

Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for December 2017

**Wishing You All a Joyous Christmas
and a Blessed New Year**

Christmas Services

Sunday 3rd December

10.30am Joint Christingle Service at St Mark's

Sunday 17th December

9.30am Communion Service with Carols at St Mark's

6.30pm Annual Carol Service at Christ Church

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Christ Church (*Informal worship with craft and opportunities to create the crib display for Christmas Day*)

11.30pm Communion Service at Christ Church

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Morning Service at St Mark's

11.00am Parish Communion at Christ Church



Advent Study Course

Come join us for our **Advent Study Course at St Mark's**
Tuesdays 28th November, 5th, 12th & 19th December
at 12 o'clock until approx. 1.30pm.

No need to book, just come along.
Light refreshments and study with a bible advent theme.



Lift Off! Christmas

Lift Off! clubs will be having fun
and celebrating Christmas on:-

Messy Breakfast - Saturday 9th December

Toddler's Group - Tuesday 5th December

Ignite - Friday 8th December

Everyone is welcome to join in.



Alpha Course at Christ Church

Starting **Wednesday January 24th at 7 pm - 9 pm**

for eight Wednesday evenings plus a Saturday.

Hot meal (including vegetarian option), a speaker or a short DVD & time to talk.

Please call 07806602093 or email vicarccwatford@gmail.com

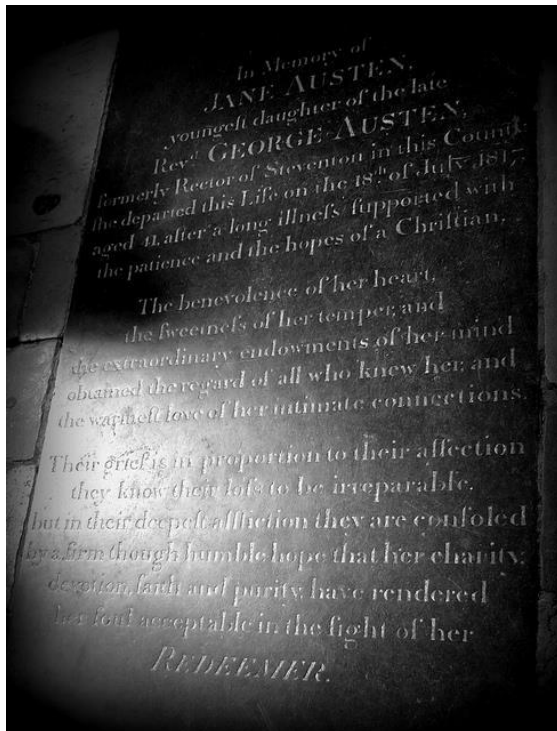
for further information.

Taking inspiration from Jane Austen's Christian faith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND-THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

Following her appearance on the new £10 note and the 200th anniversary of her death in Winchester, Matthew Salisbury, National Liturgy and Worship Adviser, reflects on the faith that sustained Jane Austen.

We may know from her novels Jane Austen's witty and perceptive commentary on society, including some gentle satire of the clergy. What is less well known is that she had a strong and serious Christian faith, which has been the subject of a new book by Paula Hollingsworth, *The Spirituality of Jane Austen*, and the inspiration behind a festival of events held this year at Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austen is buried, which featured talks, tours, and services to celebrate her life. Austen's gravestone, in the north aisle of the Cathedral nave, notes that she died after a long illness "supported by the patience and the hopes of a Christian."



As an Anglican—and daughter of a clergyman—in the early nineteenth century, Jane Austen was familiar with the poetry and prose of the Book of Common Prayer through attendance at church services, but she also developed personal habits of prayer. We know something about the way Jane might have prayed and the language she used, for she wrote several prayers which were probably recited in the family home before bed. One includes the passage: "Teach us almighty Father, [...] that we may feel the importance of every day, and every hour as it passes, and earnestly strive to make a better use of what thy goodness may yet bestow on us, than we have done of the time past."

Jane's short life, disrupted at the end by serious illness, adds to the poignancy of this prayer. In our own times, as we begin to see her face around us, perhaps we might bring this aspiration to mind, and consider our own lives in this light.

The Canon Jessica Martin, of Ely Cathedral, has written a prayer inspired by Jane Austen's own devotions.

Almighty Father, whose servant Jane Austen asked for grace so to understand the workings of the heart as to be free of self-deceit through either pride or vanity and that our sense of our many blessings might not be lessened by either discontent or indifference: Grant us the honesty to bring to your mercy our own failures of charity, and quicken us with thankfulness for your redeeming

love, brought to all the world through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew Salisbury is the Church of England's National Liturgy and Worship Adviser and member of the Liturgical Commission.

Photo of Jane Austen's gravestone by Henry Burrows.



Watford Foodbank at Christ Church



We continue to open every Thursday 10am to 1pm as a distribution centre for the Watford Foodbank service. As well as distributing packages to those in need every week, the team also provides a hot drink and chance for a chat for anybody passing.

Still we have even more families struggling to make ends meet and are seeing an increased number coming to us as a result of the centre operating from the Watford Housing Trust offices in Clarendon Road, moving in the summer to the Wellspring Church in Lower High Street

which is further away for those living this side of town.

Over 90% of the food distributed by Watford's is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food. Harvest festivals around the town donated food towards the charity as did we and they are overwhelmed by your continued support.

At present they are urgently needing donations of

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ mashed potato | ✓ pasta or curry sauce |
| ✓ tinned potatoes | ✓ small jars of coffee |
| ✓ tinned tomatoes, sweet corn, | ✓ individual sponge pudding |
| peas, carrots | |

Stocks are also beginning to go low on

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ✓ long life Milk | ✓ tinned fruit |
| ✓ Cartons of juice | ✓ Sugar small packets |
| ✓ jam/peanut butter | ✓ tinned meat or fish |
| ✓ tinned rice pudding | |
| ✓ small packets of tea | |

Please no pasta, rice or breakfast cereal - they are inundated with these at the moment.

Carrier bags are also needed. As a food bank when we give out emergency supplies of food we don't ask our recipients if they have their own bags as this of course is an extra cost for them when they do buy something! So next time you have any carrier bags spare please think of us and donate them rather than bin them.

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.

You are all more than welcome to pop in one Thursday and see us.





Kwa Mkono News - October 2017

We are pleased that the testing of the bore hole went well, there is a large amount of good quality drinking water and we hope to be able to use the tractor and trailer to collect it for the centre and hospital while we investigate the possibility

of putting a pipeline up the hill.

The children have returned from their holidays and are all working hard for the end of year exams which they have to pass before they can move up to the next class. There are 4 boy and 2 girls in the top class at primary school so will be moving to secondary school at the beginning of the next school year in January. If any of them are in the top10 of the class we will allow them to sit the en-trance exam for Hegongo secondary school, the private school run by the church, and if they pass we find a sponsor to pay for them as the teaching is much better and the classes are smaller than in the local secondary school. The main rains this year were better than they have been for the last few years so the Centre has been able to use the harvested water for most of the year which was useful as the main supplying the village has been damaged and turned off until it could be repaired. We hope that when all the harvest is gathered it will be better than last year. So far they have only harvested the corn and yield was poor but only a small area was planted because of starting crop rotation and the other divided areas have still to harvest pigeon peas and cassava. If the short rains come at the end of the month the Centre can plant again and harvest before the rains in March/April.



Children are looking at the cupboards or the dormitoriess

Our thanks to Polio Children who are funding the building of 2 new dormitories for 10 boys and 10 girls. The foundations have been started and we hope to have them completed in January so the new children can start school at the beginning of the school year.

Kwamkono Disabled Children's Trust



Calendar 2018

The 2018 calendars are now available with 12 pictures of the children and space for your daily notes and appointments.

The cost is £7.00 plus £1.40 post and packing.

To order calendars please send a cheque and name and postal information to:

Kwa Mkono Disabled Children's Trust
36 Beel Close, Little Chalfont, Bucks. HP7 9NS
Phone 01494 258648

Our Annual Memorial Service was held in October at Christ Church, St Albans Road.



CONGRATULATIONS
to James and Sarah Cole on the
birth of Luke on August 11th,
a brother to Georgia





HOSTS NEEDED!!

Would you like to earn
some extra income?

Do you have a spare room?¶

Can you provide a welcoming stay to
an international student during some
weekends or half term holidays?¶

¶

CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL LORRAINE¶

07713 179397¶

COMPASSCE2@YAHOO.CO.UK¶

Big Thank You

from Polly

Thank you everyone who contributed to
Shirley's Scarves sale at the September Sale
which raised £72.00 for Christ Church.

Also thank you for the money raised for the
Women's Centre Plus, who received just
over £64.00 towards their invaluable work.
Please be aware of ongoing cheap courses
which take place there in Market Street,
including IT, Tablets, Sewing and work
related skills, development and help, for
all people.

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 one will be on

Saturday

2nd December.

**There will not be one in
January.**

All Welcome.



September Fayre Success



soaps, cards, pictures,
children's sand art,
Christmas decorations,
scarves and beaded
bookmarks.

Everyone really en-
joyed the shopping as
well as all the refresh-
ments.

This Lift Off! Gift and
Craft Fair fundraiser
was a great success,
which attracted a wide
range of stalls selling
fabulous handmade
creations and gifts in-
cluding jewellery,
bags, handmade



£360 was raised
for our Lift Off!
Children's and
Families Outreach
Project.



DATES IN DECEMBER 2017

1st Fri 4.30-6pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Marks</i>
2nd Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church</i>
3rd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
3rd Sun 10.30am	<i>Christingle Service (Joint Service for the Parish) at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 11.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 4.00pm	<i>Afternoon worship in Hollytree House Lounge</i>
4th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Marks</i>
5th Tues 9.30-11am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Marks</i>
5th Tues 12.00noon-1.30pm	<i>Advent Study Course at St Mark's Light refreshments and study with a bible advent theme. No need to book, just come along</i>
6th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
6th Wed 11.00am	<i>Morning worship at Courtland Lodge</i>
8th Fri 4.30-6pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Marks</i>
9th Sat 9.30-11am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Marks</i>
10th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
10th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion and Sunday School at Christ Church</i>
10th Sun 6.30pm	<i>Evening Worship at St Mark's</i>
11th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Marks</i>
12th Tues 9.30-11am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Marks</i>
12th Tues 12.00noon-1.30pm	<i>Advent Study Course at St Mark's Light refreshments and study with a bible advent theme. No need to book, just come along</i>
12th Tue 8.00pm	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies - "how to protect yourself from fraud"</i>
13th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
15th Fri 4.30-6pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Marks</i>
17th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast</i>
17th Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
17th Sun 11.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
17th Sun 12.00am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
17th Sun 6.30pm	<i>Carol Service at Christ Church</i>
19th Tues 12.00noon-1.30pm	<i>Advent Study Course at St Mark's Light refreshments and study with a bible advent theme. No need to book, just come along</i>
19th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: The Warblers</i>
20th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
23rd Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
24th Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 11.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
24th Sun 4.00pm	<i>Crib Service and Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
24th Sun 11.30pm	<i>Communion Service at Christ Church</i>
25th Mon	<i>Christmas Day</i>
25th Mon 9.30am	<i>Holy Communion at St Mark's</i>
25th Mon 11.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
27th Wed	<i>There will be no service at Christ Church today</i>
31st Sun 10.30am	<i>Joint Communion Service at Christ Church</i>

Lift off! Community Garden



Another successful year has happened in our wonderful garden. Again we opened it to families on alternate Friday evenings and once every weekend from Spring until the end of August. Everyone had fun learning how to grow, harvest and cook everything.

Two new raised beds were a fabulous addition, making it 5 in total and enabled an even larger variety of crops to be grown:- carrots, beetroot, green and yellow courgettes, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, runner beans, lettuce, chard, aubergines, cabbages, potatoes, chillies, mange tout, winter squash, strawberries and blackberries. Sunflowers, sweet peas, marigolds and petunias added colour in amongst the vegetables. The perennial and herb garden as well as the blackberries and apple trees really established themselves and a huge amount of blackberries were harvested together with a great first crop of ap-

ples. This year we also opened up a 'Mud Pie' garden, filled with safe new top soil, for children to dig, make mud pies and have fun in their own play area of the garden.

Next year we are changing the times we open. We will be running a Family Gardening Club Wednesday nights, 4.30 - 6pm from 28th February right through until 24th October. There will be 3 big work days for adults on the 3rd Saturday of March, April and May, at which some larger jobs will be tackled, such as a major rearrangement of storage and shed area, constructing a workbench/tea station and an arch around the entrance gate. We are also looking into buying a Polytunnel for the garden, in which everyone can watch the seeds we sow grow into plants and have a dry cosy space for everyone to work in on less pleasant days rather than work in the church.

Please come and see us when we are open, find out how the garden is growing and developing, you might even feel like joining in for a while. There are always refreshments when we are there. And of course once the vegetables start producing there are always plenty of vegetables to take away and enjoy.



Statement about the late Bishop Hubert Victor Whitsey

The Church of England has been supporting the police on an investigation into allegations of sexual offences against children and adults by the late Bishop Hubert (Victor) Whitsey. The allegations date from 1974 onwards when he was Bishop of Chester and while he was retired and living in Blackburn diocese.

Bishop Whitsey also served as Bishop of Hertford in St Albans Diocese from 1971 to 1974.

Anyone affected by this news should call the CCPAS helpline on 0303 003 11 11 who can offer help and signpost to church-related support and information or alternatively call the NSPCC 0800 800 5000. Anyone with further information on the case should go direct to the police on 101. Any allegations or information will be listened to and treated seriously.

Alternatively, if you have any information or concerns please call Jez Hirst, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on 01727 818107 Mob: 07867 350886 or safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

OBITUARIES

Norman Hicks 31st July 1926 – 2nd November 2017 (91 years old)

Norman died at the grand old age of 91. He is reunited with his wife, Joyce, who died in 2015. Norman was brought up in Devon. His father was a Prison Officer at Dartmoor. Norman was a big man with a very big heart. He valued people and wanted the very best for them, and strove to see that they could achieve their full potential. When he had completed his National Service (which was with the Durham Light Infantry) he married Joyce in 1948. She was the love of his life and with her he had three children, Pat, Norman and John. They lived in Abbots Langley.



Norman did an apprenticeship at Scammells, Watford, but worked for many years at Remploy, a company employing disabled people, often ex-servicemen, training them to make furniture and other household items. His warmth and deep concern for other people's wellbeing showed itself clearly there, and his sense of fun and humour was infectious and helped many a personal through a sticky patch in their lives.



But Norman and Scouting were almost synonymous. Newly-wed Norman became an Assistant Scout Leader with the 9th South-West Herts Scout Group (which had formerly been the Christ Church Patrol and later became the 1st North Watford) in 1948, becoming a Scout Leader in 1953. Fortunately, Joyce supported him wholeheartedly and joined in everything whenever she could. Camping, group meetings, hikes, jumble sales, Gang Shows, it didn't matter what it was, Norman was there! Norman had 'presence'. His voice could be heard all over Lees Wood – and he could spot a badge that had been

'Wonder-webbed' and not sewn on a uniform at 100 yards! When the 5th North Watford's HQ was burnt to the ground in 1998 Norman became acting Group Chairman and saw the redevelopment of the site through from the start, when Chief Scout George Purdy laid the Foundation Stone in 2001, to the completion of a truly fantastic and functional site and building.

In 1983 he became Group Scout Leader at the 1st, until he 'retired' in 2001. But his days with Scouting were far from over! He served for 5 years on the District Executive Committee and the wise counsel he offered to the different groups and to the young people was very valuable as the Scouting Movement went through a series of changes, at an ever-increasing pace. He was District Public Relations Officer; a great fundraiser and Bingo at the Scout Hall was a popular community activity. He and his old friend Den Wright were to be found most days repairing and renovating the Scout Hall in Leggatts Way. He remained very committed to Lees Wood Campsite and was, of course, always at St George's Day Parade at Christ Church – when he wasn't at St George's Windsor. Norman was appointed District Vice President in 2004 and District President in 2011. In 2009 he was awarded Scouting's highest honour, the Silver Wolf.

Norman would be the first to acknowledge the help and support he has received in his later years, especially from his family who enabled him to cope with Joyce's failing health and then to live on in their home in Little Graylings.

Nancy Rose Smith (née Colley) 26 June 1916 – 8 November 2017 (101 years old)

Nancy was born on 26 June 1916 in Putney, London, the third child of eight. In 1921 the family moved to West Watford and Nancy attended Victoria School, Addiscombe Road. She finished school at age 14 and shortly after went into domestic service with various families in the Watford area. It was during this time that she learned her great skill of cooking. In 1938 she married Bill and they began a family. For most of the War years Bill was away serving in the Army.

In 1946 the family obtained their first own home, a prefab at 7 Woodside Close, North Watford. In 1950 they moved to 228 Gammons Lane and then to 182 Gammons Lane in 1954. With three children off to school, Nancy resumed her work as a domestic help for several ladies and continued this into her seventies. She was with some for nearly a quarter of a century!

Nancy was Confirmed into the Church of England on

7 December 1930 when she was presented a book of Common Prayer and Hymns A&M. Whilst at the prefab she started attending St Mark's Church, Leggatts Way, where she was a faithful member and supported everything the congregation did. Singing in the choir was what she really loved and with such a lovely voice, she never failed to sing whether she liked what we were doing or not, right up until her late 80s when infirmity prevented this. She was also a member of the Mothers' Union. Her church activities were probably her main interest outside of family and work, especially when her children 'flew their nest'.

At home her evenings would be spent sewing, knitting or baking, jam making or bottling fruit. Her training made her a wonderful cook and her family enjoyed beautifully cooked food and the finest Sunday roasts Watford had to offer! She rode her bicycle backwards and forwards to Watford town – often the market – and all around North Watford to do her work or to shop or to go to church. She must have covered thousands of miles in her lifetime.

In May 1986 Nancy fulfilled a long-held desire and visited the Holy Land on a trip organised by the church. Afterwards, she wrote an article about it for the church magazine which tells, amongst other things, of her walk, up to her thighs in crystal-clear water, through Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem. Overseas holidays also took her to Germany, Italy, Cyprus and Jersey.

Nancy was widowed in 1995 and remained in Gammons Lane until October 2010, with the wonderful support from her two daughters, who supported her day and night to retain her in her own home for as long as possible. Eventually her immobility required her to go into care, which was when she moved to be near her son in Woking.

A long life and one full of service to others. People who knew her would describe her as 'determined' which certainly helped her get through difficult times of her life. She leaves her three married children, Brenda, Kathleen and Leslie, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



*May this year with great
grandson Henry.*

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.



2018 DIARIES

The new diaries have arrived. If anybody would like a copy, please see Paul Pratchett.

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 January, to cover all events in February and March.

If you have any articles, dates or information for inclusion, please send them to the Parish Office via email to ccwatford@btinternet.com by 17th January.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

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

Phone 01923 681972 email: ccwatford@btinternet.com

Vicar:

Rev Duncan Campbell

Email: vicarccwatford@gmail.com

Christ Church Vicarage, Leggatts Way WD24 5NQ

phone: 07806602093 or 01923 674142

Readers:

Mr Keith Cheyney, 44 Ridgehurst Avenue (894721)

Mrs Sue Pankhurst, 2 Albert Road North (249139)

Ms Vicky O'Kelly

Church Warden:

Mr Paul Pratchett

email: paulpratchett@hotmail.com

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

Claire Locke

Email: clairelocke@lifton.org.uk

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

Lift Off! website

lifton.org.uk