

Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for April and May 2019



Charity Registration Number 1130429



10th ANNIVERSARY QUIZ NIGHT

N. B.
Postponed to
Saturday
22nd June

£9 per person . Tables of 8

Food included . BYO Drinks

Christ Church, St Albans Rd,
Watford

Great fun . Raffle . Charity Sale Table

Support the charitable work of the Kwa Mkono Polio Hostel in Tanzania

Book via kwamkono@gmail.com or 01494 258648

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 6th April
Saturday 4th May.
All Welcome.

Open PCC Meeting

7th May 7.30 pm at Christ Church

Speaker: Margaret Pritchard Houston,
Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler.

Topic: The admission of baptised children
to Holy Communion.

Everyone is welcome.

Watford Foodbank at Christ Church



We're in our 7th year of operating as a distribution centre for the Watford Foodbank supporting those in our community in crisis and most in need.



As well as distributing packages to those in need the team of Rachel Chappell, Mavis Garrett, Steve O'Kelly, Steve Anderson, Moira Morgan and David Miller

provide a hot drink and chance for a chat for anybody who drops in to see us.

Over the last year we have seen a 50% increase in people coming to see us, as the supplies from the foodbank help them when they are struggling to make ends meet. Over the weeks numbers vary, but we are always thankful when no one needs our help.

The main reasons people come remain due to low income and benefits changes. This year's increase is primarily due to benefit delays, caused by the transfers over to Universal Credit.

We see people from all sorts of walk of life and family groups, from single men and women to big families with 4 or 5 children. From the unemployed, those on zero hours contracts or self employed, in seasonal or similar work, right up to those who have become unemployed due illness, a partner leaving and needing to cover childcare, or having to leave work to care for sick partner or relative. Some are receiving benefits and some not, there are those with debts or other difficult circumstances.

Benefits stop for many people and need reassessing due to a change in employment or other reasons. As all payments are withdrawn while their benefits are recalculated, you can go up to 6 weeks without any income, a long time for most people without savings to cope. This is a situation many people find themselves in when they are transferred over to Universal Credit. So we often see those people for a good couple of months whilst they wait and then catch up on repaying debts etc they may have incurred in that time. Many other people who visit us also come regularly for a period of time as their circumstances take a while to get them back on their feet and in control once again.

Watford Foodbank charity as a whole provided food packages to 5,912 individuals in Watford over the past year, 2,265 of which were children. This is over 1,500 more than 2017 and sadly triple the increase of the previous year. It also means that we are seeing over a 1,000 people a month having to reach out and use the foodbank support. It was a difficult year with such a big increase in people, as the charity only operates on donations. As a result the main warehouse at Imperial Way started opening on Saturdays, 10am -1pm, in order to that it was able to receive more donations and offer collections.



As a congregation we have donated around 1,000kg of food over the last year. Please, Keep Your Amazing Giving Going; boxes remain at the back of our churches for your donations. Also make sure all your supplies are in date, as we are unable to pass on out of date food. Advice on what the best things to donate are on posters on church notice boards and in the donation boxes, as well as available on the Watford Foodbank website; <https://watford.foodbank.org.uk/>. Financial donations are also welcome, for

the times when the main distribution warehouse is short of food and it has to buy food to keep its the shelves stocked.

If you would like to know any more or be involved in this work, either with us at Christ Church or at the main warehouse, in Imperial Way, or for any more information please call Rachel on 01923 463520 or 07903 856016.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

The total this year for the boxes kept in your homes is £717.79. This is a little up on last year but of course, I don't know how much or how many direct debits there are which will make a lot more revenue donated.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Society and if anybody would like a box or direct debit form please ask Mary Cheyney at St Mark's or me, Margaret Andrews at Christ Church. The money we collect helps to change young lives every day.

DATES IN APRIL 2018

1st Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
2nd Tue 9.30-11.30am	<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>
5th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
6th Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church - including Book Swap</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 9.30-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
9th Tue 9.30-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
9th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church hall: knitting and crochet for Easter, using double knitting and 3.5mm crochet hook or size 8 (4mm) needles. Also: "What does Lent mean to us?"</i>
10th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
13th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast</i>
14th Sun 9.30am	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
14th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
14th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
16th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: a talk on "By Train to Watford"</i>
17th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
18th Thur	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
18th Thur 7.30pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Passover style Meal with Communion at Christ Church (Children very welcome)</i>
18th Thur 9.00pm	<i>Prayer Vigil following the meal, ending with Compline</i>
19th Fri	<i>Good Friday</i>
19th Fri 10.0am	<i>Good Friday Walk of Witness at the Pond (near Rickmansworth Rd) to walk through the town for an Easter presentation in the shopping centre</i>
19th Fri 2.00pm	<i>Good Friday at Christ Church</i>
20th Sat 9.30am	<i>Church decoration for Easter. Help needed please</i>
20th Sat 10.00-2.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Garden Club</i>
21st Sun	<i>Easter Day</i>
21st Sun 9.30am	<i>Holy Communion at St Mark's</i>
21st Sun 11.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
21st Sun 12.20pm	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
21st Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
23rd Tue 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>
26th Fri	<i>Scouts' rehearsal at Christ Church</i>
27th Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
27th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! 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 at Christ Church</i>
28th Sun 3.00pm	<i>Scouts' St George's Day service at Christ Church</i>
29th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
30th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>



HOT NEWS:

Buy House/Contents Insurance & benefit your Church! Offer extended to end of December 2019.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office (EIO) is offering £130 to the Church for each House/Contents Insurance policy purchased by any member of the congregation.

The premiums quoted are very reasonable. So if your house/contents policy is up for renewal, please try EIO for a quote (their website is www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130) and nominate Christ Church Watford to receive their donation of £130. You don't have to accept their quote but you do have to take out a policy to claim the £130.

Give them a try – please. Ray Andrews

Another Date for your Diary

Monday 17th June 2019

at 7:30pm in Christ Church

Police Choir Concert (for Christian Aid)
with cheese and wine

Introducing ...

Caitlyn Annie Locke

Born 22.03.19 at 8.05am

and weighed in at 7lb 6oz.

She is absolutely adorable.

Please do share with everyone at the churches.

Love Claire and Jon

(Claire is our Lift Off!
Families Outreach Worker)



Gather Ladies Round

Gather Round...Ladies learn about the Sikh religion

In February Gather Round Ladies were glad to welcome a speaker who taught us many things about Sikhism. One of the first things we learnt is that Sikhs don't like that Anglicisation: they are Sikhi- which means learner or disciple. Here are some of the other things we discovered:

The religion was founded in the 15th Century and believes that no religion has a monopoly on Absolute Truth: all are inspired by God, we are all equal in the eyes of God- so has no segregations by caste, race or gender- and takes wise words and teachings from various world faiths including 18 books of the Torah, Hindu scripture and the Koran. They do not aim to convert people from any other religion if they are pious and keep the tenets of their faith.

We learnt about the history and development of the religion, the 11 Gurus- the first 10 being human and the eleventh being their holy scripture the "Guru Granth Sahib"- how they fought against Moghul emperors when they forced conversions and harmed the poor and lower caste people of India and how this created the Khalsa Uniform for devout Sikhs of either gender, the five Ks:

Kesh- uncut and untrimmed hair and a turban to cover the head- that they are made by God and should stay the way that they were created, the turban also symbolises self-respect, courage and piety.

Kangha- a wooden comb worn in the hair- to remind them there is nothing divine about being unhygienic!

Kara- a metal bangle- to remind them that God is unending

Kachera- short-like tied undergarments- to represent purity and chastity

Kirpan- small dagger - Its use is only allowed in the act of self-defence and the protection of others. It stands for bravery and protecting the weak and innocent even if it puts yourself at risk.

We also learnt about the Sikh place of assembly and worship- the Gurdwara. Everybody is equal and is seated together on the same level to worship and to eat the Langar- the free food provided to all worshippers and visitors by volunteers from the community: only the Holy Book the Guru Granth Sahib is placed on a higher level throne, the takhat.

It really was a fascinating and informative evening.

Our next meeting will be a creative one- knitting or crocheting Easter baskets using double knitting wool and a 3.5mm crochet hook or size 8 (4mm) needles. We will also discuss "What does Lent mean to you?" All ladies are welcome.

DATES IN MAY 2019

1st Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
1st Wed 11.00am	<i>Morning Worship at Courtland Lodge</i>
3rd Fri 4:30-6:00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
4th Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church - including Book Swap</i>
5th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
5th Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word with Holy Communion at St Mark's</i>
5th Sun 10.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
5th Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word at Christ Church</i>
5th Sun 4.00pm	<i>Afternoon Worship in Hollytree House Lounge</i>
7th Tue 9:30-11:00am	<i>Lift Off! Toddlers at St Mark's</i>
7th Tue 7:30pm	<i>Open PCC Meeting at Christ Church. Speaker: Margaret Pritchard Houston, Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler. Topic: The admission of baptised children to Holy Communion. All welcome</i>
8th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
10th Fri 4:30-6:00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
11th Sat 9:30-11:00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
12th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
12th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
13th Mon 3:45-4:45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
14th Tue 9:30-11:00am	<i>Lift Off! Toddlers at St Mark's</i>
14th Tue 7.30pm	<i>Deanery Synod meeting at Christ Church</i>
14th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church hall</i>
15th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
17th Fri 4:30-6:00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
18th Sat 10:00-2:00pm	<i>Lift Off! Gardening Club at the Christ Church Vicarage</i>
18th Sat	<i>Kwa Mkono 10th Anniversary Quiz Night at Christ Church. POSTPONED TILL 22nd JUNE 2019</i>
19th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast</i>
19th Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
19th Sun 11.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
19th Sun 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
19th Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
20th Mon 3:45-4:45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
21st Tue 9:30-11:00am	<i>Lift Off! Toddlers at St Mark's</i>
21st Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Fun and Games</i>
22nd Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
24th Fri 4:30-6:00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
25th Sat 9:30-11:00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
26th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
26th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
28th Tue 9:30-2:30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
29th Wed 9:30-2:30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrew's</i>
29th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
30th Thur	<i>Churches Together Ascension Day Service</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.

THE NEXT EDITION

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

If you have any articles, dates or information for inclusion, please send them to the Parish Office via email to ccwatford@btinternet.com by 16th May.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

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Lift Off! website liftoff.org.uk