

Christ Church and St Mark's

Parish Information Sheet for July 2016

CELEBRATING BEGINNINGS

Lift off !

Community Garden Opening Party

On Saturday 14th May 2016 the Lottery funded garden was officially opened by the Bishop of Hertford and over 100 people came to celebrate with us, including the elected Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, and local Councillors Joynes, Khan and Mauthoor.



The day began at 9am for part of the fantastic volunteer team that day, with putting up Gazebos on the vicarage lawn. For the rest of the morning an increasing number of volunteers from Christ Church, St Mark's and St Andrew's gradually put together a wonderful display of everything Claire Locke had prepared for all the activities she runs under Lift Off! in the gazebos. Together with fabulous new banners which have been purchased to advertise all the activities at all the churches. Anne Campbell kept the team going with tea, coffee and biscuits.



Continued overleaf....

Congratulations to Lay Leaders of Worship

For some years our congregations have benefited from church members who have assisted in leading worship. They bring a different approach, fresh ideas, and importantly on a long Sunday, a fresh voice! From 2014 the Diocese decided to offer training and formal recognition to Lay worship leaders.

On May 22nd we celebrated Val Bryce and Chris Long having completed the Diocesan course for Lay Leaders of Worship, receiving their Bronze Award certificates and letters of permission from the Bishop. The training consisted of two full days, followed by preparing and leading two services which were assessed by feedback from the vicar and church members, and writing a reflection on each of the services. We formally commissioned Chris and Val as worship leaders on behalf of our congregations and are delighted to have them with us as part of the worship team.

Lay Leaders of Worship are only allowed to lead worship in the church(es) for which they have the permission of the PCC and the Bishop's approval. They are able to lead Services of the Word without a Reader or Clergy present but may not preach, although they can lead another form of reflection instead.

It may appear easy to lead worship since often all the words seem to be in the service book. In reality it requires careful preparation, especially of any extra material, consideration of the church calendar, a willingness to sacrifice one's own time to worship in order to lead others and attention to voice production. It's far from easy though a real privilege. Please pray for Chris and Val as they continue in this ministry.

Duncan Campbell

Chris and Val would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support and encouragement during their training to become Lay



Leaders of Worship. "We both thoroughly enjoyed the training course and thank Duncan for bringing it to our attention. We can truly recommend the course to anyone else who feels they are being called to lead services."

..... continued

Lift off ! Community Garden Opening Party

The garden was not full of plants in time for the party but nevertheless the garden preparations for the party began the night before with the first Gardening Club and families helped decorate the four raised beds (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and fences with great bright creations they had made at previous Art Clubs and what a wonderful job they did.

The finishing touches were then done alongside the others on the morning of the party.

At 1.45pm our guests started to arrive together with people who attend Lift Off! activities, congregation members from all three churches and local residents. Then at 2pm the Bishop of Hertford, dressed appropriately in green welly boots and carrying his staff of office, addressed the gathering, prayed for its success, cut the ribbon to officially declare it open and very skilfully planted an apple tree. All joined in the celebrations.



For the rest of the afternoon everyone was able to see and enjoy all that happens at the three churches with Lift Off!, look around the garden, hear all about plans for this year and into the future and find out how they can get to be part of it. There was also the chance to sit down and enjoy the lovely weather together with cups of tea, coffee and cold drinks provided by Lynne Mallows and friend Amanda, and a wonderful array of cakes that volunteers had baked for the day.



Everyone had a really good time, it was wonderful to see so many people come together and show an interest in everything including the garden. It sparked interest from the Rainbows and Brownies for future activities in the garden.

A big thank you to everybody who worked right through till 5pm to finish clearing up after everyone had left.

Since the grand opening we have had the second Gardening Club with eight children planting, weeding and watering after a picnic on the Vicarage lawn. The old brambles in the garden have been cut back and a new fence on Leggatts Way erected - there will be new growth and more blackberries than ever next year. From local residents we have had a compost bin donated, and also the promise of some free labour from Veolia corporate social responsibility team. An outside tap has been fitted to the Vicarage which will help us water without disturbing Duncan and Anne.



So a great way to start the Lift Off! Community Garden. We have had Lift Off, it is a Garden - so now the plan is to get the Community more involved.





KWA MKONO NEWS

April 2016

A new administrator at the centre

For some time Fr. Simon has felt that his calling is to do parish work and he has not appeared happy at the centre and found it difficult to advance the work there. In January Bishop Maimbo moved Fr. Simon to Tanga as the area dean and appointed Fr. Noel administrator.

Fr Noel has experience of running projects having worked with World Vision for 25 years. In the picture Fr. Noel is on the left, Nasoro, the carpenter in the centre, and James are in front of the new wall and gates at the front of the centre.

The perimeter of the centre is over 400 metres and although the fence has been repaired over the years in December large parts of it collapsed and it needed to be renewed. We thank Polio Children, the CSP Sisters and Hereford Cathedral as well as a number of small donations from individuals for their help funding the new fences.

This year 4 students are living away from the centre. Adam is a first year student at Hegongo secondary school. Omari is doing a carpentry course; Sauda and Veronica are studying tailoring, all three are at Sindeni vocational college. We hope they are happy and working hard and we look forward to hearing from them.

The kitchen is in need of improvement and a better way of cooking is required that uses less wood and has a chimney so the ladies are not working in the smoke all the time. Our thanks to Polio Children who are helping us with the funding of this project. The kitchen is being moved away from the side of the mini class (the common room). A new building is being constructed with storerooms for food and a covered cooking area. The stoves we hope to install are Instoves which use just 25% of the wood used by the current fire but can also burn sawdust and some woody vegetable waste if it is pressed into bricks. The stoves are made in America and although we can purchase them the problem is shipping them to Tanzania.

When the centre has moved the kitchen they will be able to enlarge the mini class so all the children can get in both to eat when it is raining and to do homework in the evenings. Here some of the boys are watching Nasoro's men as they finish the foundations and start the block work wall.



Four children have joined the centre two girls: Ester Robert, Penina Mwanyemi Luze and two boys: Benjamin Clement Mhando, Yasin Miraji Mbwana, they will all attend the Kindergarden class that is held in the mini class at the centre until they are used to school life.

It costs just over £1 a day for each child at the centre so with 47 children currently there plus the 4 children we support away from the centre we have to raise £18,000 each year to keep the centre open.

If you are able to sponsor a child or make a donation towards the running costs of the centre go to our web site <http://www.kwamkono.org.uk> for details of how to donate.


Over Sixties' Spring Party – 23rd April 2016


What perfect timing for our Over Sixties' Party!

Just two days before the party our Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 90th Birthday. Not only had she reached this memorable and remarkable milestone but she also became the longest reigning monarch, on the 7th September 2015. And, of course it was St George's Day on the same day as the party. So, we had many reasons to celebrate and it was perfect for our Committee to theme the party in commemoration and it was obvious that a good time was had by all.

Everybody was made to feel like royalty with the Royal crest on their name badges, VIP place settings and their own individual itinerary, with a lovely picture of Her Majesty with two of her corgis. We utilised all the space on these itineraries to inform our guests of our weekly services. The 14th Watford (Christchurch) Brownies bedecked our tables with red, white and blue flowers in jewelled crowns, beautifully painted and all made out of papier-maché. The hall and tables were appropriately draped with union jacks and royal memorabilia was on display.



We give thanks to Bob Mackie in his first year as Master of Ceremony. He had an interesting challenge with four demanding women and a busy itinerary. After Bob's welcome to our 35 guests, Sue Pankhurst proceeded to get the party under way by reading the official prayer that was approved and released by the Diocese on behalf of our Queen and we then sang the National Anthem, kindly organised by Maurice Saunders.

The annual quiz focused on multiple choice questions about our Royalty and a picture round of naming individuals on the Royal Family Tree and a "spot the difference" of our Queen. It was lovely watching the interaction between our guests.



The biggest highlight of the event was the 45 minutes of gripping entertainment by the Trinity Performing Arts Academy, who performed their own version of a Royal Variety Show. Forty students, ranging from 3 year olds up to 70 years, took part. Rebecca Ostman choreographed each of the dance routines with extreme passion and energy, with the assistance of her brother-in-law, Dickie Danger, who compered with fitting historic facts. They really did keep our guests well entertained. Rebecca was recognised for all her hard work by Bob presenting her with a beautiful basket of flowers from the Committee.



We even sang "Happy Birthday" to Her Majesty, as Moira Morgan had kindly made a delicious crown cake. Joyce Neill our nonagenarian guest, was asked to "cut the cake" – as can be seen in the photo. Joyce's late husband, Alan was a churchwarden at Christ Church some 20 years ago. Joyce now lives in St Albans and so travelled the furthest to be with us.



These parties would not be complete without the refreshments and the most popular and highly sought after trifle and cakes that are kindly donated. The committee members, Jenny Sleeper, Moira Morgan, Chris Woodward, Bob Mackie and Lynne Mallows would like to thank everybody who contributed not least themselves. We would also like to thank our many volunteers, who just turned up on the day to help, our drivers - without whom many of the guests would not have been able to attend the party - and to those who generously donated raffle prizes.

If you came to the party, thank you for your support – it was much appreciated and we hope you enjoy reading your souvenir book, donated by our Diocese/Parish as a Tribute for Her Majesty's 90th Birthday.



Greetings from South Sudan

Dear Shirley,

Greetings to you and all our friends and St Mark's and Christ Church Parish. We are fine and Alice is also fine. We thank God because the conflict in South Sudan has reduced. People can now move from one place to another. My wife and children are still in Juba. It is only my wife who has case of ulcer and she is under medication though she looks tired.

The first phase of the construction of our new Cathedral is over and we have started the second phase now (metallic roofing). According to the engineer, it will take 4 months to finish. Our prayer is to start the third phase which is plastering soon after that. Please continue to pray for us so that we can be able to finish the construction.

Thanks and God bless

Bp Wilson Kamani

Christ Church & St Mark's, Watford

Presents a concert of varied music sung by

Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir

Monday 18th July 2016

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start.

Christ Church, St Albans Road

Watford WD24 5BD

Tickets (including light refreshments) £7,

concessions £5

from 01923 675173

AND on the door

N.B. There is limited parking.

[In aid of the Kwa Mkono Disabled Children's Centre in Tanzania](#)



These injustices happen to real people-

Masuma worked in the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, making clothes for the UK high street. The building collapsed in April 2013, killing well over a thousand people.

Masuma was one of the survivors: 'There was so much debris you could barely see. I closed my eyes and started to crawl my way towards the window.'

Rana Plaza was not a one-off: hundreds more people have been killed or injured in clothing factories across Bangladesh and other countries in recent years.

Christian had set up a fish farm in the mangrove swamps of southern Nigeria. It was flourishing, with ten employees.

But a leak from an oil pipeline owned by a UK company destroyed his business overnight.

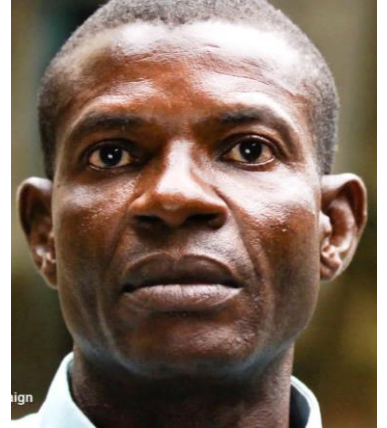
'It was beyond my imagination. As the tide came in with the crude oil, it entered and covered all the fish ponds. Everything we had put in just disappeared.'

After a six year legal battle, the company has just agreed to pay an out of court settlement, and to clear up the pollution. Now it's time for other companies to be held to account too.

Traidcraft thinks justice matters in business.

So we're aiming to get 25,000 people to sign the Justice Matters petition to send a clear message to the British government that we've had enough of British businesses abusing and exploiting people in developing countries, and getting away with it.

If you agree, add your name to the Justice Matters petition: there is a copy in your church now. Alternatively, see Anne Austin or Rachel Chappell.



DATES IN JULY 2016

2nd Sat 10.00am-12.00noon	<i>Coffee, Tea & Cakes</i> in Christ Church
2nd Sat 2.00-4.00pm	<i>Join us for a cuppa</i> at St Mark's
3rd Sun 8.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i> at Christ Church
3rd Sun 9.30am	<i>Parish Communion</i> at St Mark's
3rd Sun 10.30am	<i>Fairtrade Stall</i> after the service at St Mark's
3rd Sun 11.00am	<i>Service of the Word</i> at Christ Church
3rd Sun 4.00pm	<i>Afternoon worship</i> in Hollytree House Lounge
4th Mon 3.45-4.45pm	<i>Lift Off! Explorers</i> at St Marks for children in school years 2 and 3
6th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</i> at Christ Church
6th Wed 12.40-2.00pm	<i>Lunch & Bible Study: Who is Jesus?</i> at St Mark's. Reading Mark 1-8 together over 8 weeks. Bread, cheese, soup lunch from 12.45pm. Bible Study starts at 1.15pm. Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan
8th Fri 4.30-6:30pm	<i>Lift Off! Gardening Club</i> at C. C. Vicarage / St Mark's, Leggatts Way
9th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast</i> at St Mark's
9th Sat	(No "Join us for a cuppa" today)
10th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i> at St Mark's

DATES IN JULY contd.

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 for children in school years 2 and 3</i>
12th Tue 7.45 for 8.00pm start	<i>Gather Round ...Ladies Picnic: Details to follow</i>
13th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
13th Wed 11.00am	<i>Morning worship at Courtland Lodge</i>
13th Wed 12.40- 2.00pm	<i>Lunch & Bible Study: Who is Jesus? at St Mark's. Final week of reading Mark 1-8 together over 8 weeks. Bread, cheese, soup lunch from 12.45pm. Bible Study starts at 1.15pm. Everyone welcome. More details from Duncan</i>
15th Fri 4.30-6.00pm	<i>Lift Off! Games Night at Christ Church</i>
16th Sat 9.30-11.00am	<i>Lift Off! Messy Breakfast at Christ Church</i>
16th Sat 2.00-4.00pm	<i>Join us for a cuppa at St Mark's</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 10.00am	<i>Morning Prayer at Christ Church</i>
17th Sun 12.00am	<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 Marks for children in school years 2 and 3</i>
18th Mon 7.30pm for 8.00pm start	<i>Concert of varied music sung by Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir at Christ Church. In aid of the Kwa Mkono Disabled Children's Centre in Tanzania and church funds. Limited parking</i>
19th Tue 2.30pm	<i>Tuesday Circle at St Mark's: Bumble Bees</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! Gardening Club at C. C. Vicarage / St Mark's, Leggatts Way</i>
23rd Sat 7.30am	<i>Men's Breakfast at St Mark's</i>
23rd Sat 2.00-4.00pm	<i>Join us for a cuppa at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer at St Mark's</i>
24th Sun 11.00am	<i>Parish Communion at Christ Church</i>
24th Sun 6.30pm	<i>Evening Worship at Christ Church</i>
27th Wed 10.00am	<i>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at Christ Church</i>
30th Sat 2.00-4.00pm	<i>Join us for a cuppa at St Mark's</i>
31st Sun	<i>No service at St Mark's – joint service at Christ Church</i>
31st Sun 10.30am	<i>Joint Parish Communion at Christ Church. Please note the earlier time</i>

Statement from the Church of England Archbishops on the EU Referendum Result

24 June 2016

On Thursday, millions of people from across the United Kingdom voted in the Referendum, and a majority expressed a desire that Britain's future is to be outside the European Union

The outcome of this referendum has been determined by the people of this country.

It is now the responsibility of the Government, with the support of Parliament, to take full account of the outcome of the referendum, and, in the light of this, decide upon the next steps.

This morning, the Prime Minister David Cameron has offered a framework for when this process might formally begin.

The vote to withdraw from the European Union means that now we must all reimagine both what it means to be the United Kingdom in an interdependent world and what values and virtues should shape and guide our relationships with others.

As citizens of the United Kingdom, whatever our views during the referendum campaign, we must now unite in a common task to build a generous and forward looking country, contributing to human flourishing around the world. We must remain hospitable and compassionate, builders of bridges and not barriers. Many of those living among us and alongside us as neighbours, friends and work colleagues come from overseas and some will feel a deep sense of insecurity. We must respond by offering reassurance, by cherishing our wonderfully diverse society, and by affirming the unique contribution of each and every one.

The referendum campaign has been vigorous and at times has caused hurt to those on one side or the other. We must therefore act with humility and courage - being true to the principles that make the very best of our nation. Unity, hope and generosity will enable us to overcome the period of transition that will now happen, and to emerge confident and successful. The opportunities and challenges that face us as a nation and as global citizens are too significant for us to settle for less.

As those who hope and trust in the living God, let us pray for all our leaders, especially for Prime Minister David Cameron in his remaining months in office. We also pray for leaders across Europe, and around the world, as they face this dramatic change. Let us pray especially that we may go forward to build a good United Kingdom that, though relating to the rest of Europe in a new way will play its part amongst the nations in the pursuit of the common good throughout the world.

And from the Bishop of St Albans

24/6/16

The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, has issued this statement following the EU Referendum:

“The people of this nation have spoken, although the referendum has also highlighted the deep divisions that exist in our country. We must now move forward together. However, healing the divisions will require an acknowledgement that the vote in part reflects the increasingly polarised circumstances between the poorest and the richest people in our nation.

“It is my hope that all who voted will show grace whether they side with the victorious or the defeated. We must seek to rebuild neighbourly trust and acceptance on our streets, in our work-places and clubs and schools. We will start with prayer in our churches and continue with our longstanding service to all the people of our communities. Most of all, it is vital for us to offer friendship and reassurance to those who might fear that this result will be exploited by factions peddling hatred and division.”

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.

NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Information Sheet will be published by the beginning of August, to cover all events in August and September.

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 20th July, or

Via email to ccwatford@btinternet.com, or

Simply telephone Lynne on **01923 681972** to discuss options.

www.christchurchandstmarkswatford.org.uk

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Mrs Sue Pankhurst,
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@lifford.org.uk

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