar</b>	<b>Norman Sands</b>	01245-257894
<b>Safeguarding: Adults at Risk</b>	<b>Sylvia Hutchins</b>	01245 3539753
<b>Safeguarding: Children &amp; Young People</b>	<b>Anthony Camp</b>	01245 633980
<b>Membership Registrar</b>	<b>Christine Sands</b>	01245 257894
<b>Premises Manager</b>	<b>Richard Jones</b>	01245 354529

***GREAT BADDOW URC***

***High Street, Great Baddow. CM2 7HW***

<b>Anne Ketley</b>	01245 472282
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***HOWE GREEN URC***

***East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green. CM2 7TJ***

<b>Pam Knott</b>	01245 471691
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