

Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for December 2018 and January 2019

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 2nd December

10.30am Joint Christingle Service at St Mark's

Sunday 23rd December

4.00pm Annual Carol Service at Christ Church

Monday 24th **Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Messy 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

Tuesday 25th **Christmas Day**

9.30am Christmas Morning Communion Service at St Mark's

11.00am Parish Communion at Christ Church



You are also invited to



GUILD SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH

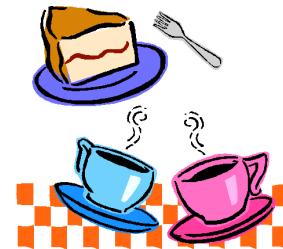
Thursday January 3rd at 8.00pm

Guild service for Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Guild office and Eucharist - followed by AGM and refreshments.

All members of the congregation are warmly invited.

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 **1st December** but there will not be one in January, so the following Coffee, Tea and Cakes will be on

Saturday 2nd February

All Welcome.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 20th - 27th 2019

Please see January Dates for details of all the joint services.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Service at St Mark's on Sunday 11th November 2018

This service was organised by 1st Watford Rangers Guides (aged 14-18 years). They chose the poems, reading and some of the hymns, and the girls read the poems and the bible reading clearly and with feeling. They also made most of the poppies and made the drum and decorated the sanctuary. This is a culmination of different memorials they have displayed during the last 4 years to remember the 100 years since the 1914-18 war.



Poem

One petal of the poppy is like the red blood
shed by so many in the wars of the last century.

The second petal holds before God
the violence and warfare of our present time.

The centre of the poppy is where the seeds are kept
ready for new life.
Seeds of peace which lie in the hearts of God's people
everywhere.

The green leaf is a symbol of our growing hope which
comes from faith alone.
Faith in God for whom all things are possible.

Remembrance Service at Christ Church



War Memorial News

Well, it was a bit of a nerve-racking experience, hoping and praying that our Memorial would be made whole again in time for the special Centenary Service on Sunday 11th November, but what a joy it was to see it fully restored – and on time too. Our grateful thanks to the builders for doing such a fine job.

Now all we have to do is pay for it! We haven't yet received their final invoice, but it is anticipated that it will be between £11,500 and £12,000. We have collected £5,000 from our Insurers and Watford Council have very generously donated £2,000, for which we thank them very much. Assuming the bill is £11,500, we have to find a further £4,500 so, as I said in my last article about the War Memorial, it has been suggested that members of the congregation might like to make a contribution. Perhaps it could be in memory of someone they knew – or knew of – who gave their lives in the Great War or any of the many others that followed.

We have to date received £720 from church members for which we thank them very much.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact me, Duncan or a Church Warden and we will be happy to receive your money.

If you pay by cheque, please make it payable to "Christ Church PCC".

With my grateful thanks in advance.

Ray Andrews

PCC Treasurer



KWA MKONO NEWS

October 2018

The visit to Kwa Mkono again left mixed feelings. There were good and not so good things happening.



The children were all well and happy and there were also new children who appear to have fitted in well.

A high number of the children are doing well at school.

The 2 dormitories are finished and in use and the new laundry room is complete and will be cleaned up ready for use and the incinerator was just waiting for its metal door to be made.

Finally the 7 new wheelchairs are now in use and we also managed to refurbish older wheelchairs for two smaller children who had been admitted to the Centre. These are all the projects which were planned for 2018 so we are all happy.

Donations given to be taken to Tanzania were used as instructed, the children were given a gift of 2 swings and 2 vegetarian meals were enjoyed by children and staff plus beans and rice brought for the store.

The vegetables and fruit are growing well at the Centre and there are crops growing at the farm and the water bowser is working well for getting water from the borehole. The Land Rover was still at the garage and the news was not good as it requires a new engine which is not available in Tanzania: it is English built, therefore very expensive. At a meeting with the Archbishop of Tanzania it was agreed that the best way forward, because the Land Rover is 13 years old and the costs high, was to sell the Land Rover, start fund raising here and the Archbishop would try and get funds from his contacts. The vehicle made for the African market and therefore ideal for the roads is a Toyota Land Cruiser.

We are trying to increase fund raising as a vehicle is required to fetch food from the nearest town, 2 hours, prosthetic checks in Tanga, 3 hours and more.

If you think you can help please see details of how you can donate by going to our website:

www.kwamkono.org.uk

Calendars are available. They are £8.00 each + £1.50 pp. Please contact us: email kwamkono@gmail.com



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) 2019



World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer - WWDP) is a Christian, women-led, ecumenical, world-wide organisation which has been around for over a century and began in the United Kingdom in 1928.

On the first Friday in March each year, a church service takes place which has been written by women of any member country in the world. The service is delivered by women but **all** are invited to attend, especially men and children. The same service is performed around the world in most countries, starting with Eastern Samoa round to Western Samoa in the Pacific. Over 24 hours of worldwide worship.

The theme for each service is chosen by the women of the country chosen to write the service that year. Many countries have participated over the years: The Philippines, Malaysia, Suriname (at Christ Church in 2018), Brazil, India, Jordan to name just a few. The United Kingdom (if it still is!) will be writing the service for 2022. Collections from the service are used to provide grants to a number of Christian charities here and abroad. In 2017, over 40 charities received a grant from WDP, including: Bible Reading Fellowship (£2000); CAFOD (£5000); MAF (UK) (£3000); Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (£2000); The Leprosy Mission (£4000); Christian Aid in Bangladesh (£7000); and Embrace the Middle East (£6000) to name a few you may recognise.

To enable all this to happen, each country has a WDP National Committee. In England, this is based in Tunbridge Wells. The WDP National Committee feeds out to a network of local committees and there is a Watford WDP Committee. The late Audrey Komiliades was an enthusiastic member of this Committee and when she could no longer get to meetings, she asked me to take her place. I have been involved with WDP for over 10 years and I love it!

The Watford WDP Committee is made up of representatives from many churches in Watford: St Mary's, St Luke's, St Andrew's, St Peter's, Christ Church & St Mark's, All Saints, Leavesden, The Scroll Church (formerly North Watford Methodist and St Thomas' United Reformed Churches), Beechen Grove Baptist, Holy Rood and St Michael's RC Churches. Other churches in Watford have been invited to attend but have not yet sent representatives. The purpose of the local Committees is to deliver the service written by the women of that year's chosen country.

The Watford WDP Committee meets monthly for about an hour from October to March (except December) each year, usually on a Friday afternoon at whichever church is hosting the service that year – it was Christ Church in 2018. That was the first time we had hosted it in 10 years! There is a Preparation Day in November, usually at St Luke's in place of a monthly meeting. A member of the National Committee attends to:

- tell us something about the country that has written the service – it improves my geography no end!
- lead a Bible study on the passage chosen for the service;
- run through the service and hymns; and
- bring news from other countries, committees and the National Committee.

The Preparation Day is open to representatives from all local committees in this part of Hertfordshire, although some representatives come from London, Harrow and Holloway Prison (not inmates, I hasten to say!)

Why am I telling you all this?

Until recently, the able Janice Richardson has been a conscientious Watford Committee member for the last 10 years or so and has decided to retire. On behalf of the WDP Watford Committee, I want to thank Janice for all her help, support, participation and diligence as your representative on this Committee. It would be lovely to have a representative from Christ Church or St Mark's to join me on the Watford WDP Committee, if only for 2019.

Do you think God may be calling you to take up this role? Please pray about it.

If you want any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be reached on 01923 237597 or on email: valbryce@btinternet.com .

For more information about WDP, please visit the website: www.wwdp.org.uk .

Val Bryce

DATES IN DECEMBER 2018

1st Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church</i>
2nd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
2nd Sun 10.30am	<i>Christingle Service with Holy Communion at St Mark's</i>
2nd Sun 11.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
2nd Sun 4.00pm	<i>Afternoon worship in Hollytree House Lounge</i>
3rd Mon 3.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
4th Tues 9.30am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark'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 12.30pm	<i>Lunch and Bible Study at St Mark's. Week 4</i>
6th Thur 6.00pm	<i>Carol Singing at Asda (front entrance)</i>
7th Fri 4.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
8th Sat 9.30am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast Christmas party at St Mark's</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>
10th Mon 3.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
11th Tues 9.30am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
11th Tue	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies CANCELLED due to lack of transport</i>
12th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
12th Wed 12.30pm	<i>Lunch and Bible Study at St Mark's. Week 5</i>
14th Fri 4.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite Christmas party at St Mark's</i>
16th Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast</i>
16th Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion at St Mark's</i>
16th Sun 11.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
16th Sun 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
17th Mon 3.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
18th Tues 9.30am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots Christmas party at St Mark's</i>
18th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle: Party Time</i>
19th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
22nd Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</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 4.00pm	<i>Carol Service lead by the Watford Band at Christ Church</i>
24th Mon	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
24th Mon 4.00pm	<i>Messy Crib Service at Christ Church</i>
24th Sun 11.30pm	<i>Communion Service at Christ Church</i>
25th Tue	<i>Christmas Day</i>
25th Tue 9.30am	<i>Holy Communion at St Mark's</i>
25th Tue 11.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
26th Wed	<i>There will be no service at Christ Church today</i>
30th Sun 10.30am	<i>Joint Communion Service at Christ Church</i>

The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

If you are the proud owner of a Children's Society Box, please will you bring your box to St Mark's or Christ Church after Christmas, or ring Margaret Andrews on 01923 672974 if you would like it collected from your home.

If anyone would like to take a box to help the Society with their work, please let Margaret know.

Thank you.

“Keeping in Touch”

(from readers of the emailed Parish Information Sheet)

Thank you so much for sending the Parish Magazine which I enjoy reading and catching up with. I live in Hampshire and it is almost impossible for me to get up to Watford these days but Christ Church is often in my thoughts, especially the choir where I have very fond memories. If possible please remember me to Clem, Val, Sue, Keith, Margaret and David and anyone I have forgotten. I know a few who are unfortunately no longer with you. I have been in a choir since moving here and we often sing John Rutter and a few others I remember singing with you. Such happy days. My good wishes to all at Christ Church.

Sheila Lead

Very many thanks for the Parish Magazine. We hope that we will be able to attend the Wednesday Service when our daughter next visits from Oz. Happily we are both reasonably well albeit Jean, my wife of now 71 years, had a short visit to Watford hospital during the very hot spell of weather when she became severely dehydrated and where, in spite of some reports as to the standard of care, she was well and truly cared for and was very happy to express her satisfaction with the standard of food provided.

Our regards and best wishes to you all.

Tony Langley

(Mr & Mrs Langley attended a Wednesday Holy Communion Service last year so that they could remember their 70th year of marriage at Christ Church with their daughter from Australia.)

LAST CHANCE - IF YOU'RE QUICK! **Buy House/Contents Insurance and** **benefit your Church!**

For this year only, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office (E.I.O.) is offering £130 to the Church for each House/Contents Insurance policy purchased by a member of the congregation.

This is to celebrate their 130th Anniversary and I and another church member have already taken out a policy, benefitting the Church by £260. We have both found the premiums quoted very reasonable, so if your house/contents policy is up for renewal, please try E.I.O. 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 - Treasurer

You are invited to **Claire's Baby Shower.**

This will be Afternoon Tea on Sunday 10th February from 3pm until 6pm at St Mark's.

There will be sandwiches, cakes and tea, coffee and juice.

There will be a list at the back of the church for numbers for food.

Thanks

SOME DATES FOR JANUARY 2019

2nd Wed 10.00am	Morning Prayer at Christ Church
3rd Thurs 8.00pm	Guild service for Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. Guild office and Eucharist - followed by AGM and refreshments. All members of the congregation are warmly invited
5th Sat	NO Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church: the next one will be 2nd February
6th Sun 10.30am	Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's
7th Mon 3:45pm	Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's Church
8th Tues 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's Church
8th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church hall: New Year Social
11th Fri 4:30pm	Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's Church
12th Sat 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's Church
14th Mon 3:45pm	Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's Church
15th Tues 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's Church
18th Fri 4:30pm	Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's Church
19th Sat 9:30am	Lift Off! Garden Club at Christ Church Vicarage
20th - 27th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
20th Sun	Week of prayer for Christian Unity Pulpit Swap
20th Sun 12.00noon	Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church
21st Mon 3:45pm	Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's Church
21st Mon 8.00pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Christ Church
22nd Tues 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's Church
22nd Tue 12.00noon	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Scroll Church; followed by soup
23rd Wed Mon 7.30pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at All Saints, Leavesden, with speaker Doral Hayes, Ecumenical Facilitator for Churches Together in Hertfordshire
24th Thur 8.00pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Leavesden Road Baptist Church
25th Fri 4:30pm	Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's Church
25th Fri 8.00pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Stanborough Park
26th Sat 7.30am	TBC Men's Breakfast at St Mark's
26th Sat 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's Church
26th Sat	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service. Grace Communion at St Peters. Followed by brunch
27th Sun 4.30pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Soul Survivor
28th Mon 3:45pm	Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's Church
29th Tues 9:30am	Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's Church

Gather

Gather Round.... Ladies welcome a PCSO

Ladies

On the Ninth of October, the Gather Round ladies were happy to welcome Police Community Support Officer Linda Davey to Christ Church to talk to us about her role as the PCSO for the Callowland area of North Watford (which includes Christ Church).

Round

Linda explained what the role involves- they are not just souped-up neighbourhood watch! You can

detain but not arrest people and you can give direct penalty notices. She told us how she came into the role, and how she manages to fit it around her family; she also told us about the time she leapt in the canal to save a woman in distress!

At the end she took us through all the equipment she carries and how incredibly heavy her stab vest is, although Lorraine managed to model it beautifully.

Our next meeting will be our New Year Social in January, where we will plan our future meetings.



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 or information for inclusion, please send them to the Parish Office by post or email to ccwatford@btinternet.com by 17th January.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

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Readers:

Mr Keith Cheyney, 44 Ridgehurst Avenue (894721)
Mrs Sue Pankhurst, 2 Albert Road North (249139)

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@liff.org.uk

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

Lift Off! website liff.org.uk