



Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for February and March 2019



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 2nd February
and**

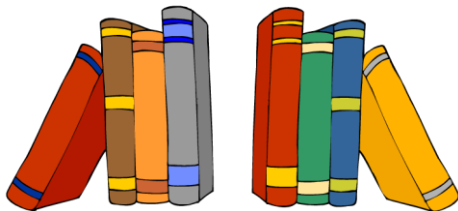
Saturday 2nd March.

All Welcome.

Also

NEW at Christ Church
BOOK SWAP

On the 1st Saturday of the month,
during "Coffee, Tea and Cakes"
10 am to 12 noon.



Bring a book and swap it with
another - Free
Buy a book - 50p

You are invited to a 'Wishing You Well' Afternoon Tea for Claire.

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.

SAVE THE DATES



Charity Registration Number 1130429

10th ANNIVERSARY

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 18th MAY

7pm for 7.30pm start

at Christ Church

Look out for more details next time.

The 4th July will be the 10th anniversary of the charity and so it will be a special quiz to celebrate and raise extra funds. So tell everyone you know and start getting your teams together and let's make it a big success.

At the moment the children cannot go for treatments as the old Land Rover will have been off the road nearly a year and a new vehicle, a 10 seater Land Cruiser, specifically made in Africa for the African roads, which costs about £48,000.00, is needed as soon as possible. The Archbishop of Tanzania has asked if we can raise at least half the money he will try and raise the other half through his contacts in other countries and in Tanzania and we agreed to this.

One of our contacts has said that if we can raise £10,000.00 to £12,000.00 they will match it, so far we have got about £6,000.00. We have had sales, talks and a number of Churches have had a collection for the charity and various other fund raising ideas.

ALSO

The Hertfordshire Police Choir will be performing on the 3rd June at Christ Church for Christian Aid. With cheese and wine.

Do You Have Some Time To Give?

Watford Hospital Chaplaincy by Phil Macaulay of St Mary's Watford.

"I'm not religious but..."

In such words many patients at Watford General Hospital will begin conversations with volunteer chaplains, before opening up about their lives, their families and their faith. Illness and weakness can lead to significant reflections as the recovery period gives time to rest and think. No two patients are the same, but their different stories often bring out similar values and questions. Some would like to receive Holy Communion, perhaps for the first time in years. Some will be immensely grateful to receive prayer or have a psalm read. Some would just like someone to stop and listen seriously to them taking their focus to a happier place.

I've been on the team for three months so far and found the experience difficult, but rewarding. As a Christian who wants to encourage others and point them towards the grace and love of God, the encounters again and again provide ministry opportunities. A few kind words can dramatically impact someone's demeanour. It's not always easy though, what do you say to the dying? How can you comfort their families? How can we care for the bereaved? Believing in God's present ability to show dramatic healing does not provide certain supernatural equipping to immediately reverse the suffering we see. However, we stay with the lonely, we help people recall precious memories, we point towards our resurrection hope and gracious Father of Scripture. I find it incredible how people you have just met are willing to help you lead them through significant and vulnerable moments. A sense of the Holy Spirit's presence guiding our words and movements is immense, God is with us even in these moments of pain and tragedy, and uses chaplains to be His voice helping new people encounter His Word everyday.

Chaplaincy is re-framed as 'Spiritual and Pastoral Care' by the NHS West Hertfordshire Trust, Anthony Curran, the new lead Chaplain for the Trust, has been reshaping the structure to try to be more professional and a part of the Trust's wider care structure. From the Trust's point of view, with so many of their patients acknowledging Christian religious affiliation, even if many have not been to church in years, it makes sense to provide professionally for their religious needs. It's a remarkable attitude viewing patients not simply as biological bodies but whole persons with more than just physical needs. Every patient, on entering the hospital should get the chance to declare their belief, providing our administration with a database of patients affiliating themselves with Christian faith. **We want to be able to offer care to every single patient who affiliates themselves with the Church of England**, so using the database we are able to generate lists of patients to visit on each ward. Along with a listening ear and prayer being offered on that courtesy call, we give the opportunity to receive Holy Communion on a Sunday afternoon – something precious to many patients.

We are looking for heroes to join us, some to offer these courtesy calls, and others to come in for an hour on a Sunday afternoon to distribute Communion. You would need the mobility to move between the beds and bays in the hospital, you would need to be someone who can evidence the fruit of the Spirit in your character, but mostly you need to have the heart to care for the sick and weak, treating all you meet with dignity and respect. You will be invited to training, feedback and social events as a part of the team, with different opportunities for each, and offered hospital parking permits.

For courtesy calls we need around 15 Christian volunteers who can give two hours between 10am-4pm, Monday – Wednesday at least once every three weeks.

For Communion distribution we need around 6 volunteers who can give one hour between 2pm-6pm on Sundays at least once a month.

For respondents to an online survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R7VCC62 to help us shape the work of the Spiritual and Pastoral Care department.

Please get in touch via spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk or we also recommend you speak with your Vicar about this opportunity. Continuing partnership with local clergy remains a vital part of our work, and most will already be engaging regularly with our team.



Enabling young people to make drug-free choices

Free Training to do Drug Prevention Work

Would you like to help children and young people in Watford avoid drug and alcohol-related harm so that they can achieve their potential? Hope UK can help you by providing free training.

A national registered charity, Hope UK trains Christian volunteers to become Drug Educators in schools and with youth and parents' groups.

We also have other volunteering opportunities.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Ian on 07889 496684.

For your information, we are keen to recruit and train a local team of voluntary Drug Educators. Our training is free, takes approximately 120 hours to complete and is accredited with the Open College Network. Expenses incurred by volunteers will be reimbursed.

Can I ask you a question?

What comes to mind when you think of Lift Off!?

A drain on our resources? A waste of time and energy? Something that is of no concern to you? Lots of effort but no visible results (i.e. no bums on seats)? Could be any of these but I would like to tell you what I think.

Lift Off! is an extremely valuable asset to Christ Church, St Mark's and St Andrew's. It provides great opportunities to reach out to people who do not know God and his love and support for us. Mainly aimed at children through a great many varied and interesting activities, it has gone from strength to strength since it was first started, largely due to the work of Claire Locke and her team of dedicated volunteers from all three churches. Now Claire is leaving us – temporarily and for the best of reasons – to start a family, so we will need those volunteers even more, together with any other volunteers we can get. Lift Off! means a great deal to many people, not only to those who run it but also the children and their parents who attend its activities regularly and enjoy them hugely - as do the volunteers. Find one and talk to them if you don't believe me. They'll tell you it's hard work but great fun. Over the years Lift Off! has been supported by certain philanthropic organisations as well as our three churches but there comes a time when philanthropy is no longer available and we have to ask ourselves, do we want to keep Lift Off! going and if so, what will we do about it?

One way I would suggest is to form a "Friends of Lift Off!" club, association, call it what you will, which would raise funds purely for the Lift Off! project. It would involve a subscription, of course, and members would receive information about Lift Off! activities and progress. Or, if that doesn't appeal, just a regular donation for Lift Off! ring-fenced so that it doesn't go towards the church gas bill. It would be in addition to what we already give to the church, so I know it's a big ask but if we are to continue spreading the Good News, as Jesus commanded us to do, then surely, through Lift Off! we are doing just that. Please talk to me or Duncan or any of the Lift Off! team.



Ray Andrews.

DATES IN FEBRUARY 2019

1st Fri 2.00pm	<i>World Day of Prayer Bible Study at All Saints Church, Leavesden. (Used to be called Women's World Day of Prayer.) All welcome</i>
1st Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
2nd Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church - Including Book Swap</i>
3rd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
3rd Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word with Communion at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 10.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word at Christ Church</i>
4th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
5th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</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 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
9th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</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 3.00-6.00pm	<i>'Wishing You Well' Afternoon Tea for Claire at St Mark's</i>
11th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
12th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
12th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church hall: Prab Seyan will be talking about Sikhism</i>
13th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
15th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
16th Sat 12.00noon-2.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Garden Club at Christ Church Vicarage</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 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
17th Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
18th Mon 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrews's</i>
19th Tue 9.30am-2.30pm	<i>Lift Off! Holiday Club at St Andrews's</i>
19th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Is there a Mouse in the House (talk)</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>
23rd Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion and Sunday School at Christ Church</i>
25th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
26th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
27th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>



DATES FOR MARCH 2019

1st Fri 2.00pm	<i>World Day of Prayer Service at All Saints Church, Leavesden. (Used to be called Women's World Day of Prayer.) All welcome</i>
1st Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
2nd Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church - including Book Swap</i>
3rd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
3rd Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word with Communion at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 10.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's</i>
3rd Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word at Christ Church</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 Mark's</i>
5th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
6th Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</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 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
9th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</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>
11th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
12th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
12th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church hall</i>
13th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
15th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
16th Sat 12.00noon-2.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Garden Club at Christ Church Vicarage</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 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>
17th Sun 4.00-6.00pm	<i>Messy Church at Christ Church</i>
18th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
19th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
19th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Birthday Card Making Session</i>
20th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
22nd Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
23rd Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
23rd Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 10.30am	<i>Service of the Word with Holy Communion at Christ Church, including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>
25th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers at St Mark's</i>
26th Tue 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Tots at St Mark's</i>
27th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
29th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's</i>
31st Sun	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
31st Sun	<i>The clocks go forward</i>
31st Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion at Christ Church</i>
31st Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word with Communion at St Mark's</i>
31st Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word at Christ Church</i>



When 1934-1959 met 1978-2012

Helen Harding, former Parish Administrator for Christ Church and St Mark's from 1980-2012, moved to Trusham in the Teign Valley in Devon six years ago. She has been singing with Dunsford Singers, a community choir of about 50 people, for the past four years.

Sometimes the choir is asked to sing at the funeral or thanksgiving service for former members and Helen had the privilege of joining the group singing at the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Peter Squire, husband of June, in April this year. During the service Helen's ears pricked up at the mention of June and Peter having grown up in Watford. At choir, a couple of weeks later she managed a brief conversation with June.

"Peter and I were married in Watford," June eventually said.

"Which church were you married in?" Helen inevitably asked.

"Christ Church."

"Really? Christ Church in North Watford?" the stunned Helen clarified.

"Yes, Christ Church in St Albans Road."

"But" Yes you can imagine that Helen told June that this was the same parish where she had been the Parish Administrator for over 30 years. Then there was what seemed a bit of a let down.

"But Christ Church wasn't my church."

However, June continued. "You see, I couldn't get married at my church because it wasn't licensed for weddings. My church was St Mark's."

Helen's jaw dropped in amazement – and so did June's when Helen explained that St Mark's had been her local church where she had been a member for 32 years before her move to Devon. Of all the possible connections there might be in Watford neither of them expected the common link to be St Mark's!

Of course the conversation flowed once they had time to get together for a coffee.



Helen had lived in Leggatts Close from 1974 to 2012. June (née Lambourne) had lived in Maytree Crescent, No. 50 she seems to remember. She was there from the late 1930s (she'd been born in Yorkshire in 1934) until she was married in 1959.

This picture shows June with her parents in the back garden of their home in Maytree Crescent – obviously still a garden that hadn't been created other than the boundary fence – and the tree and the advertising hoarding you might make out behind them were on North Western Avenue. No houses along there in those days!

June's best friend was Pam Fincham who lived in Leggatts Close and, of course, they both knew the only previous owners of Helen's home at No 1, the Boughton family.

June went to school at Kingsway (the Headteacher being Mr Burden) and, later, to Joan of Arc School in Rickmansworth.

contd...

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June and Peter's marriage was conducted by the Rev Frank Estdaile and, after that, they had lived in a flat in The Harebreaks near Longspring before buying a flat in St Albans and gradually moving all around the place until, in 1986, they ended up in Dunsford, just a few miles further up the Teign Valley from where Helen lives.

June and Helen found the gulf between their knowledge of St Mark's, from 1959/60 to 1978 when neither of them was a member St Mark's, almost too long to bridge, but gradually they came up with some names of people they had both known as stories were remembered and shared.

Before the outbreak of war and being called up in 1941, June's Father had been the assistant organist at St Mark's. Some time after the war he took over as organist when Joe Saunders left. Of course, a choir boy was responsible for pumping the organ and one day, the inevitable happened and the boy on duty fell asleep and had to be woken up to get the bellows going again! However, whilst happy to be the organist, June's Father did not want to be the choir master so he suggested that June (a good musician and singer) should do it. This was her first ever choir. Much later, and until only a few years ago, she was also to lead the Dunsford Singers – her last time as a permanent conductor of a choir! In St Mark's choir, the tenor was Eric Weeks, the basses were Mr Ken Hart (Dorothy's husband) and Mr Barnett and there were quite a few choirboys as well. On Good Friday they would sing Olivet to Calvary or the Crucifixion, alternating each year. For that Norman Southern and Ron, members at Christ Church in those days, would come and join them as it was always a good event and they enjoyed singing there.

Mrs Saunders ran the Junior Sunday School and Mrs Childs ran the Infant Sunday School. When June made it known she was going to do teacher training, Mrs Saunders gave her one of the groups – which met in the old choir vestry!

Mr Lambourne remained organist until about 1967 when Mrs Lambourne died. Robert James, a lad in the choir, took over and he married a girl called Eileen who lived in Leggatts Way.

Canon Kelsey didn't often go to St Mark's so the congregation there knew the curates well. June remembers Mr Yarker, Mr Hancock, Mr Jones, Mr Chatfield and Mr Estdaile – all the right names (we think) but not necessarily in the right order! June recalled that Mr Hancock lodged at a house in Leggatts Way, opposite Leggatts Close, and some people were scandalised when they heard that a couple of other men would go back there with him on a Sunday evening – and play cards! Even Helen remembers that playing cards was not the done thing on a Sunday when she was a child!

Another friend of June's, Gill Buckingham, married Brian Emerton and they ran the Youth Group at St Mark's after evensong on a Sunday evening.

One little aside – Pam Fincham's mother, Kath(leen), worked in a little wool shop in St Albans Road. Is that the same shop as Helen remembers? Was it called 'Sweet's'?

June met and started going out with Peter Squire, the son of Dr Squire whose surgery was in Bushey Mill Lane. But, before that, June would go about with a small 'gang' whom she thinks were: Norman Southern and Betty Lay (who were going out at the time), Ron (whose surname escapes June at the moment) and, she's sure, Ray and Margaret Andrews who were already married at that time, so that would put it around 1957-59. She remembers going to monthly classical concerts with them.

Both June and Helen hope this little story might have resurrected some memories for those of you who have been associated with the parish for a good few years. If you have any memories that June might remember, she'd love to hear from you (via Helen). She's sad that she can't share all of this with Peter, but we wanted to share our joy at meeting each other with all of you in our former parish. Indeed, we wonder if we have actually been in St Mark's at the same time. June remembers coming with Peter to a 'party' at St Mark's to celebrate one of the anniversaries. If anyone remembers when these anniversary get-togethers were held, it would be lovely to know details – was it before Helen's time, or very early on in her membership there? Someone among you might know!

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.



2019 DIARIES

There are still new diaries available. 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 March, to cover all events in April and May.

If you have any articles, dates or information for inclusion, please send them to the Parish Office by post or via email to ccwatford@btinternet.com by 21st March.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

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Mr Jonathan Gore email: jontygore@aol.com

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

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Lift Off! website liftoff.org.uk