

Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for April and May 2017

Easter Fun Day

Saturday 15th April, 11:00-2:00

St Marks Church,

WD24 5NQ

All welcome.

There will be games, crafts, egg hunt, and a BBQ



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday - 13th April

7.30pm Passover style celebration with Holy Communion and Supper at Christ Church (followed by) 9.00-10.00pm Prayer Vigil, ending with Compline at Christ Church.

(If you would like to come to this event and would like a meal, please sign up or contact the vicar, Duncan Campbell)

Good Friday - 14th April

10.00am Short service at the top end of the Pond (nr. Ricky Rd) then Walk of Witness to:

10.45am Presentation of the Easter story in the Intu centre.

2.00pm Good Friday at Christ Church.

Easter Sunday - 16th April

8.00am Communion service at Christ Church

9.30am Parish Communion service at St Mark's

11.00am Parish Communion service at Christ Church

Easter Monday - 6th April Pilgrimage to St Albans

Breakfast at Christ Church from 8.00am; leave for St Albans by 10.00am.

Coffee, Tea and Cakes



Our coffee mornings are normally at Christ Church from 10am to 12 noon on the first Saturday of every month.

The next Coffee, Tea and Cakes will be on **Saturday 1st April and Saturday 6th May.**

All Welcome.

Kwa Mkono Quiz

The Kwa Mkono Disabled Children's Trust supports the charitable work of the Kwa Mkono Polio Hostel in Tanzania by providing grants of equipment and funding so the hostel can offer rehabilitation, education and training to physically disabled young people, enabling them to live independently when they leave.



The next Kwa Mkono Quiz

Saturday 29th April 2017

7.00 for 7.30pm at Christ Church.

£8 a head to include "ploughman's" supper with tea or coffee in the interval. Please bring your own drinks.

To include raffle, sale table and an update on Kwa Mkono.

OVER 60's SPRING PARTY
SATURDAY 22ND APRIL – 4-8PM AT CHRIST CHURCH



Spring has sprung and so that means the annual Over 60's Spring Party is fast approaching. The date for this year is **Saturday 22nd April** and, as usual, the party starts at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and finishes by 8pm in the evening. The Brownies are busy making decorations to make the tables look beautiful, the entertainment has been booked and the party invitations have been dispatched. (Thank you to those of you who have helped with this task as it does save us a lot in postage).

Your Invitation:

We are eagerly waiting for the replies to the invitations to start flowing back in.

The **RSVP date is Sunday 9th April**.

To ensure that the party is successful we need plenty of people in order to create the right atmosphere and so please do not feel that you are too young to come. If you are over sixty, come to church regularly, or are on our electoral roll and don't receive a personal invitation, please consider this article as your invitation to attend the party. However, please remember to let the party committee know **by the 9th April**, so that they can ensure that there is enough delicious homemade trifle and other such goodies for you to eat!

If you know of anyone in our parish who does not normally get out or who has recently been bereaved and has not been sent an invitation, then please do let anybody on the committee know. Or, if you would feel happier coming to the party if you could bring a friend, then just have a word with us.

Remember that some of our guests may not know anyone else and would love to see a friendly face and have a chat. It is part of our Christian service to one another and to senior citizens in our neighbourhood.

Your Help:

As with previous parties, the party's success depends very much on the help of volunteers. The January/February Parish Information Sheet listed the help we need but below is a reminder:

a) Transporting Party Guests

We need volunteers to bring guests to the church hall by 4pm and to take them home again from approximately 7.50pm. If you can only manage one of the journeys, then that would be helpful too. **Jenny Sleeper** would be pleased to hear from you.

b) Raffle Prizes

These could be unwanted gifts, toiletries, stationery items, chocolates or food items with a long shelf life, etc. Remember, some of the guests will be gentlemen! Please either bring them on the day or hand in to the committee - either at Church or the Parish Office. If taking to the Parish Office, please contact Lynne in advance.

c) Party Food

Donations of either homemade or shop bought cakes, trifles, scones, etc., would be gratefully received by the party committee. **Moira Morgan** will be compiling a list of food items, so that she can ensure that there is a good assortment of food and that there is not too much wastage. Please look out for this list, which will be available in both Christ Church and St Mark's Church very soon (a notification will appear on the weekly notice sheet).

Cakes can be brought to the church halls on the day of the party between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. However, if this is not convenient, the church will be open between 7.30pm and 8.45pm the night before, when choir practice takes place. Your donation can be left on one of the tables at the back of Christ Church. If freshly baked, please ensure that the cakes are covered with cling film or foil.

d) Help on the Day

Help on the day is always appreciated but if you could let us know in advance, that would be much appreciated. Tasks could include taking and labelling the guest's coats, escorting them to a table, making and serving cups of teas, washing and wiping up, serving the guests food and best of all ensuring that everybody has a good time and is relaxed.

If you are able to help in any way, please speak to one of the party committee members below or email them:

Moira Morgan Tel: 01923 232618
Lynne Mallows Tel: 01923 681972 Email: ccwatford@btinternet.com
Jenny Sleeper Tel: 01923 236847 Email: mickandjenny.sleeper@orange.net
Chris Woodward Tel: 01923 230592 Email: thewoodwardsuk@me.com
Bob Mackie Tel: 07841 366279 Email: bobmackie85@yahoo.co.uk

*The party committee have a final preparation meeting on **Tuesday 11th April** and thus it would be helpful if you could **RSVP or let them know if you can help by Sunday 9th April***

The logo for The Children's Society, featuring the text "The Children's Society" in a serif font, with "The" in a smaller size above "Children's", which is above "Society".

Your change will bring change to the most vulnerable young people this year. We have received this letter from The Children's Society:

It's amazing that so many people across the country have taken one of The Children's Society's collection boxes into their home. Every year over £1.6m in loose change is gathered by a multitude of almost 120,000 collectors. Every single one of those collected pennies goes towards changing the lives of our country's most vulnerable young people.

Thanks to your faithful commitment, last year over 18,000 children's lives were improved by our frontline services. Changing these children's lives has only been possible thanks to your remarkable support.

One of the young people we helped was Sophie, whose life has been transformed by a service run by The Children's Society that works with young runaways in the North West. I want to share her story now so you can see what a difference your Box Network is making.

Sophie's parents separated when she was four, and things were very difficult at home. She started going missing just after her 16th Birthday and rarely went to school. Some nights she slept in a multi-storey car park with a gang of teenagers she met on the streets. She began to steal and beg for money in shop doorways, and endured horrendous conditions during the winter months. It wasn't long before she became ill with anxiety, cold and flu.

'I did see scary things when I was sleeping rough,' Sophie reflects. 'There were times when I thought, "This is a very, very dangerous situation," but we just carried on because there was no adult to tell us it wasn't right.'

One of her most harrowing moments came when Sophie made a new 'friend'; a man who invited her to stay. It wasn't until the police turned up at his flat and arrested him that she found out he was on bail for abusing women. Sophie had a narrow escape, and the man has since been jailed for his previous crimes.

Sophie was quickly referred to The Children's Society and has built an excellent relationship with Gemma, her project worker. Gemma has taught Sophie about grooming and how to stay safe, and has been available to provide a listening ear and unconditional support when Sophie needs it most.

'Gemma and The Children's Society have been fantastic,' Sophie says. 'When you're in that kind of situation, you trick yourself into believing everything is going to be okay. I was extremely lucky to find The Children's Society at the time I did. I hate to think of it, but if I hadn't I'd be dead. I was just on the brink of becoming someone who no one could have saved me from.'

It's a privilege to be able to bring such transformation to our country's most vulnerable young people. But it's only thanks to the incredible support of people like you that children like Sophie can face a safer future.

Thank you again for making our work possible. Your spare change really is bringing lasting change to young lives.

With warm wishes,

Emily Petty

Regional Fundraising Director

PS If you become a Box Holder in the future, and you are a tax payer, please fill out the Gift Aid declaration so that The Children's Society can raise more money. Thank you.

DATES IN APRIL 2017

1st Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church</i>
2nd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
2nd Sun 10.30am	<i>Joint Service and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St Mark's, with the Fairtrade stall. All Welcome</i>
3rd Mon 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
4th Tues 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
5th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
5th Wed 11.00am	<i>Morning worship at Courtland Lodge</i>
5th Wed 12.45pm	<i>Start! Session 6 - Introduction to the Christian faith at St Mark's, with bread, cheese, soup lunch</i>
6th Thur 8.00pm	<i>Start! Session 6- Introduction to the Christian faith at Christ Church, with coffee and cake</i>
8th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
9th Sun	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
9th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
9th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
9th Sun 6.30pm	<i>Evening Worship at St Mark's</i>
11th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies at Christ Church: making Easter baskets using small flowers and small-leaved foliage</i>
12th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
13th Thur	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
13th Thur 7.30pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Passover style Meal with Communion at Christ Church. (Children very welcome)</i>
13th Thur 9.00pm	<i>Prayer vigil at Christ Church</i>
13th Thur 10.00pm	<i>Compline at Christ Church</i>
14th Fri	<i>Good Friday</i>
14th Fri 10.00am	<i>Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at the pond. Organised by Churches Together, for Christians Across Watford</i>
14th Fri 2.00pm	<i>Good Friday at Christ Church</i>
15th Sat 9.30am	<i>Church decoration for Easter. Help needed please</i>
15th Sat 11.00am-2.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Easter Fun Day at St Mark's, with games, crafts, BBQ and egg hunt</i>
16th Sun	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
16th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
16th Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
16th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
16th Sun 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
17th Mon 8.00-9.30am	<i>Continental-style breakfast before the Pilgrimage to St Albans. Details to follow</i>
18th Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
18th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership</i>
19th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
21st Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
22nd Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>

22nd Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>	<u>APRIL contd.</u>
22nd Sat 4.00-8.00pm	<i>Over 60s Spring Party at Christ Church</i>	
23rd Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>	
23rd Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>	
23rd Sun 3.00pm	<i>St George's Day Scout Service at Christ Church</i>	
23rd Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at St Mark's (not Christ Church)</i>	
24th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>	
25th Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>	
26th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>	
28th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>	
29th Sat 7.00 for 7.30pm	<i>Kwa Mkono Quiz at Christ Church. £8 a head to include "ploughman's" supper with tea or coffee in the interval. Please bring your own drinks. To include raffle, sale table and update on Kwa Mkono</i>	
30th Sun 10.30am	<i>Joint Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>	

Lift off! Community Garden



It's spring and work begins again in the Garden.

Last year was a fantastic first year for this project. The Garden developed slowly throughout the year and was better than any of us could have expected.

We opened the garden to families on alternate Friday evenings and every Saturday afternoon until the end of August. We were able to achieve so many things, including introducing lots of children and their families to gardening, growing many edible crops, and showing the children how to harvest

prepare and cook their produce.

This year we have been planning for it to get even better and more established.

We have 2 new raised beds coming in April so even more crops and will have the 'Mud Pie' garden up and running for children to go their own way, making mud pies or whatever their fancy takes in their own play area of the garden. We will also have blackberries this year as our patch has now established itself

again and more fruit bushes will be arriving so fruit will be harvested this year too. Our perennial and herb garden has also doubled in size and is presently full in bloom with daffodils and it won't be long before the tulips flower too.

The children and families have already been working with us on Friday evenings to sow seeds so we have plants ready to go in the raised beds soon. We will then be out in the garden on Friday evenings after Easter and at the weekends in order to enjoy and work with the children and families there once more. Please pop in sometimes and see what we are up to and maybe even

join in if you feel like it, there are always refreshments when we are there. Look out for more details in weekly sheets and on our Lift Off! website.



Garden Party



Saturday 20th May
2:00-4pm
St Marks Church,
WD24 5NQ
All welcome.

Our way of saying thank you for supporting Lift Off! There will be a BBQ, and activities.

ADVANCE NOTICE

'JOIN US FOR A CUPPA' WILL BE RETURNING



at ST MARK'S CHURCH

Every Saturday during the Summer
From 2pm-4pm. An opportunity to meet new and existing friends for a catch up. All Welcome



Gather Round... Ladies visit Watford & District Synagogue

On March 14th Gather Round Ladies paid a visit to our local Synagogue; we were very warmly welcomed by the Rabbi, Ephraim Levine, who has been the part-time Rabbi at the synagogue for longer than anyone else in their history!



He showed us into the beautifully light room they use for their services: after a fire in the living quarters upstairs in the 1990s it was rebuilt in a light and airy style. One of the first things you notice about the room are the doors behind which the scrolls of the Jewish holy books, the Talmud, are kept; on each side are the first ten letters of the Hebrew alphabet, which are also used as numbers and they are there to remind the worshippers of the 10 Commandments. You also notice the beautiful windows, depicting stories we know well from the Old Testament.

We were then taken through a potted history of Judaism and synagogue customs, how events are celebrated in the Jewish religion and the very fun sounding parties that go with them. Rabbi Ephraim was delighted to have questions and we certainly obliged: everything from asking about women's roles in Judaism to the role of the bells on the holder of the scrolls - perhaps because they look good or maybe to wake people up after a sermon! It was fascinating to see where our traditions are similar and different.



At the end we were able to see one of the Talmud scrolls partially unrolled and the beautiful handwritten calligraphy inside which is in a formal Hebrew script that doesn't note any of the vowels, which must make reading from it difficult but rewarding.

We had a fascinating visit and we finished off with a few snaps of us all, some of

which appear here and the others will appear in the Synagogue's newsletter.



Lift Off! Holiday Club Dates



9:30am-2:30pm

St Andrews Church or St Marks Church

For children 5-11 years old.

3rd and 4th April

30th and 31st May

25th and 26th July or

22nd and 23rd Aug

23rd and 24th October

For more info and to book,
email clairelocke@liftoff.org.uk

Holiday Clubs run during each of the school holidays.

A typical holiday club day consists of songs, crafts, games and bible stories based themes.

All holiday clubs are for children aged 5-11 years old and run between 9:30 till 2:30.

Children will need a packed lunch.

DATES FOR MAY 2017

2nd Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
3rd Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
3rd Wed 11.00am	<i>Morning worship at Courtland Lodge</i>
3rd Wed 7.30pm	<i>PCC Meeting at Christ Church</i>
6th Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church</i>
7th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
7th Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word and Communion at St Mark's</i>
7th Sun 10.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
7th Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word and Baptism at Christ Church</i>
7th Sun 4.00pm	<i>Afternoon worship in Hollytree House Lounge</i>
8th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
9th Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
9th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies at Christ Church</i>
10th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
12th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
13th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
14th Sun	<i>Christian Aid Breakfasts at both churches</i>
14th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
14th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
14th Sun 6.30pm	<i>Evening Worship at St Mark's</i>
14th Sun 8.00pm	<i>Churches Together in North Watford and Garston Prayer Meeting at Christ Church. All welcome</i>
15th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
16th Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
16th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Games Afternoon</i>
17th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
19th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
20th Sat 2.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Garden Party at Christ Church Vicarage, with BBQ</i>
21st Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast</i>
21st Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
21st Sun 11.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
21st Sun 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
21st Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
22nd Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
23rd Tues 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
24th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
26th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
27th Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
27th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
28th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
28th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion and baptism at Christ Church</i>
30th Tues 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
31st Wed 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
31st Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>

CHRIST CHURCH & ST MARK'S, WATFORD MISSION STATEMENT

WE ARE people who are drawn together by our Christian belief and our response to God.

WE BELIEVE that God reveals himself to us in many ways as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that people can live in a loving relationship with God and with each other in Christ.

WE AIM to follow Christ's teaching and example, living a full life in every community in which we are involved, sharing our faith with others through example, worship and service.

We are a Fairtrade parish.

We use only fairly traded tea and coffee at our church events.

Fairtrade stalls are held after the main morning services:

at St Mark's on the 1st Sunday in the month and

at Christ Church on the 3rd Sunday in the month.



DIGITAL PARISH INFORMATION SHEET

The full colour version of the current Information Sheet will soon be available from our website: www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk, or contact the office to receive a copy by email.

NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Information Sheet will be published at the end of May, to cover all events in June and July.

If you have any dates or information for inclusion, please send them to the Parish Office.

Send in your articles, dates or information either:

In written format and put through the Parish Office letter box by 18th May, or

Via email to ccwatford@btinternet.com, or

Simply telephone Lynne on **01923 681972** to discuss options.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

Parish Office – Lynne Mallows, St Mark's Church, Leggatts Way, Watford, Herts. WD24 5NQ
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Vicar:

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Email: vicarccwatford@gmail.com

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Mr Keith Cheyney,
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Church Warden:

Mr Paul Pratchett email: wjpp@ppratchett.freemove.co.uk

Children's and Young Families' Outreach Worker (for our parish and St Andrew's)

Claire Locke Email: clairelocke@ltoff.org.uk

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/cma.outreach

Lift Off! website ltoff.org.uk