

OUTREACH

NOVEMBER 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: Christ Church's Choir at Coventry Cathedral (see page 10/11).

IAN KIRKWOOD WRITES...

VILE BODIES?

In 1 Corinthians Paul speaks of the church as a body, and each of us being a member, an organ, of it. Our functions may vary, but we are all essential to the body as a whole, and the body as a whole is essential to us; we cannot survive outside it.

I remember hearing a poem about bodies: sagging, fleshy bodies that have aches and pains and scars and things. I do not remember what the poem was called, but the sense of it has stayed with me. I thought it was a great poem, because it was true: that is what we are like. Sadly, every time I look in the mirror I see the truth of it. But those imperfections are evidence of life, that we have and do engage with the world.

St Paul implies that the Body of Christ is like that too: not particularly lovely of itself. How could it be? It's made up of you and me, and we are not perfect. But just as when you love someone you look not for their faults, but for their good points – and we all have good points, even the worst of us – so God, when he looks at his body, sees what we intend and just what we have achieved.

And so we have no need to be ashamed of ourselves. God has chosen to use us as his hands and feet, his arms and legs, his voice, his eyes, his love in action. So He must think we're up to it!

When we receive Communion the minister may say to each of us: "The body of Christ keep you in eternal life." These words make us think of Christ's suffering. His broken body on the cross. That body bore the marks of life's journey too. But in addition there is another, horizontal, dimension to these words. We belong to one another, and we need one another. It is in our fellowship – the body of Christ – that we find the power, the strength, the wisdom, the encouragement to live the Christian life.

The body of Christ sustains the faith from Christian to Christian, from fellowship to fellowship, from generation to generation. From the body of Christ we receive Christian tradition (the creeds, the Bible); from it we receive forgiveness, blessing, sustenance (communion), stimulus and challenge. And as members of the body of Christ we share the

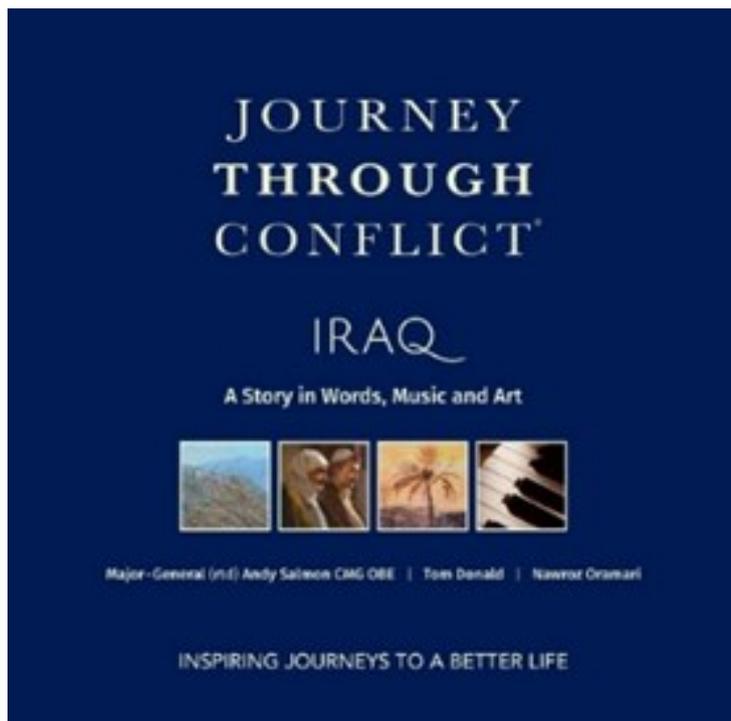
responsibility for these things. Each of us has the responsibility to do our part to ensure that the body of Christ delivers – to one another, to other churches, to future generations, and especially to those around us who are outside the body.

We are of course not perfect – no fellowship is – but we should not allow a sense of guilt to stunt us. The imperfections of the body that are the result of living are signs of life and show character. Unlike self-inflicted injuries which are the real disfigurements. And we should not, from a misplaced sense of inadequacy, disfigure what is God's.

When the minister says – on behalf of us all, to each of us – “the body of Christ keep you in eternal life” there is a lot in what he or she says.

Ian Kirkwood

JOURNEY THROUGH CONFLICT – IRAQ



Who remembers Major-General (retired) Andy Salmon CMG, OBE, who sang with our worship group a few years ago? You may have attended one of the Christian Arts Festival events he presented here in Christ Church in 2016/17.

Marking the 10th Anniversary of British withdrawal from Iraq, there is now an official album of a live performance, which was launched in London last month by Classic FM's John Suchet.

Andy was the last British General to serve at Basra and experienced three campaigns in Iraq, spanning some 19 years. The CD contains Andy's stories, Tom Donald's exquisite piano and Nawroz Oramari's haunting Kurdish vocals. The final track '*O Lord Hear My Prayer*' was first heard by Andy here at Christ Church and has since become the high point of the Iraq musical event.

Copies of the CD or downloads cost £10 each. Available from Beck Donaldson, or the website: journeythroughconflict.bandcamp.com.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

NOVEMBER PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 13th November our speaker will be Nichola Vaughan, sharing her '*Life of Rhyme*'. Nichola has been told that she is a cross between Pam Ayres, because her poems rhyme and hopefully make people laugh, and Victoria Wood, because despite living in Gloucestershire for over 30 years she has still not lost her Lancashire accent! An amusing afternoon to look forward to.

Then on Wednesday 27th November we welcome the return of Pat Chase from The Vine Project. Pat works for this charity in South Africa doing a valuable job helping vulnerable and orphaned children to be able to attend school and educate themselves out of poverty and into a better life. She will bring Zulu jewellery and some very nice Christmas decorations made from beads with her for sale.

Our talks take place in The Harwood Hall at 2.30pm, last for an hour and cost £1. Everyone is most welcome

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. Why not come along, have fun and get fit!

Contact Renate Young, tel: 01242 691385.

HOLIDAY 2020

The Friendship Club holiday will be based at the Cavendish Hotel, Exmouth, from Sunday 28th June for 7 days and 6 nights. If you are thinking of coming with us, we have some twin rooms left. Contact me for details and costs.

Possible excursions during the week are to: Dartmouth and Torquay; Sidmouth and Seaton; Teignmouth and Dawlish.

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

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: SIDESPERSONS' MEETING

Wednesday 6th November 2019

6.30 for 7pm (finish at 8.30pm)

in Lansdown/Bayshill Rooms

Rotas – are you willing to continue?

Still the best Sunday for you?

Volunteering for Christmas Services

Wine and Nibbles

Sarah - 01242 513067 and Barbara - 07912345056

THE EDITOR REMEMBERS

Suddenly I feel old. People born at the turn of the century are leaving school; things that happened in the 1980s are now filmed as historical drama; can it really be 50 years since men first walked on the Moon? I remember staying up on the sofa wrapped in a blanket to watch blurred images on television – it was a Sunday night and I had just finished my 'O' Levels.

People tend to recall events linked to personal happenings. It is like the Bible passage which begins: "*In the year King Uzziah died...*" marking the time when an important vision of the Lord was given (Isaiah 6:1). Thank goodness none of us at Christ Church is *that* old: King Uzziah is thought to have died around 740 BC.

As the years roll by, family and friends move on to the next life, and one memory is replaced by another, more recent event, by those who come after. It is only natural for this to happen, but when it does, we should still

have a place somewhere, perhaps in the old photo albums, to honour the lives of those whose very presence meant that we *could* and did come after.

November is a time when we remember as a nation those who have given their lives in active service on land, sea, or in the skies. On the first day of this month as Christians we also celebrate All Saints' Day in memory of not only those who have performed well-known miracles, but also those more local, faithful believers too.

Let us not forget where we have come from, and continue to commemorate events which happened even before we were born, in light of those who gave sacrificially so that we could live today.

Shirley Collins

POEM BY WORLD WAR II FIGHTER PILOT WHO WAS KILLED IN A MID-AIR COLLISION OVER ENGLAND IN 1941

High Flight by John Magee

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunwards I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a thousand things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air,
Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR

Saturday 23rd November 10.30am-12.30pm in the Halls Complex.
We need your support!

Plans are well ahead now, but we still need your help to raise money for our chosen charities at home and abroad. And you can still have a say on the two charities the church stalls will be supporting.

The Quiz has now been launched and question sheets are on sale in Church, price £1 each. Buy a copy and join in the fun.

Hand bills and posters to distribute and display will be available for you to help promote the event. These will also be at the back of Church and in the Hub. Why not give copies to your neighbours and encourage them to come along?

Can you offer gifts to sell: bric-a-brac, Christmas decorations, jewellery, raffle or tombola prizes etc.? You can deliver things to the South Transept any time now.

We are having an Accessories Stall. Pat Hopkins is looking for 'pre-loved' stock. If you have any unwanted scarves, gloves, handbags, please contact her direct, email: patemhopkins@gmail.com.

Cakes, Preserves and Plants can be delivered the evening before the Fair to the Halls, 6-7pm or on the morning of the Fair, by 10am.

Contact me, Tina Benney, tel: 01242 512246, or speak to me after church.

We look forward to hearing from you.

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS

CHARITY FAIR

In the Parish Centre

Saturday 23rd November

10.30am – 12.30pm



Entrance £1 Children FREE

Stalls for charities at home and abroad

Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, and

Christmas Quiz results!

Entertainment by the Incredibelles

Father Christmas in his Grotto

Come along and bring your family, friends, and

folk from our local community

GREAT NEWS FROM MIKE SMITH!

“Dear All at Christ Church,

I hope you are all well and life in vacancy isn't proving too challenging. I have and will continue to pray for you all.

My journey since leaving Christ Church has been very up and down, but God is good and Sarah and the boys have been an amazing support. I had an interview for the Vicar of St. George's in Brockworth on Tuesday and I am delighted to say they have chosen to appoint me to start sometime in the New Year. Thank you all for your love, support and prayers, Mike, Sarah and the boys.”

CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR AT COVENTRY



It was a privilege and an honour to sing Choral Evensong at the wonderful modern Cathedral that rises phoenix-like out of the World War II ruins of the medieval Coventry Cathedral. It now stands as a beacon for reconciliation and against the ravages of war.

Christ Church Choir had been practising since before the summer break. We called in the help of some fringe members and were very grateful to them for their wonderful voices as we had a full choir of twenty-six and at least four per part. A member of the Cathedral team said he hadn't heard a small church choir sing to such a high standard in many years, which is a very nice compliment.

Singing at a Cathedral can sometimes feel strange – like you're part of a tourist attraction rather than worshipping God. Thankfully, twenty-two people from the Christ Church congregation came along to support us. This was really lovely, as there was an atmosphere of love and family during the Service and a true feeling of worship.

Tony White had organised a coach to transport us there – sorted out music folders with all the sheet music and information we would need, and made sure we all had robes. He really is the master of organisation and we appreciate all the hours of work Tony puts in for the Choir, not just for trips, but week in, week out. He has been doing this for years and years! Thank God for Tony.

I must now add some thanks to Tim Ingold, our Director of Music. We are very lucky to have such a talented chap at the helm. He chose the music we sang, which showed us to the best of our ability. His direction and patience and calmness were key to making the trip such a success.

The Cathedral team are keen for us to return. I hope it can be arranged and that members of our Church Family will feel able and encouraged to join us again or for the first time.

We sing Choral Evensong approximately once a month at Christ Church, keeping the tradition alive. If you have never been to an Evensong I would recommend it to you. The words to the prayers are wonderful and to have them set to music can transport you. Keep a look out in the pew sheet for the date of the next Choral Evensong.

Amanda Whitefield

Congratulations to our choir for a superb Service at Coventry Cathedral on 5th October. Please bear in mind that services of Choral Evensong are held at 6.30pm on the second Sunday of each month apart from August. We are very privileged to have a choir of such a high standard so please support them by coming along to worship God in our now very *warm* church, and to enjoy tea, coffee and homemade cakes afterwards.

Sarah O'Meara



The old and new parts of Coventry Cathedral, standing together.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Evie-Grace Ryan, a daughter for Emily, was baptised at Christ Church on 29th September 2019.

Alexander James Philip Jackson, a son for Andrew and Jennie, was baptised at Christ Church on 13th October 2019.

We welcome Evie-Grace and Alexander into the Lord's family.

FUNERAL

Patricia (Paddy) George, aged 91, died on 11th September 2019. Her funeral was taken at The Crematorium by Andrew Judge on 18th October.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is grieving

WEDDINGS IN CHRIST CHURCH THIS YEAR

Jonathan Wilkes and **Rachel Fuidge** on 13th April

Jamie-John Miller and **Abbigail Turnbull** on 20th July

Matthew Siller and **Laura Price** on 10th August

Anthony Vizard and **Alison Bradbury** on 30th August

Thomas Henry and **Rebecca McWhirter** on 19th October

Congratulations and our very best wishes

HELP THE GUIDES

Don't forget help raise funds for Girlguiding Canada 2020 - Lizzie Green whenever you shop online!

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,500 big name retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, and Booking.com – and when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for us every time. It's that easy!

Help support us:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lizziegreen/>

COFFEE CONCERTS

This month we have a real treat with two Coffee Concerts at Christ Church. There is no fixed admission charge, you pay what you like and the proceeds go to our Church Fabric Fund.

Hornucopia

Saturday 2nd November, 10.30am

Beautiful music for French Horn and Piano with Laura Morris.

Ashok Gupta

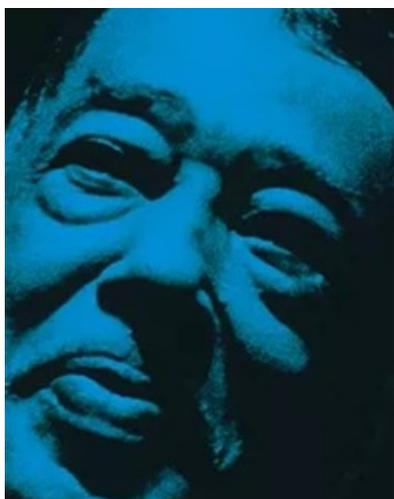
Sunday 24th November, 3pm

The international pianist delights with Beethoven, Brahms, Grainger/ Gershwin.

And after the music, stay on for coffee and cake!

More details from: bythepiano@gmail.com tel: 07496 129967.

DUKE ELLINGTON'S SACRED CONCERT



Saturday 23rd November 7.30pm
with JP AllStars Big Band and
Singers, Plus Tap Dancer

Tickets £12 (£6) from:
buytickets.at/cheltenhamchristianarts

NEWS FROM CHELTENHAM STREET PASTORS

We have just been awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Hero Award. This year Cheltenham Street Pastors also celebrates 10 years of patrolling our town. So we have lots to give thanks for.



The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner recently said: “We were incredibly impressed with the passion and commitment that you demonstrate within Cheltenham. It is reassuring to hear about the excellent structures you have in place to ensure you are as well equipped as possible to deliver the care, help and listening ear so many people benefit from as a result of your excellent work in addition to the well directed prayers. We are in no doubt that the work you do significantly contributes to people having a safer night out in Cheltenham and this certainly extends beyond what the police would otherwise deliver.”

We would like to invite you to our special Commissioning Service which this year is being held at Cambray Baptist Church, where our very first Commissioning took place in 2009. It will be held on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm and will be followed by a finger buffet. We are pleased that Rev Les Isaac, international founder of Street Pastors, will be speaking.

Do come along and celebrate a decade of Christians being salt and light in Cheltenham at night, and also support those who are training Street Pastors.

If anyone is interested in joining us we would like to hear from you. Please email: cheltenham@streetpastors.org.uk.

Sarah Chad CSP Co-ordinator

TAKING CHURCH TO CARE HOMES

Have you ever wondered how you might miss your church life if you became a resident in a care home? Although clergy take Holy Communion to individuals and groups all around the town, there is still a lack of regular opportunities for people to express their faith.

Arts Ecclesia is an organisation which helps all kinds of folk to use their creativity in worship and presentation situations. One of the things we do is to visit care homes in Cheltenham several times a year. We provide an informal, lively Service, where care home residents get the chance to sing their favourite hymns, listen to readings including poetry, and watch some dancing. At Christmas we also provide a short pantomime which they can enjoy.

The performers come from a number of different churches and it is good to meet new people and share ideas. As the work is seasonal, the rehearsals are not too time consuming.

We are always in need of new members, and would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to join us in helping older members of the community to feel they can still “go to church” once in a while.

Shirley Collins, tel: 01242 696094, email: artseccles@googlemail.com.



Marcus Kennett as Joseph, holding the baby Jesus, at a care home Service, and Megan Russell in Gilbert & Sullivan mood.



PARTY INVITATION

All Saints' Academy, Blaisdon Way,
Cheltenham, GL51 0WH

FREE party for all to celebrate being part
of the Diocese of Gloucester.

Entertainment includes: sports, games, storytelling, choirs,
iSingPop, circus skills, face painting

Also: grill the Bishops in a special Question Time session!

FREE food includes: hog roast, vegan burgers, soup,
popcorn and lots of cake.

MONTHLY BIKE MEETING

IGNITION happens on the second Monday of each month. It is the name of a group for bike enthusiasts, hosted by the Christian Motorcyclists Association. Meetings are from 7.30-9.30pm at The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 6PN.

On 11th November we are honoured to welcome Andy Haines the 'Racing Preacher' as our guest speaker. He will be recounting his adventures, thrills and spills, as a passenger in a racing outfit, including the Isle of Man TT races.

Brian Jenner



NOVEMBER DIARY

3rd SUNDAY – Fourth before Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Sanders
- 10.30am Parish Communion [group/organ]: Rev Mike Sanders
- 6.30pm Memorial Service: Rev Michael Garland
- 4th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 6th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
- 10.30am Holy Communion BCP
- 7.30pm Fabric & Organ Committee in the Music Room
- 9th Sat 9.30am Clergy/Readers' Meeting in the Malvern Room
- 6.30pm for 7pm: Sidespersons' meeting in the Lansdown/
- 8.30pm Bayshill Rooms

10th SUNDAY – Third before Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion CW: Andrew Judge
- 10.30am Act of Remembrance [organ/choir]: Andrew Judge
- 11th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Music Room
- 12th Tues 7.45pm Homegroup Leaders meet in the Music Room
- 13th 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 Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood Hall
- 2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: A Life of Rhyme
- Nichola Vaughan

17th SUNDAY – Second before Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Paul Youde
- 10.30am Parish Communion [organ/choir/group]:
Rev Simon Witcombe
- 18th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
- 7.45pm Pastoral Team Meeting in the Music Room
- 20th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
- 10.30am Holy Communion BCP

24th SUNDAY – Christ the King

- 8.00am Holy Communion CW: Rev Mike Sanders
10.30am All-age service with baptism: Rev Mike Sanders
25th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
27th 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 Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood Hall
2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: Vine Project with jewellery etc for sale - Pat Chase

DECEMBER DIARY

1st SUNDAY – Advent Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Archdeacon Phil Andrew
10.30am Parish Communion [group/organ/choir]:
Archdeacon Phil Andrew
6.30pm Advent Carol Service [organ/choir]: Rev Mike Sanders
2nd Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
4th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
10.30am Holy Communion BCP

ADVANCE NOTICE

Candlelight Concert
Friday 20th December 4pm
Cotswold Brass Quintet



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 DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020 DOUBLE ISSUE

Copy to Shirley Collins at artseccles@googlemail.com or to the
Parish Office by no later than Sunday 17th November 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 Memorial Service on 3rd November and an Advent Carol Service on 1st December.

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.