

OUTREACH

JUNE 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

Curate: The Rev Mike Smith (day off: Friday)

Hilltops, 10 Chapel Lane, Woodmancote, GL52 9HT

email address: mdsmith.email@gmail.com

07341 830913

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

Church Complex Manager: Cherie Skidmore [9.30-12.30 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: Susan West 517116

FLOWER SECRETARY: Penny Kirkwood 581883

Front cover: Mandy Whitefield assisted by Jo Johnston and Colin Macey serve up the Big Brekkie (see page 15).

A READER WRITES

I was intrigued recently by some research into the impact of a good Ofsted report. It appears that positive Ofsted ratings for a school could damage GCSE results.

The detail, as usual, is a bit more complicated. Apparently, parents who get good news about their children's school are less likely to help their children with homework, and this in turn could harm GCSE results.

So, there are quite a lot of ifs there. But one thing is for sure: this is a story about who we think we can depend on.

Parents in a "Good" school seem to depend more on the school to "get their children through" GCSE. Parents in poorly-rated schools think they have to depend on themselves. The idea that the students might depend on their own hard work doesn't seem to be part of the research.

Churches don't have Ofsted ratings, or not yet anyway. But that doesn't mean we can't find out how a church is doing. I wonder what rating you would give Christ Church? I wonder what rating your neighbour, who doesn't attend, would give?

When things appear to be going well, it's natural to depend on the vicar to keep things going. And if the vicar leaves, we turn to the assistant vicar. And if the assistant vicar goes... well, who do we depend on then?

If you answered, "The churchwardens" you can go to the back of the class. (If you answered "The readers," you are clearly having a laugh.) You get the gold star, of course, if you answered, "We depend on God."

But how do we know we are depending on God? It's easy to kid ourselves we are depending on God but in reality depend on the vicar, or his sidekicks, or ourselves. Just like those parents who tell their children that GCSE results depend on them, but really believe it's the teacher, or themselves, who will achieve success.

There is only one way to show dependence on God. It's called prayer. The good news is that the more we pray, the more we learn dependence on God. So at the beginning, prayer may just be the wise intention to be dependent on God, rather than dependence itself. But if we are not praying at all, we are not dependent on God, that's for sure.



Right now, Christ Church is seeking God's help to find our future. Our future is not our next vicar, though the next vicar will be an important part of that future. This seeking can only be done together, and the prayer that underpins it must also be done together.

In what ways would you like to be part of this prayerful conversation about Christ Church's future? If you have new ideas, or even old ideas that you like, about developing our life of shared prayer, and deepening our dependency on God, do share them. If it would help, share them with me. Or just get on and do them. But do pray first!

David Laszlo

THE EDITOR RAMBLES ON

A short ramble this month as there is plenty in these pages to dip into. You can reflect on the amazing Christian Arts Festival (pages 7–9), find out about a special achievement by Elizabeth Green (page 13), and read about Tim's institution on page 14. Have your diary handy to note down all the various events you are invited take part in.

If life is busy (or even if it isn't), and you are in need of beautiful music to rest your soul, then consider Sarah O'Meara's suggestion below.

Susan West

CHORAL EVENSONG – A SPECIAL, PEACEFUL SERVICE

One Sunday a month at 6.30pm our choir treats us with beautiful music, wonderfully sung. They regularly do this at 10.30am services, but choral evensong is a special, peaceful service. Now the days are getting longer, why not come along and savour the delights. You can also enjoy homemade cakes served with tea or coffee at the back of church when the service is over. Your next opportunity will be on 16th June.

Do come along.

Sarah O'Meara

FAREWELL TO MIKE

Mike Smith first came on a placement whilst training and made an instant impression on those he came into contact with at Christ Church. Tim was keen to have him as Curate with an initial focus on children's work. The PCC agreed to finance his first year until the Diocese could take over his stipend.

During his four years he has endeared himself to us with his friendly, open personality, his approachability and genuine interest in people. He is kind and caring, has a great sense of humour and has been very keen to learn from Tim, a great teacher and role model. It has been good to see him grow in stature, leading all types of services with great assurance, whilst maintaining his own style.

A big feature of his time with us has been his enthusiasm for working with the local community and he leaves a strong legacy. He set up Family Time at Gloucester Road School, now enjoyed every half term by some 40+ adults and children. He was keen to encourage those who came to church only at Christmas and he ran courses in consecutive Januaries with newcomers in mind. They were well attended by both members of Christ Church and those on the fringes of our community. He has re-introduced Alpha which is proving successful. Together with Sarah, he spearheaded the children's work before handing it over to Anna Laszlo. He has continued to work hard with our young people, improving our crèche to make it more welcoming and leading Pathfinder sessions.

Above all, Mike has been passionate that everyone should experience God's love in their lives; Christ Church will miss him greatly but he can move on to the next stage of his ministry in the knowledge that he has left a lasting impression on us.

We would like to mark Mike's last Sunday on 7th July with a special get-together in the Harwood Hall after the 10.30am service, when we will be serving coffee and cake. We are blessed to have Bishop Robert with us on this day to prayerfully send Mike and his family onto the next stage of ministry.

Barbara Lucas and Sarah O'Meara
Churchwardens

VACANCY UPDATE

Your PCC has elected a small team to create the parish profile, setting out who we are at Christ Church and where we want to be, which will be used to attract our new vicar. The team is Chris Eddershaw, David Laszlo, Gilly Jenkins, Graham Donaldson and Stephen Thiselton. They can co-opt additional people with specific talents such as design or photography. The profile team aim to produce a first draft for the PCC at its meeting in July.

Please continue to pray for everyone involved.

Ian Kirkwood

A PRAYER FOR THE VACANCY

Guiding God, we pray for Christ Church.
During the vacancy, we pray for those who will preach and lead our worship. Please be drawing to living faith many who don't yet know you.

Then we submit to you the appointments process.
We pray for the whole Church Council, and for the team it has appointed to draft the Parish Profile: Chris Eddershaw, David Laszlo, Gilly Jenkins, Graham Donaldson and Stephen Thiselton.
We pray for the Trustees, in their special role.
We pray for Bishop Robert, for Archdeacon Phil, and for Josie, acting as Area Dean.

In your time, and in your way, please raise up the right woman or man to be the next vicar of Christ Church.
In the name of Jesus.
Amen.

NO ABIDING CITY

“Surprising stories of the Christian presence and encounter in the Middle East”.

The Bishop of Truro’s recent report highlighting the plight of Christians in some parts of the world drew a good audience to Christ Church on 8th May as part of the Christian Arts Festival. The Rt Revd Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf and Primate designate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, had taken his title for the talk *No Abiding City* from Hebrews 13 v 14.

Jenny and John Worton-Griffiths attend St Andrew’s Church, Kyrenia* in Northern Cyprus, one of the churches in the Diocese. On behalf of the festival trustees, they invited Bishop Michael to speak at the Festival where he was introduced by Rev Nick Davies of St Phillip and St James, Leckhampton.

Bishop Michael began by explaining the geography of the Levant (near east), the Middle East, Egypt and North Africa. He highlighted two narratives: **Firstly** those areas and countries where it is very difficult to worship and where often today Christians are persecuted. He also stressed that Christians and churches were present in these places long before the start of the Muslim faith. Travelling around the Diocese from Yemen in the south up to Iraq in the North is difficult during these times of strife but every effort is made to continue support for the work there.

The **second** narrative is one of Christian growth and encouragement. Much of his Diocese covers countries of the Gulf where Christian immigrant workers are welcomed, needed and often far outnumber citizens by more than 6:1. The rulers of these countries have facilitated the building and expansion of churches, albeit within carefully controlled locations and regulation. Over any weekend, Friday, the rest day, through to Sunday 10-20,000 worshippers pass through each church compound.

The Diocese has continued to support and invest in the eye clinic in the St George’s Church Aden compound, so important to the Yemeni community. The clinic is run in the name of the Church by committed Muslim doctors and nurses. Bishop Michael has a real passion for St George’s Church, Baghdad spending Holy Week there for the last four years. Under the leadership of an Iraqi priest, ordained by Bishop



Michael, a clinic, kindergarten and infant school are growing within the compound. Arab parents are so pleased to have their children attend this Christian school. Bishop Michael's wife, Julia, is involved with the women's work caring for refugees and children. Bishop Michael stressed the importance he places in building both interdenominational and interfaith links across his Diocese. For more information visit <https://cypgulf.org>.

His talk concluded with Q&A before our own Bishop Rachel as Festival Patron came to greet Bishop Michael and thank him for his participation in the Festival.

Jenny and John Worton-Griffiths



Bishop Rachel and Bishop Michael, Rev Nick Davies looks on

* In next month's Outreach we will take a look at St Andrew's Kyrenia.

ENCOUNTERS AT THE CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL



Susan West enjoyed the Textile workshop in the Chapter House at Gloucester Cathedral

“Everything I went to was excellent. Such a great range of events, something to appeal to everyone”.
Heather Rogers



Joan Whiting-Moon and Penny Kirkwood admire the Encounters art exhibition in the Hub Gallery



Amanda Thiselton and Jennie Preece in John Swan's production of The Sower

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Dear Friends

We apologise that we had to cancel our lunch meetings during May due to the power outage in the Christ Church hall complex. However, the coffee mornings in the Alstone Porch and the Exercise Class in the Music Room will carry on regardless – we really hope you will continue to come and enjoy this activity.

We are hoping to run some form of modified lunch service for 12th & 26th June and the afternoon meetings and tea will be held as usual (see below). Please keep an eye out for notices as this situation progresses. As there was no sign-up sheet circulated for 12th June it would be very helpful if you could sign up on the list in the Alstone Porch or phone Tina as usual.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Tina Benney and Mandy Whitefield

FRIENDSHIP CLUB TALKS

On Wednesday 12th June we welcome a new speaker, John Dixon, who will be telling us all about “Poverty, Pestilence and Privies”, a look at how our ancestors coped with life in the past.

Then on Wednesday 26th June Angela Panrucker will be making a welcome return with another of her quizzes, this one being the 5th location quiz she will be puzzling us with. Our talks start at 2.30pm in the Harwood Hall and only cost £1.

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Elise de Beauvoir Campbell Brown, a daughter for Alistair and Elizabeth Brown, was baptised on Sunday 12th May 2019.

We welcome you into the Lord's family

Funeral

Catherine Pugson died on 30th March 2019, aged 71. Her funeral service, which took place at Cheltenham Crematorium, was conducted by Rev Julia Hook and attended by many of her Christ Church friends. Catherine was a long serving and very loyal member of our Sidesperson's team. Read more about Catherine on page 12.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is grieving



Parish Picnic

SUNDAY 21st JULY 2019, 1-5pm
MANOR FARM, HAZLETON

Everyone welcome ❀ Bring your picnics and chairs ❀ Games
Drinks provided ❀ BBQ for your own meats ❀ Parking

CATHERINE PUGSON

Catherine, who died on 30th March, was a well loved member of Christ Church since she came to live at St Georges in Well Place at the age of 15. She helped with looking after children in bible study groups, playgroup and toddlers. She knitted beautiful stuffed toys for them. She was very skilled at making patchwork quilts which were generously given away for prizes at the fete or charity shops. She volunteered at the Sue Ryder charity shop for over 10 years, receiving a certificate and badge. She walked everywhere carrying her heavy bags of handmade goodies into town.

She shared her flat with many soft toys, "her Boys", these gave us messages of love every time we met.

Catherine was a sidesperson always going above and beyond. She willingly handed out service sheets in the very cold south porch and enjoyed taking the collection up to the vicar. She always offered to do more duties, morning and evening. She would tell you the latest football or other sporting results from the evening before. She asked after families she had known growing up.

Catherine made many of the cushions for church and the crèche. She enjoyed knitting blankets to keep us all warm when the heating started to fail! Dear Catherine we will miss your friendly welcoming face on Sundays.

As Catherine got to Heaven's Gate
She got St Peter in quite a state!
You can't bring in your entourage
There's not enough room in the garage.
Catherine said" These aren't soft toys.....
They're coming in! They are my BOYS!"

We would like to collect money to buy a bench in Catherine's memory, Please hand any donation to Sue Jenner or Sarah O'Meara or leave in the office clearly labelled.

Sue Jenner

ELIZABETH COLLECTS THEM ALL

Elizabeth Green, a member of 9th Cheltenham (Christ Church) Guides is celebrating after reaching her goal of completing every Brownie and Guide interest badge. She has now completed all 57 Brownie interest badges and all 41 Guide interest badges.

She finished her final badge, 'Holidays' in the Easter holidays, by completing a two night sleepover with friends in her patrol, and was presented with her final badge by County and Region Commissioners.



Elizabeth completed her first badge at Brownies in December 2012, and soon decided she'd like to complete them all because not many Brownies do. When she went to Guides, she said wasn't going to do many badges, but that somehow changed as she was not sure if any girl had done this.

"I've kept busy most school holidays with one badge or another. I've learnt so much by completing all the badges. Each one taught me something different and new!"

Girlguiding has recently changed their programmes and brought all the badges and activities up to date, so Elizabeth will be one of the last to complete some of the badges from the old programme. And Elizabeth has already completed two of the new badges!

Girlguiding has opened many opportunities for Elizabeth. She has been selected to play for the National Scouting and Guiding Symphony Orchestra in the summer. As part of International Opportunities within Girlguiding, Elizabeth has also been selected to go to Canada in 2020, and she and the team of 10 Guides and 2 leaders are currently fundraising for this. They each have to raise £2500.

Sian Green

TIM MAYFIELD'S INSTITUTION

On Tuesday 30th April at a service in St Albans church, about 8 miles from Newcastle, Tim was instituted as vicar of the parish of Earsdon and Backworth and licensed as Area Dean of Tynemouth by the Rt. Revd Christine Hardman, the Bishop of Newcastle.

The service was well-attended, including about a dozen from Christ Church as well as Will and Leena Halse, who had come all the way from Devon, and we were honoured with a round of applause! Among the congregation were many representatives of local organisations with whom Tim will work in the course of his duties, and each was given an opportunity to express a personal welcome. Indeed there was great warmth everywhere. Tim's arrival has been eagerly awaited by his new parishioners. Also there were Sue and other members of the Mayfield family.

The Bishop preached, beginning with many thank yous to those who have kept things going during the long vacancy, caused by the death of the previous incumbent. There had clearly been much collaboration.

The texts were Ephesians 4.7-16 and Mark 13.5-13. As it was St Mark's day, she spoke of Mark and who he might have been, but focused on the power of his gospel in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. She also described it as an awkward gospel, because it contains difficult things for us to ponder: who is Jesus: what does it mean to be a disciple, a follower of the Son of God, who himself is a suffering servant: why did Jesus have to die such an awful death? Very clearly she said that God enters the darkness of his creation and conquers it, and indeed it is the Cross that makes it possible for us to believe in him.

Much of what Tim had to say was prescribed by his declaration of assent and his oaths of allegiance (to the Queen) and obedience (to the Bishop), but there was an opportunity for personal expression when he thanked everyone for their welcome and said how much he was looking forward to the work ahead. He also put out an appeal for anyone to join him in Morning Prayer, not presently part of daily life there, as he has found it an invaluable way of starting the day. It was very good to hear that call!

St Albans is a fine, historic church not dissimilar in size to Christ Church. In the churchyard there is a memorial to the Hartley Pit disaster of 1862



when 204 men and boys lost their lives underground. Looking down the list of names, I was struck by the number of boys aged only 11 or 12 who'd been working in the mine! Many of the victims were laid to rest in the churchyard.

Andrew Judge

BIG BREKKIE



Congratulations to Mandy Whitefield and her team (shown on the cover) for serving a delicious hot breakfast on 12th May at the start of Christian Aid week. They successfully overcame the challenge of no electricity in the hall complex for cooking, or hot water for washing up. The breakfast and monthly sale raised a total of £541.12 for Christian Aid.

You are invited to:



Entertainment

Stalls

Teas

Cakes

Raffle

Christ Church Fete 2019
Saturday 13 July 2-4.15pm

to be opened by:

Rev. John Risdon

from Simeon's Trustees

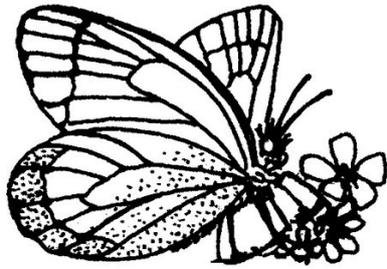
**Mad Hatter's Tea Party Theme with
best adult & child costume prizes!**



Profit to:
*missions & charities at
home & abroad*

Fun & Games for all!

Admission £1 children free



JUNE 2019

2nd SUNDAY – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Smith
		10.30am	Parish Communion [organ/choir/group]: Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester
3rd	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
5th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		7.00pm	Alpha 6 in the Harwood Hall

9th SUNDAY – Pentecost

		8.00am	Holy Communion CW: Rev Mike Sanders
		10.30am	All-age Worship [group]: Rev Mike Smith
		12 noon	Shortened Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Prayer Visiting Service in the Harwood Hall
10th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		7.30pm	Finance & Standing Committee in the Music Room
12th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		12.30pm	Friendship Club Lunch: Harwood Hall
		2.30pm	Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: Poverty, Pestilence and Privies - John Dixon
		7.00pm	Alpha 7 in the Harwood Hall
15th	Sat	10-5pm	Alpha Course Away Day at Toddington Village Hall



16th SUNDAY – Trinity Sunday

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Smith
		10.30am	Parish Communion: Andrew Judge
		6.30pm	Choral Evensong [organ/choir]: Rev Mike Smith
17th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		7.45pm	Hall Management Committee in the Malvern Room
		7.45pm	Playgroup Committee in the Lansdown Room
19th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		7.00pm	Alpha 8 in the Harwood Hall

23rd SUNDAY – First after Trinity

		8.00am	Holy Communion CW: Rev Mike Smith
		10.30am	Morning Worship: Angela Smith
24th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
25th	Tues	7.45pm	Worship Committee in the Malvern Room
26th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		12.30pm	Friendship Club Lunch: Harwood Hall
		2.30pm	Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: Location Quiz no 5 - Angela Panrucker
		7.00pm	Alpha 9 in the Harwood Hall

30th SUNDAY – Second after Trinity

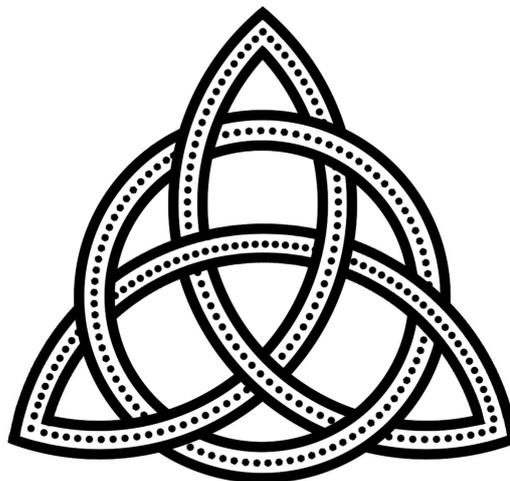
		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Mike Smith
		10.30am	Parish Communion CW: Amanda Thiselton

JULY

1st	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		7.30pm	Fabric & Organ Committee in the Music Room
3rd	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		7.00pm	Alpha 10 in the Harwood Hall

7th SUNDAY – Third after Trinity

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.30am	Parish Communion: Rt Rev Robert Springett, Bishop of Tewkesbury
		12noon	Rev Mike Smith's farewell in the Harwood Hall - see page 5



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 JULY/AUGUST DOUBLE ISSUE

Copy to Susan West at susan.blackett1@btinternet.com or to the Parish Office by no later than Sunday 16th June 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** and
at 12noon **HOLY COMMUNION**
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 Prayer Visiting Service in the Harwood Hall on 9th June and a Choral Evensong in church on 16th June.

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.