

OUTREACH

SEPTEMBER 2019



Christ Church Cheltenham

guide price 50p

PARISH OFFICE: Open Mon, Wed & Fri 9.00am-12noon

Tues 9am-1pm, Thurs 9am-5.30pm

 **578163** email: admin.christchurch@googlemail.com

www.christchurch-cheltenham.org

phone:

Vicar: currently vacant

Christ Church Parish Office, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH

Church Complex Manager: Cherie Skidmore [9.00-12.00 Mon-Fri] 578163

Parish Administrator: Rev Julia Hook 578163

Licensed Readers:

Andrew Judge 236930

David Laszlo 581593

Angela Smith 238232

Amanda Thiselton 690319

Pastoral Co-ordinators: Chris Eddershaw, Anne Chapman, Tina Benney 578163

Weddings Administrator: Angela Smith 238232

Team Leader: Youth and Children: Anna Laszlo 581593

CHURCHWARDENS

Barbara Lucas 07912 345056 / 228616

Sarah O'Meara 513067

CHRIST CHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL (Voluntary Aided)

Malvern Road. Headteacher: Duncan Cook 523392

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Treasurer: Phil Whitefield 511919

Secretary: Jennie Preece 518048

Electoral Roll Officer & Vicar's Secretary: Virginia Mullan 231006

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER: Sarah Harrison 237463

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Shirley Collins 696094

FLOWER SECRETARY: Penny Kirkwood 581883

Front cover: Katy Bleasdale in costume as the Queen of Hearts at our Summer Fete. This photo and others taken on the day by Sian Green

FROM FORMER CURATE MIKE AND FAMILY

To all at Christ Church

We are so thankful for our time at Christ Church and all the wonderful people who have blessed and encouraged us. We are so sad to have left, we cannot thank you enough for the amazing spread of cakes on 7th July, our last Sunday.

We are speechless at the incredibly generous gifts you gave to us as a family. We used the money to go on a holiday to Ireland at the end of July. The picture of Christ Church is very special and will be hung proudly on our wall.

We are continuing to pray for you all and the future leader of Christ Church. How blessed they will be to be part of the fabulous community you have. Thank you for caring, welcoming, and letting us join you all on your journeys.

With love and prayers

Mike, Sarah, Ben, Tim and Sam Smith

“GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER” *(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Since I took on the Chair of our PCC I have been exposed to much more of what it takes to keep Christ Church running. Some people give huge amounts of effort and energy managing our affairs and most of them do it for nothing. To the people who keep the Church clean and tidy and fit for worship, to those who plan and deliver our worship, our youth and childrens' work, our Friendship Club, home groups and the many other activities that go on week by week, to our Treasurer and Churchwardens making sure we can continue to function, to those who staff the Parish Office, to the Fabric Team making sure that our building continues to function, to those who are managing the installation of our new boilers, to those who organise the Fete, and to all those other unsung heroes (you know who you are), I say a huge and heartfelt “thank you”.

I thank God for your generosity, commitment and (almost) unflinching good humour. We would not be here without you. And to the rest of us I put this question: “I am benefitting from the efforts of others – but what could I do to help out?”



As you probably know squirrels got into the shallow roof void above the Kitchen, Lansdown and Bayshill Rooms, and Music Room in the hall complex, causing catastrophic loss of power. We had to replace large quantities of damaged cables and light fittings and to cut holes in the ceilings in order to gain access. We are now up and running again and that is entirely thanks to the hard work of members of the Fabric Team, ably led by Chris Mullan, together with Martin Chapman, and especially our own electrician Rich Tipping. He spent many hours sorting our problem out, saving us quite a lot of money and enabling the hall complex to continue in use. Thank you, Rich.

Even so, the work done so far has cost us several thousand pounds for which we had not budgeted; and making good the ceilings will be expensive too. (The quote we had was so high that the Fabric team has decided to do the work themselves, as and when they can.) If anyone feels moved to give a gift toward the costs of all this, that would be very welcome: speak to Phil Whitefield.

Alongside all this, of course, the PCC is managing other challenges; especially all the work needed to ensure we get the person God wants as our next Vicar. Please continue to pray for all those working in different ways to sustain our church life.

Ian Kirkwood

THE EDITOR DANCES ON

It was in September 1990 that I applied for the job of Media Officer at Tearfund in Middlesex. After successfully going through the interview process I left Gloucestershire for London for the second time just before Christmas. I had moved to work there once before, only to find my employer decided to relocate...to Cheltenham.

In-between were several years as a religious journalist on the Gloucestershire Echo, Severn Sound Radio, and with Elim International Missions – at that time based in St George's Road.



Shirley and Rev John Risdon



I have always enjoyed writing. When my professional career as a dancer ended as I became a Christian, the natural progression seemed to be from the stage to the typewriter: this was in an age before personal computers. Still, it was possible to receive a report from a country hours ahead of UK time, produce a morning press release, fax it to the news networks and have it included in their lunchtime bulletins.

I was not with Elim at the time of a dreadful massacre of their workers in former Rhodesia, but later wrote the biography of one of the team. Nurse Joy Bath was on a Bible college course in England when her colleagues were murdered. She returned to Africa only to die after contracting AIDS from her patients.

Not all of my experiences over the last 30 years have been so tragic, some were quite hilarious and will no doubt come to light as I settle back into life at Christ Church. One of these happy memories relates to taking 50 Christian dancers to Glastonbury for an outdoor presentation where costume changes had to take place discreetly behind the Abbey ruins. No dressing rooms were provided.

It has been comforting to find about a dozen or so old friends remain in our congregation, and in the intervening years when I popped back for various occasions, Brian and Sue Jenner always said: 'Welcome home Shirley' which meant a lot.

Someone who left Cheltenham shortly before I did, Rev John Risdon, has also returned to the County and very kindly agreed to open our Summer Fete in July this year. As a Simeon's Trustee he will be helping us with our search for a new Vicar. I have every confidence in John's advice. He is the man who fought to keep Holy Trinity Church open in our town centre (thank goodness), when others wanted to close it in the 1980s.

It was good to start making new friends from amongst our ranks at the Fete and I look forward to getting to know more of you in the months ahead. Several people have said they do not have access to Facebook photos: hence the Fete Scrapbook in this issue.

Do take note of all the events going on this month and beyond.

Shirley Collins

FETE SCRAPBOOK

Around 50 people came together to run our Summer Fete on 13th July and worked very hard. Thank you! Special mention due of: Tina Benney, Katy Bleasdale, Nick Bond, Kay Fraser, Pat Hopkins, and Brian Jenner, who made themselves available for preparations which began as far back as January. The total gross income was £2,582! Next year's Fete will be held on Saturday 20th June 2020.

Shirley Collins



Barbara selling ice cream.



Mad Hatter John in mid-discussion



John and Tony waiting for the money to come in



Eleanor enjoys an ice cream



Peter with raffle prizes



Toys anyone?...Gail and Jo in their crowns



Cakes are always popular



Jack has a quick tea break

SMILE PLEASE!

A Congregational Photograph will be taken on Sunday 8th September at the 10.30am Service. As well as something which is needed for the Parish Profile, this is a rare chance to get a snapshot of our church family in the worship space – historic actually!

Photographs will be freely available afterwards for anyone who would like a copy for their own records. Please contact Beck Donaldson: bythepiano@gmail.com for the link.

Churchwardens Barbara and Sarah

FRIENDSHIP CLUB PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 11th September, after our summer break, we welcome Miriam Davis for her talk *'Marvels and Mysteries of Japan'*. This should be fascinating to hear. Miriam spent her working life as a teacher in Japan and then as a missionary with OMF International. She has promised to bring some interesting Japanese items for us to try and guess their use!

Then on Wednesday 25th September we warmly welcome a new speaker, Eileen Parker. Many of you will know Eileen as she is one of our group of helpers at Friendship Club. Her talk is titled *'My Donkey Friends'*. She will be sharing with us the joys and tribulations of working for a donkey sanctuary and also looking after her own rescue donkeys including miniature ones. So, this will be another talk to look forward to.

Our talks start at 2.30pm, the cost is £1.00 and we meet in the Harwood Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

We also offer a free keep fit class which is only available to people who attend Friendship Club. The class starts at 11.30am and lasts for 45 minutes. Come along, have fun and get fit!

Contact Renate Young, tel: 01242 691385.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Taya Ruby Leigh Dodd, a daughter for David and Sarah, was baptised on Sunday 14th July 2019.

We welcome you into the Lord's family

Funerals

Betty Heil, aged 94, a resident at St Faith's, died on 4th June 2019. Her funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium was taken by Andrew Judge on 2nd July.

Barbara Goddard, aged 97, died on 28th June 2019. She was a long-time Cheltenham resident and was living in Paddocks Lane when we took home communion to her. Latterly she moved away to be close to her family. Her funeral was taken by Andrew Judge on 29th July.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is grieving

CHOIR AT COVENTRY

Christ Church Choir have been invited to sing Choral Evensong at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 5th October at 4.00pm.

They will be travelling by coach leaving at around 11.30am from Christ Church. More details available nearer the date for anyone who wants to go along with them.

The Director of Music at Coventry, Kerry Beaumont and his wife Leslie, have a connection to our Choir going back to 2006.

Tim Ingold and Tony White

FRIENDSHIP CLUB HOLIDAY 2019



Cavendish Hotel, Exmouth

On 1st July our party set off from Christ Church at midday in lovely weather (which was to last all week!) on the coach with driver Malc to travel to Swansea via a visit to St Fagan's, Welsh National History Museum.

Our hotel proved to be extremely comfortable with excellent food and was situated near a lake around which those who wished could walk during the warm evenings.

Next day we journeyed to the Royal Mint at Llantrisant for a fascinating and informative tour of the factory and visitor centre before spending a free afternoon in Cardiff, where some of us took a boat trip around Cardiff Bay and up the River Taff to Bute Park, location of Cardiff Castle.

Wednesday saw us visiting the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Carmarthenshire, a very varied and unforgettable experience including the butterfly house, apothecary garden, Japanese garden and the enormous glasshouse (the world's largest single span glasshouse), topped off in the afternoon for those of us who had stayed on with a visit from Prince Charles!

Thursday involved travelling to the Brecon Beacons National Park, where, amongst breathtaking scenery, we took a trip on the Brecon Mountain Railway and also spent time in Brecon with its beautiful canal.

Sadly on Friday it was time to return home, but not until after we had made a coffee stop at the Mumbles.

On behalf of all of us I'd like to thank Sue Jenner for arranging such a friendly, enjoyable and interesting holiday. We can only look forward to what's in store for 2020!

Janet Marshall

FRIENDSHIP CLUB HOLIDAY 2020

Cavendish Hotel Exmouth. Sunday 28th June for 7 days, 6 nights.

Costs:

£424 per person + £39 single supplement = £463.

Twin room with a view supplement £37 per person = £461.

Insurance £26.

In one of the best positions in Exmouth, on the level Esplanade a few metres from the beach and a short walk from the shops and harbour. Bar lounge with dance floor and entertainment most evenings. Games room with snooker and darts. Central heating throughout.

The 78 bedrooms have tea/coffee making facilities, internal telephone, hair dryer and Freeview TV with radio channels. All bedrooms also have bath or shower and WC. A lift serves most rooms, except those on 4th floor. There are a few stairs to some rooms on split level floors.

Check the accommodation out at: https://www.leisureplex.co.uk/hotels/17-Cavendish_Hotel_Exmouth.html

Itinerary to be confirmed. 2019 excursions were:

1. Teignmouth and Dawlish.
2. Sidmouth and Seaton.
3. Dartmoor and Torquay.



No donkey sanctuary included next year, but we have free day! Members of our party may want to make arrangements to visit the Donkey Sanctuary near Sidmouth which is 15 miles away.

Alfa holidays will pick up in Cheltenham. See similar tour at:
https://www.alfatravel.co.uk/alfa-holiday/?search_id=74760

We need 21 people minimum. The holiday is being held until 13th September, after which we will require £50 deposit per person. We currently have 12 single rooms and 3 twins available, with the possibility of more.

Contact Sue Jenner, tel:01242 692193 email:
suejenner@blueyonder.co.uk

HARVEST FIELD

All around, confusion,
All around, helplessness,
People lost in the bad news of every day.
Longing for purpose,
Searching for security and significance
Here in the white field of our generation.



The harvest is still great,
The workers are still few,
But the Lord of the harvest
Is the same
Yesterday, today and forever,
And this is his field.
He planted, He will give growth
If we will be his workforce
And go out into the field – where He already is –
To gather the harvest
Of his kingdom compassion.

Lord of the harvest,
In your grace, we pray,
Send us.

Daphne Kitching



You are warmly invited to our
Autumn Termly Prayer Meeting
St. Mark's C of E Junior School
*Robert Burns Ave,
Cheltenham GL51 7AL*

Monday 7 October 2019
Arrivals from 7.25 for 7.45 – 9.30pm meeting

**Worship, Speakers
with Prayer focus –
Christian Groups in Schools**

Displays from Christian Charities working in Schools:
The Rock, Youth for Christ Gloucestershire, Open the Book, iSingPoP,
4Front Theatre, Scripture Union, Christian Arts Festival, Gideons,
The National Parenting Initiative

***And time to enjoy meeting other Christians involved in Schools
Your friends are very welcome!***

**Cake, Coffee and Tea
(Do bring reusable mugs)**



HELPING TO SAVE THE COUNTY'S HISTORIC CHURCHES

Ride+Stride, the annual event that raises thousands of pounds to help preserve church heritage, will take place this year on Saturday 14th September, 10am-4pm.

Hundreds of people of all ages will be sponsored to travel by foot, bike, car and even by horse between churches in Gloucestershire. The money raised as a result will be split between local churches and the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust.

Over the past 30 years, £2,615,350 has been given in grants to 467 churches, funding important projects including roof repairs, restorations and improved disabled access. Churches across the County can apply to the Trust to receive a grant.

Chair of the Trust, Nicholas Talbot-Rice, says: "Ride + Stride is a major fundraising opportunity in our calendar. It's wonderful to see people coming together to have fun while exercising and raising money to look after these incredible buildings."

If anyone would like to take part, please see the website link: www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride. You can also join with me in welcoming participants passing through Christ Church on 14th September.

Contact Katy Bleasdale tel: 07776 205290 email: katy@railnews.co.uk.

CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who supported us this year with sponsorship, hosting events, performing, painting, leading workshops, stewarding, refreshments, driving, brochure distribution, donations, buying tickets, leaving comments and telling friends and neighbours about the Festival.

If you have not already done so, please send us feedback of your personal encounters to: nikki@christianartsfestival.org as this will help us plan next year's event. Do come along to our 'Reflections and Moving Forward Meeting' in the Music Room, Christ Church, on Tuesday 24th September at 7.30pm.

Nikki Seville



Join April Perrott for a special afternoon at Christ Church. Award winning local musicians and current West End stars will perform popular classics from favourite shows. Tickets £10 and £8 available from: <https://billetto.co.uk/e/september-serenade-tickets-370360>. All proceeds to Sue Ryder Hospice, Leckhampton.

AUTUMN TEACHING COURSE

On Wednesday evenings during October Bishop Bob Evens will be leading us through Chapter 8 of Luke's Gospel.

The opportunity to spend four evenings focussing on just one chapter of the Bible enables us to sense how the issues and challenges facing Jesus were similar to those we face in our own lives as disciples today:

9th October	Hopes and Dreams
16th October	Fears and Boundary Walls
23rd October	Surprises and new Possibilities
30th October	Disturbance and Trust

Bob served as Bishop of Crediton in Devon before retiring to Charlton Kings in 2012. He leads Quiet Days and Retreats at Lee Abbey and Scargill House and loves to open the Bible in combination with paintings, poetry, music, and space for silent prayer.

Each Wednesday evening coffee will be served from 7.15pm and Bishop Bob will begin speaking at 7.45pm. All are welcome to attend.

Barbara Lucas

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM PARISH PICNIC

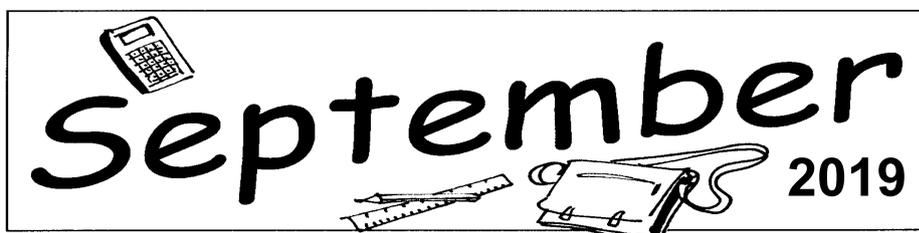
We have some lovely professional photographs taken at this event on 21st July. If you would like to see them and select some please talk to Beck or Graham Donaldson (bythepiano@gmail.com) and we will forward the link to you.

SONGS OF PRAISE, 6.30PM 8TH SEPTEMBER

Do you enjoy worshipping God musically? Would you like an opportunity to sing your favourite hymn or song?

Our annual Songs of Praise service is coming up soon, so here's an invitation to choose for yourself. It's a great occasion, so please send in your requests, together with a few words about why the hymn/song is special to you and why you've chosen it.

Andrew Judge



1st SUNDAY – Eleventh after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Josie Goodwin
- 10.30am Parish Communion [organ]: Rev Josie Goodwin
- 3.00pm September Serenade at Christ Church - see page 15
- 2nd Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 3rd Tues 7.30pm Fabric & Standing Committee in the Music Room
- 4th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
- 10.30am Holy Communion BCP
- 7.45pm 'Prayer Flash' prayer event in the Harwood Hall
- 7th Sat 9.30am Clergy/Readers' Meeting in the Malvern Room

8th SUNDAY – Twelve after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion CW
- 10.30am All-age Worship + Moving Up Sunday: David Laszlo
- 6.30pm Songs of Praise
- 9th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Music Room
- 11th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
- 10.30am Holy Communion BCP
- 11.30am Friendship Club Exercise Class in Music Room
- 12.15pm
- 12.30pm Friendship Club Salad Bar Lunch:
Harwood Hall
- 2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: Welcome to
Japan Marvels & Mysteries - Miriam Davis
- 14th Sat 10-4pm Ride+Stride for Churches - see page 14

15th SUNDAY – Thirteenth after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Sanders
- 10.30am Parish Communion [group/organ/choir]:
Rev Mike Sanders
- 16th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 18th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch

22nd SUNDAY – Fourteenth after Trinity

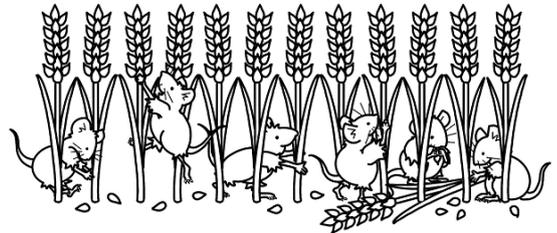
- 8.00am Holy Communion CW
- 10.30am Morning Worship [organ/choir]
- 7.30pm Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert in church
- see page 18
- 23rd Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 7.45pm Pastoral Team meets in the Music Room
- 25th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
- 10.30am Holy Communion BCP
- 11.30am Friendship Club Exercise Class in Music Room
- 12.15pm

- 25th Wed 12.30pm Friendship Club Salad Bar Lunch:
Harwood Hall
2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: My Donkey
Friends - Eileen Parker- see page 8
7.45pm Playgroup Committee meets in the Lansdown Room

29th SUNDAY – Fifteenth after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Julia Hook
10.30am **Harvest Festival** [group/organ/choir]:
Amanda Thiselton

- 30th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group
in the Harwood Hall



OCTOBER

- 1st Tues 7.45pm Evangelism Committee: 17 Royal Parade
2nd Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
5th Sat 11.30am Coach leaves Christ Church for Coventry, where our
Choir will be singing Choral Evensong at 4.00pm
- see page 9

6th SUNDAY – Sixteenth after Trinity

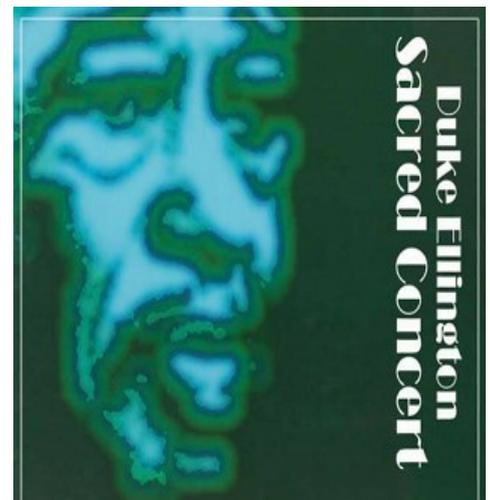
- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Sanders
10.30am Parish Communion: Bishop Bob Evens
7th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
7.30pm Finance & Standing Committee in the Music Room
9th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP
7.45pm Autumn Teaching Course (1): Bishop Bob Evens will be
leading us through chapter 8 of Luke's Gospel.
Coffee will be served from 7.15pm - see page 16

**DUKE ELLINGTON'S SACRED CONCERT (BIG BAND,
SOPRANO AND TAP DANCER)**

Sunday 22nd September 7.30pm, Christ Church.

JP AllStars Big Band and Singers, Soprano Vickie Long, Musical Director Paul McLaughlin.

£12 (£6 students) on door. Early Bird £10 (£5) before August Bank Holiday at <http://buytickets.at/cheltenhamchristianarts>.



ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERS

For young people:

Playgroup: 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or phone 243021 / 07989 124492

Crèche: Sundays from 10.20am in the Alstone Porch

Sunday Morning Children's Groups Anna Laszlo 581593

Uniformed Organisations:

Rainbows: Thursday 5.00pm in Bayshill/Lansdown Maureen Jones
517183

Brownies: Thursday 6.00pm in Harwood Hall Maureen Jones 517183

Guides: Thursday 6.15pm in Bayshill/Lansdown Maureen Jones 517183

For adults:

Baby & Toddler Group for Mums (& Dads!) with pre-school children

Monday 1.30pm-3.15pm in the Harwood Hall

Sarah O'Meara 513067

Coffee Morning every Wednesday, 10am - 12noon in the Alstone Porch

Dee Rice 231764

Friendship Club - Lunch Club & Afternoon Tea Meetings on 2nd & 4th

Wednesdays in the Harwood Hall

Tina Benney 512246

Music for Worship:

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Ingold

01452 524199

Trebles and choir practice, in the Music Room

Friday 6.30-8pm Trebles rehearsal

7.30-9pm Choir rehearsal

Worship Group: Beck Donaldson:

01451 860561

Our Mission Partners:

Wendy Phillips (The Matilda Project) matildaproject@gmail.com

Mission Without Borders, Contact: Jos Downey, jdowney@mwbuk.org

OUTREACH OCTOBER ISSUE

Copy to Shirley Collins at artseccles@googlemail.com or to the Parish Office by no later than Sunday 15th September please.

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION** - a said service
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays (Prayer Book)
2nd & 4th Sundays (Common Worship)

10.30am 1st Sunday **PARISH COMMUNION CW**
2nd Sunday **FAMILY SERVICE**
3rd Sunday **PARISH COMMUNION CW**
4th Sunday **MORNING WORSHIP**
5th Sunday **MORNING WORSHIP**

The children are in church for the first few minutes of each service, and then leave for their Sunday teaching groups.

Scramblers (Key Stage 1), Explorers (Key Stage 2) and Pathfinders (Years 7-9) meet during each 10.30am service except Family Service.

CRECHE available each Sunday morning for the under 3s.

6.30pm Christ Church hosts occasional 6.30pm evening services.

There will be a Songs of Praise at 6.30pm on the 8th September.

Monday to Friday

8.45am **MORNING PRAYER**
This is a wonderful way to start the day. You'd be very welcome to join the small group who enjoy the benefits of Morning Prayer. We meet for about half an hour.

Wednesday

10.30am **HOLY COMMUNION BCP**

HOMEGROUPS for Bible Study & Fellowship
meet regularly on different days of the week.
Newcomers are always welcome.