

Christ Church Monthly News

...what's on and when, how to join in and what to pray for...



Worship & Prayer

Sunday morning services:

9.15am: Quakers Road

10.30am: Christ Church

Evening services:

21st Jan - Celtic, 6.30pm

5th/6th January - OCOD -24 hours of prayer -7pm Friday 5th to 7pm Saturday 6th January. Beginning with prayer and praise on zoom as usual. Hour-long slots can be booked in the usual way. The Mission Focus for January is Mission Direct.

In January we start a 4 week sermon series looking at the Book of Ruth. It is a story of faith in hard times. Naomi has lost everything; sons, husband and income and then famine, she has to leave her home in Bethlehem (The House of Bread). Yet through the loyalty and love of the 'outsider' Ruth and faithfulness of godly Boaz hope and joy return to her life. God is faithful and brings a new harvest in the life of Naomi and all those around her. Despite the challenges both locally, nationally and globally we look expectantly for God to bring a new harvest in His Church.

A massive thank you to everyone that has been involved in putting on extra services and events over Christmas. It has been wonderful to see so many people from the wider community visit the Church over this Christmas period. Thank you for all your hard work and extra time that you have given in serving to make these services happen; we have hosted many hundreds of people in church of all ages. We have retold the Christmas story and shared the good news of Jesus' saving love expressed in his birth and death. Let's keep praying that many would come forward to join Alpha. We have also blessed at least 37 families in the parish with CAP hampers. It has been a fantastic first Christmas at Christchurch. Thank you one and all.

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Nic Harris for a 6/8 week placement between January and March. Nic is a Curate at the Cathedral but is in need of some Parish experience. She will be leading, preaching and seeing how a parish Church functions. Please do make her feel welcomed and chat to her when you see her around and about.



Mission

Contact Paul

paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

Warm space cafe resumes on 4th January

Coming Up...

Alpha Course - Starting Monday 22nd January at 7.45pm in the Youth Hub. The Alpha Course provides a great opportunity to explore, discover and renew faith in a safe and welcoming environment. Do join us for the Introductory Supper on Monday 22nd January. 7.45pm in the Youth Hub. To book or find out more call Paul on 07939125375. Alpha will continue on Monday evenings up to Easter with food, video presentations and discussion in small groups.

Mothers Union meeting: Wed 3rd Jan 2.15 pm at the Parish Hall. Readings and Carols. All welcome.

Prayer Meeting for Schools - Tues 3rd Jan, 7pm at 81 Cleeve Hill.

Newcomers Lunch - Sun 4th Feb, 12.30pm at 81 Cleeve Hill. Please contact Ali/Philip Rowe.



CAP hampers

Thank you for your overwhelming generous donations of food, money and supermarket vouchers for families this Christmas. The response from those who have received them has made it clear how much they were appreciated.

Thank you too for those who gave up their time to put the hampers together or deliver them to their destination and to all the children for the beautiful Christmas cards they created. **Rosie, Sally and Mark**

Discipleship

Contact Anita

anita.dobson@christchurchdownend.com

Book on sale:

Our book, God's Story, Our Story, based on the 500 words for Lent reflections, is on sale at £7 at all services. Do buy a copy- good for presents! The book contains 40 encouraging reflections, based around different seasons of life and the church year. When you buy a copy, sign the list so we can keep track. Cash or card.

New Year's Resolutions:

If your new year's resolution is to draw closer to God this year or to dig deeper into prayer and the Bible, you might like to join a Life Group, or find out about any of our small groups. See Anita 07753233950 At the start of Lent next month we will also be launching a church- wide opportunity to go deeper with God: more news to follow.

Young People

Contact Diane

diane.paddon@christchurchdownend.com



Stay in touch with our Youth programme - Ignite and Elev8 - www.igniteyouth-christchurchdownend.co.uk



Children & Families

Contact Harriet

harriet.jolly@christchurchdownend.com

Save the date! Pancake party for Lent Saturday 17th Feb 10am - more details soon.

Tea and Toast continues on Tuesdays in term time, 3:15-4:30pm in the Parish Hall. You are welcome to come along for an after school snack and play.

Connected Children - we will be revisiting our memory verses in the new year. If you have a sheet please bring it along in January, or let Harriet know if you would like a new one.

Opportunities to Serve

Sound/Tech Team Volunteers - We are looking to recruit some more sound/tech team volunteers. Training will be provided. Please speak to Dan or Paul if you feel God's lead.

Pastoral

Contact Philip

philip.rowe@christchurchdownend.com

Malcolm Strickland Update: Joyce Strickland would like to let you all know that Malcolm is back home and doing well in his recovery. Joyce and the staff team, would like to thank everyone for their co-operation, care and support.

If you know of a pastoral need please contact carecoordinators@christchurchdownend.com or phone the Parish Office on 0117 9089867. We are volunteers from Christ Church offering care, spiritual support, a listening ear, praying, encouraging and Holy Communion at home. We are here to support. Please contact us. Philip Rowe.