



Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for December 2016 and January 2017



Burning footsteps

You would think His feet would have burned the ground wouldn't you? Surely His foot-prints would be all over Israel leaving permanent marks on the rocks and perhaps even on Lake Galilee (and Egypt where he'd learned to walk). We'd be able to follow in the literal footsteps of Jesus ... If that seems fanciful in the extreme then consider this: the God who created our vast and ever expanding universe, where the light from stars travelling at 670 million miles per hour takes years to reach us, walked this planet for some 30 years. He was utterly human and completely divine.

This is the heart of Christmas, the glory of astronomical proportions, God's Son living among us, born to a human mother, cared for by a human stepfather. Somehow, the glory of God was concealed within him until his last three years when glimpses shone out in his healing and preaching, until revealed in the Cross and Resurrection.

Sometimes we are deeply moved by the thoughtful generosity of family or friends at Christmas. The conventional words "you shouldn't have" take on a deeper meaning and what we want to say is "I really don't deserve kindness on this scale" or "I can't imagine what I can possibly do to say thank you".

It's easier to deal with the tree and the tree-lights, than to contemplate what God has done for us. It's easier to think up the present for that hard-to-buy-for relative than to come to terms with the meaning of the Incarnation. But do it all the same. Maybe you'll find it difficult to frame the thoughts, let alone speak the words but do it anyway. Take time to receive that gift of wonder and delight and mystery. Best of all, you don't have to wait until Christmas for this gift. It can be yours at any time.

If you've enjoyed the gift, why not introduce someone to the giver? Christmas is the idea time to invite someone or some people to church. We will sing and speak the message of the incarnation as clearly as we can but only you can make the invitation.

Meanwhile I'll get back to the idea of His footsteps burned into the landscape.

Duncan Campbell

PS. Need time to think in Advent? Wondered what those candles mean? Advent groups begin Wed 7th Dec: 12.45 at St Mark's, and 7.30 pm at Christ Church, and you are invited. The groups meet on Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st Dec.

Wishing You All a Joyous Christmas

and a Blessed New Year

Christmas Services

Sunday 11th December

10.00am Joint Christingle Service at St Mark's

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm Annual Carol Service at Christ Church

Saturday 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 Groups 2016

We're taking the opportunity to think about some Advent themes in 2016.

This Advent we're looking at the people represented by the five candles of the Advent ring and you are invited to take part.

There will be two groups:

One at St Mark's at 12.45 (with lunch)

One at Christ Church at 7.30 pm

(with coffee and cake)

Wed 7th Dec *Patriarchs & Prophets* – God's people and God's chosen messengers. Why and how do these groups among God's people matter to us now?

Wed 14th Dec *John the Baptist & the Virgin Mary* – heroes of faith without a doubt. How do these and other heroes of faith touch our walk with Christ today?

Wed 21st Dec *Jesus* – What does it mean to be one of God's people in Watford waiting for him today just as *Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist, & the Virgin Mary* waited in their day?

If you're coming to one of the groups it would be helpful to know for catering but if you can't let us know or forget, come anyway!

Leave a message on my phone (01923 674142), text me at 07806602093 or email vicarccwatford@gmail.com

Duncan Campbell

Coffee, Tea and Cakes



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

We have one on December 3rd, then the next would be too near New Year's Day, so:

The next Coffee, Tea and Cakes will be on **Saturday 4th February.**

All Welcome.

Gather Round face the Magistrates!



Well, to be more literal we have been visited by a pair of local Justices of the Peace twice this year, to give us fascinating talks.

Peter Spencer JP and Gladys Cummings JP first came in April to give a talk titled 'Magistrates in the Community'. They explained how one becomes a Magistrate, the rigorous training involved in doing this, what the role involves, the sort of criminal and civil cases that take place in the Magistrates' Court and what their powers of sentencing are: Magistrates can impose a maximum length of incarceration of 6 months for a single offence, but they do have many powers for sentences in the community and have powers to compel people to have treatment, e.g. therapy or addiction treatment, or to wear an ankle tag to prove that they are following the terms imposed on them. They also explained how in the Magistrates' Court there is a bench of 3 Magistrates overseeing each case in a courtroom and one of the Magistrates will have undertaken further training to become the Chairman of the bench.

In October Peter and Gladys were accompanied by a colleague who they are training up to do these talks in future. This meeting was about Magistrates in the Family Court. Unlike in the Magistrates' Court the Family Court is not set up like a traditional adversarial court room: normally it is held around a big table.

In many private cases, for example after a divorce, the parties involved will have been through mediation before a case gets this far, it's normally better to get a decision on which everyone can agree rather than the Court deciding it for them.

The Family Court also makes decisions regarding child welfare, whether it's getting parents help to look after their children, protecting children from abusive guardians, taking children into care when there are no other options, or deciding on whether adoption is the best outcome and who would become the right adopted parent for the child. The Magistrates explained how tough it can be to make the best decision for the child, and how they have to take many issues into account. It was a fascinating evening.

Gather Round try to give a donation to speakers when they have been to talk to us and on this occasion it was passed on to the charity HACRO - who work to improve the care and resettlement of offenders in the community. They have a Small Grants scheme that is used to give small grants to offenders to help them to move forward from a life of crime in such aspects as gaining qualifications and achieving employment, so hopefully they will not end up before the Courts again.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Social on December 13th, when we bring a little food to share, get to know each other better and, hopefully, to organise our meetings for 2017.

Any woman who would like to join us would be very welcome.

DATES IN DECEMBER 2016

3rd Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	Coffee, Tea & Cakes in Christ Church
3rd Sat 2.00-4.00pm	St Mark's Bazaar
4th Sun 8.00am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
4th Sun 9.30am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion at St Mark's
4th Sun 10.30am	Fairtrade Stall after the service at St Mark's
4th Sun 11.00am	Service of the Word at Christ Church
7th Wed 10.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church
7th Wed 11.00am	Morning worship at Courtland Lodge
7th Wed 12.40-2.00pm	Bible Study for Advent at St Mark's (with bread, cheese, soup lunch). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
7th Wed 7.30pm	Bible Study for Advent at Christ Church (with coffee and cake). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
10th Sat 10.00-12.00noon	Christmas Party at St Mark's. £1 per head for a present from Father Christmas, party games and food as well as some of the usual toys and crafts. Run by Lift Off!
11th Sun 10.00am	Christingle Service at St Mark's - a joint service with Christ Church. Followed by tea and coffee
11th Sun 6.30pm	Evening Worship at St Mark's
13th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	Gather Round ...Ladies Christmas Social in Christ Church hall
14th Wed 10.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church
14th Wed 12.45-2.00pm	Bible Study for Advent at St Mark's (with bread, cheese, soup lunch). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
14th Wed 7.30pm	Bible Study for Advent at Christ Church (with coffee and cake). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
17th Sat 9.30am	Christmas Decorating at Christ Church and St Mark's. Volunteers needed
18th Sun 8.00am	Holy Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast
18th Sun 9.30am	Parish Communion at St Mark's
18th Sun 11.00am	Morning Prayer at Christ Church
18th Sun 12.00noon	Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church
18th Sun 6.30pm	Carol Service at Christ Church followed by tea, coffee and mince pies
20th Tue 2.30pm	Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Carols, Quiz & Mince Pies
21st Wed 10.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church
21st Wed 12.45-2.00pm	Bible Study for Advent at St Mark's (with bread, cheese, soup lunch). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
21st Wed 7.30pm	Bible Study for Advent at Christ Church (with coffee and cake). Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
24th Sat	<u>Christmas Eve</u>
24th Sat 4.00pm	Crib Service at Christ Church
24th Sat 11.30pm	Communion Service at Christ Church
25th Sun	<u>Christmas Day</u>
25th Sun 9.30am	Morning Prayer at St Mark's
25th Sun 11.00am	Parish Communion at Christ Church
28th Wed	There will be no service at Christ Church today



KWA MKONO NEWS

October 2016



Keith and Lesley, two of our trustees, have just returned from their annual visit to the disabled children's centre. This year Norman Allen joined them to see what happens at the centre.

He explains: "It was after Lesley and Keith heard that I had been to Tanzania earlier this year that they asked me if I would like to go back only this time with them so as to help with the work that they have been doing over the past 11 years at the Centre. February 2016 was when I went on safari; September 2016 was another adventure, only this time a completely different one.



The chicken house under construction

The main job during my stay was to assist with the building of a new Chicken House; it was just like old times except that I had not ventured into Chicken House building before. A local bricklayer and his son removed the old house, dug out the footings and commenced laying the bricks "sort" of to my drawing. I should tell you here that as there were a pile of bricks left on the football pitch from a previous project, it was decided that they should be moved to within the reach of the new site. No sooner had Keith and I started over came the lads, one on crutches and others on their wooden wheeler trikes which they loaded up and took

across for us. I was at the loading end whilst Keith was at the stacking end. You have never seen a more willing bunch of lads, maybe the carrot that Keith had dangled in front of them had something to do with it as he told them that once the bricks were moved they would be able to get their football pitch back, and we played that afternoon.

You need to witness for yourself just how wonderful these disabled children are. On one occasion I was playing football with the lads, plus with a typical African football, plastic bags all crammed into a bag and tied up with string and tape. On my side I had one lad who only had one arm and leg but boy could he manoeuvre himself plus score goals. All the lads have some kind of disability including one with no legs below the knee, so they remove their false limbs and shuffle around on their backsides and use their fists to hit the ball. I think that the biggest surprise was when I saw one of the opposition come dribbling the ball towards me and he was on a pair of crutches. Each and every one of them had their own problem but none of them let that get in the way and boy were they competitive even to shoulder charging the guy on crutches. After an hour of running around on their African "Wembley" pitch, I have to admit that I was relieved to see the ball go over the boundary fence of the neighbouring hospital; it was my chance to pop off for a welcome cup of tea. I had lost count of the score but nobody seemed to care as they were all having fun. I will not forget my time at the Centre, the gratitude that the staff and children showed towards us was quite amazing and now they tell me that my name is on the Chicken House door, fame at last. A part of their thank you was when they put on a show and a dinner for us before we had to leave, that was very special and will always remain a very happy memory for me. Knowing Lesley and Keith as well as I do I can assure you that ALL of the donations sent to this charity do go to the Disabled Children's Centre and we paid all of our own expenses to do this trip, and it was worth every Tanzanian Shilling." --- Norman

This year the centre looked very different the new fence and gates give a neater and well cared for look to the front. As soon as you come through the gate the building that faces you (and used to have the kitchen at one end and mini class at the other) is transformed by making the whole building into a hall the windows have been enlarged with new modern grills to let in light and air. The new hall allows all the children to eat together and there is room for visitors to join them. The moving of the kitchen to a purpose built building with stoves that have chimneys and use wood efficiently is a big improvement reducing the smoke that drifted across the centre. The Trust gives thanks to Polio Children for



Norman with the boys after the football game

their help by funding these improvements. The chicken's numbers have increased to over 125 and there are also a few ducks. To stop the newly hatched chicks being taken by the magpie type birds and the local cats, the 'Norman chicken house' has been built, it will have a run covered with a wire roof so they are safe from predators.

contd....

....contd. The centre intend to increase chicken numbers to 200 then start to sell eggs and chickens as well as using some for the children. Vegetables are being grown using recycled washing water, there is enough for the centre but the shortage of rain water means that although they planted extra it has not matured and cannot be sold to raise badly needed income.

Calendars are now available From Lesley or Keith Wright 01494 258648 Kwamkono@gmail.com
All the £7.00 is sent to the children in Tanzania. Post and packing please add £1.20

ADVANCE NOTICE
The next Kwa Mkono Quiz
Saturday 29th April 2016 at Christ Church.

Love Your Neighbour – Support Fairtrade



Watford Fairtrade Town Tenth Anniversary March 2017

10 years ago Watford Borough Council, Faith groups, Shops, Cafés, Businesses, Schools, the Media and Community Groups all contributed to our Campaign to become the 250th Fairtrade Town in the UK. We satisfied the Fairtrade Foundation's Five Goals and were declared a Fairtrade Town on 5 March 2007 in Watford Museum.

By joining the ranks of Fairtrade Towns across the UK we contributed to the benefits of the Fairtrade System to over a million farmer producers in the Developing World, who were supported and guaranteed a sustainable future. The numbers of producers have increased to 1.6 million and with their families there are about 8 million people able to live 'normal' lives.

Families across Africa, Asia, South America and the Pacific can now put food on their tables, send their children to school and access clean water and health-care on a regular basis.

Watford Fairtrade Steering Group is asking that as many people as possible will recognise the Tenth Anniversary celebrations in Fairtrade Fortnight 2017. The dates are 27 February to 12 March 2017. Churches can celebrate Pancake Night, 28 February, using many Fairtrade fillings such as pineapple chunks, sugar, honey, lemon juice, hazel-nut spread, jams, peanut butter, bananas, marmalade and many others all available as Fairtrade products.

There are about 4500 Fairtrade products available in UK but ones such as gold wedding rings, cotton wool, cotton clothing, rubber products, cosmetics and footballs are not really suitable for filling a pancake!

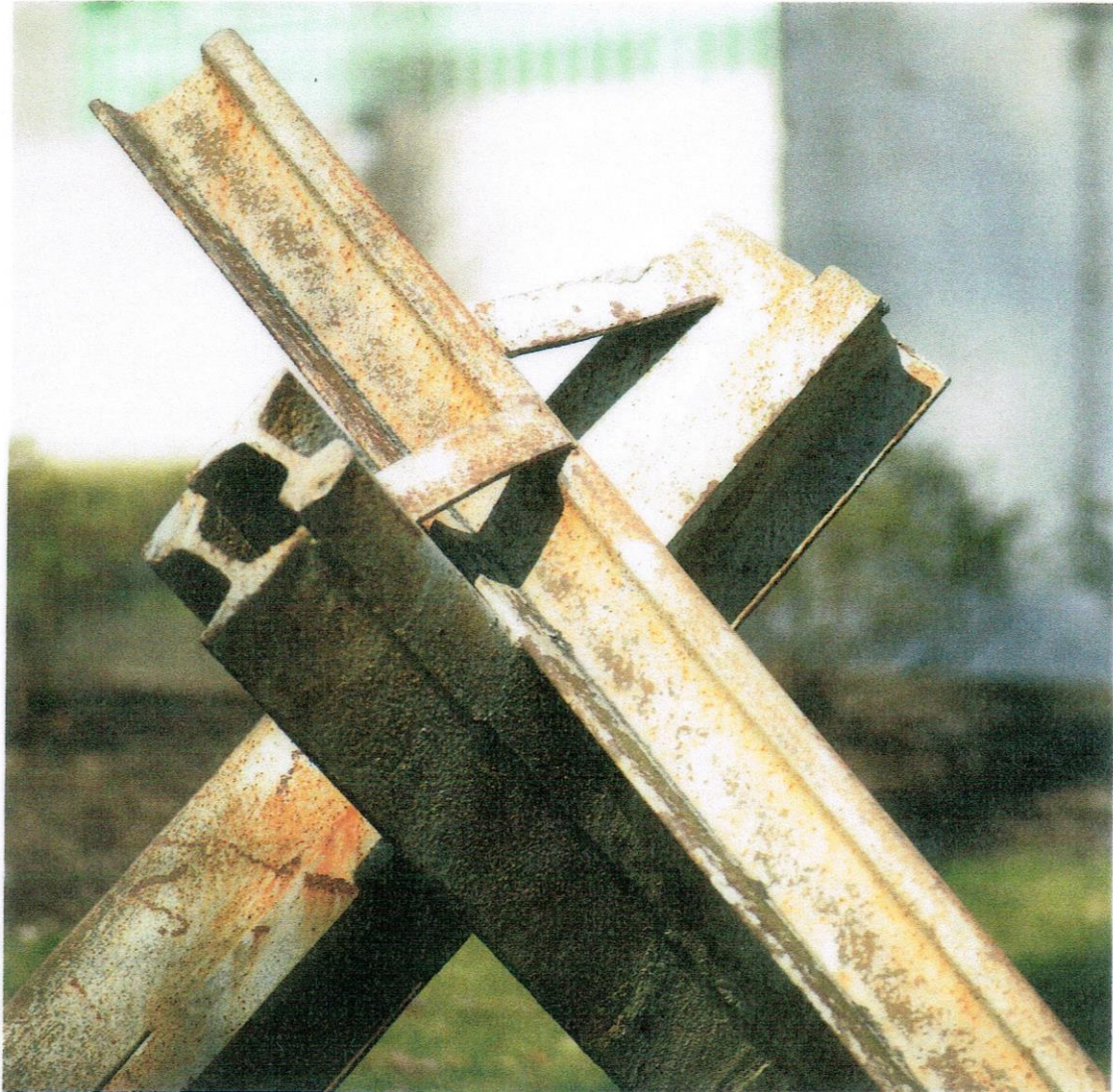
Watford Fairtrade Steering Group needs to recruit new members – please encourage someone from your Church to join us!

Brian Mee

Hon Chair, Watford Fairtrade Steering Group

bandjmee@ntlworld.com 07788 676311

Crossing Barriers



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

Please join us for a short service each day during the Week of Prayer as we celebrate our unity in Christ Jesus. All are welcome.

Monday, 16 January, 8.00 pm (St Helen's Catholic Church)

Tuesday, 17 January, 8.00 pm (Woodside Community Church)

Wednesday, 18 January, 12.15 pm (North Watford Methodist Church)

Thursday, 19 January, 8.00 pm (St Peter's CofE Church)

Friday, 20 January, 8.00 pm (Stanborough Park Seventh Day Adventist Church)


Saturday, 21 January, 10:30 am (Grace Communion Church, at St Peter's)

Sunday, 22 January, 4:00 pm (Beechen Grove Baptist Church)

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer


churches
together
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

SOME DATES FOR JANUARY 2017

1st Sun 9.30am	<i>Service of the Word at St Mark's</i>	
1st Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word at Christ Church</i>	
10th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies in Christ Church</i>	
15th - 22nd	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
15th Sun 12.00noon	<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service at Christ Church</i>	
16th Mon 8.00pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at St Helen's, Harebreaks</i>	
17th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's</i>	
17th Tue 8.00pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Woodside Community Church on The Brow</i>	
18th Wed 12.15pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at North Watford Methodist Church</i>	
19th Thur 8.00pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at St Peter's Church</i>	
20th Fri 8.00pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Stanborough Park Seventh Day Adventist Church</i>	
21st Sat 10.30am	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Grace Communion Church, St Peter's</i>	
22nd Sun 4.00pm	<i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity service at Beechen Grove Baptist Church</i>	

Our Usual Pattern of Christ Church and St Mark's Sunday Services

	Christ Church 8 am	St Mark's 9.30 am	Christ Church 11.00 am	Messy Church 4-6 pm	Evening Services 6.30 pm (except August)
1st Sunday	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	Service of the Word with Communion (Worship for all ages) followed by the Fairtrade stall	Service of the Word (Worship for all ages)		
2nd Sunday		Morning Prayer	Parish Communion (Common Worship)		Evening Service at Christ Church or St Mark's
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) followed by breakfast	Parish Communion (Common Worship)	Morning Prayer followed by the Fairtrade stall	Messy Church at Christ Church	
4th Sunday		Morning Prayer	Parish Communion (Common Worship)		Evening Service at Christ Church or St Mark's
5th Sunday		10.30am Common Worship Communion. Joint service for both congregations at either Christ Church or St Mark's	10.30am Common Worship Communion. Joint service for both congregations at either Christ Church or St Mark's		Occasional evening service at Christ Church or St Mark's

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 is available from our website: www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk, or contact the office to receive a copy by email.

JANUARY DATES

An insert will be printed in a few weeks to cover all dates in January

At that time, an updated edition of the Parish Information Sheet will be available online.

NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Information Sheet will be published at the end of January, to cover all events in February and March.

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 19th January, 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:

Rev Duncan Campbell
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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: wjpp@ppratchett.freemove.co.uk

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

Claire Locke Email: clairelocke@liftonn.org.uk
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/cma.outreach

Lift Off! website liftonn.org.uk