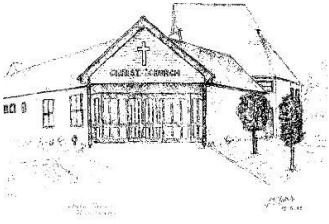


7CHRIST CHURCH, STANTONBURY
STANTONBURY ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church.



Meeting God – Following Jesus – Serving People

Sunday 15th December Christ Church Carol Service. @ 10.30 am

3rd Sunday in Advent.

You are invited to come to Christ Church on Sunday 15th December at 10.30 am when our Carol service will be led by Rev Phil Dunning.

The 6 Readings are from Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:8-16, Matthew 2:1-11 and John 1:1-14.

This service will also be streamed to our Facebook page, using the link below. You don't need to belong to Facebook in order to follow the service.

We will start streaming from 10.25am

<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchmk/>

We look forward to sharing our services with you.

Here are the advance details of the services in December.

Sunday 22nd December 10.30am Morning Worship led by Stephanie Hibbard.

Tuesday 24th December 9.00pm Christmas Eve service- Midnight in Bethlehem

Led by Maggie Prisk.

Wednesday 25th December 10.30am Christmas day family worship

Led by Phil Dunning.

Sunday 29th December There will be no service held at Christ Church as we will be joining the SEP partnership for a joint service with Communion at Cross and Stables church Downs Barn at 11am. This service will be live streamed details to follow.

Prayer requests

Please remember in your prayers: Nancy Warner, Ian Atkinson, Pam Ian's Friend. Cis Jones, Nancy Dua, Jean and Peter Wood, Rachel Howarth, Peter Thorpe, Patricia and Len Collins, Roberta Corley, Audrey (Steve Millers mum), David and Caroline (David is Jamie Slee's brother), Roger and Jenny Main. Debaroh Abbott the daughter-in-law of Roberta Corley who is going through cancer treatment.

Pray for the people of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Ukraine, Israel and Gaza.

Housegroups week starting 15th December

Wednesday Group at 7.30pm - Contact Roger Gander (01908 312162)

(In person meeting)

Thursday Group at 7.30pm - Contact Richard Solly (01908 317392)

(On zoom meeting)

Coffee and Cake – Saturday 14th December

Our Coffee and Cake morning is on the third Saturday of the month. Come along for a pleasant morning and a chat over a cup of coffee and some cake. It is also open for people around the campus to join us. The time is 9.30am to 11.30 am. No charge, donations welcome which go to the charity we are supporting this month.

The charity we are supporting this month is UnityMK - formally known as winter night shelter

we support individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness - whatever your background or circumstances we are here to help. Mental health needs, the breakdown of a relationship, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, bereavement, losing your job, and financial problems can all contribute to making households at risk of homelessness. We support:

- Rough sleepers ,Sofa surfers ,People in emergency accommodation or temporary housing, Those who need support with their tenancies, Others who are vulnerable.. <https://unitymk.org>



The Wednesday morning Drop-In 18th December

The Wednesday morning Drop-In meets at church between 10:00 and 11:30 am. Refreshments will be available.

The drop-in is also available online via our Facebook group, for those who wish to meet remotely.

(There will be a drop in on Wednesday 1st January- more details to follow)

Under 5s – 19th December

This will be the last meeting till after Christmas we will be back on Thursday 9th January 2025.

Under 5s, meet from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the church hall. (Term time only.)

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve.

Christmas Crib service at Bradwell Church @ 5.00pm. Service led by Rev Phil Dunning.

A short service for the young and young at heart. "Songs, Stories, Fun, Presents"
Take a break from the preparations and rush, and focus on the real story.

Seasonal refreshments to follow in the annex.

Christmas cards at church

To reduce our use of paper, the main notice board in the coffee lounge will be available in the weeks leading up to Christmas for you to pin up a Christmas card to the church, instead of sending individual cards. You could donate the money saved to a charity of your choice.

ECO CHURCH TIP FOR DECEMBER

The 12 Days of a Green(er) Christmas



On the first day of Christmas

Buy a real Christmas tree from a sustainable source. After Christmas plant it, or put it in your green bin or book Willen Hospice to take it away for a small donation.

On the second day of Christmas

If you need some new Christmas lights or electrical goods don't bin the old ones, donate them or take them to your local recycling centre or to Currys. Old candles

and tea lights can be recycled via <https://therecycledcandlecompany.co.uk/> – there's a collection point at the refill shop, 7-9 Friday Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1DU.

On the third day of Christmas

Buy recycled Christmas cards, send an e-card or make your own. Avoid glitter and foil!

On the fourth day of Christmas

There's nothing worse than smiling a grateful thanks for a present you don't really want, so give consumable presents, buy a membership or an experience day or go for a luxury meal and/or the theatre.

On the fifth day of Christmas

Are you buying presents that use batteries? If so, why not add recycled batteries and a charger?

On the sixth day of Christmas

When shopping use your LOAF

(Local ----- Organic ----- Animal friendly -----
- Fairtrade)

On the seventh day of Christmas

Buy eco-crackers or, in the best Blue Peter tradition, make your own. all you need is a few toilet tube rolls, newspaper and some small gifts people might actually want.

On the eighth day of Christmas

Go for a walk, decorate a tree for wildlife (suet balls etc), but make sure it's where the birds can see the cat coming, or use twigs to create a 5 pointed star and find other natural things to decorate it with.

On the ninth day of Christmas

Use the wrapping paper recycling test: scrunch it up into a ball, if it stays in shape you can recycle it. Alternatively use magazine articles the recipient will enjoy reading and they get two presents for the price of one. Try to avoid glitter and foil.

On the tenth day of Christmas

Where possible freeze leftovers rather than binning them.

On the eleventh day of Christmas

Had time to read all those magazines you subscribe to over the festive period? Why not pass them on to a friend?

On the twelfth day of Christmas

Make a New Year's Resolution to get in touch with the seasons and/or seek out local adventures. Or simply make your own eco-resolution (and keep to it!). Look out for the monthly eco-tip in the newsletter

Eco Church

We have been awarded a Bronze Eco Church award. We were assessed for this in 5 categories: Worship & teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyle and Community engagement. If you have ideas for how we can demonstrate our care for creation either at church or individually, please let Anne, Nancy or Margaret know.

Collection for the Food Bank.

We will be continuing to collect items for the Food Bank through the year.

Contributions of food (non-perishable items, tins, packets etc) for the Food Bank, who support local families in times of need, will be gratefully received.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership has a Facebook Group, for sharing news on events at the 6 churches in the partnership, to help bring us closer together and invite people in. Please look for it at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208567765189229>

and join the group if you'd like to.

There is now a single point of contact for our Partnership of churches for eg funeral and marriage enquiries. The Partnership can be contacted on 01908 382458; between 10 and 12 Monday to Saturday the phone will be answered and otherwise a voicemail can be left.

If you would like to be part of the rota of volunteers who are answering the phone (which can be done from your own home as calls will be transferred to your own number), please ring the number and leave your details. There will be training for this.

WHO TO CONTACT AT CHRIST CHURCH, STANTONBURY

Minister: Rev Phil Dunning - 01908 151962, 07990523702 or philipjdunning21@gmail.com (Tuesday is Phil's day off)

Administrator: Maggie Prisk 01908 605815 or maggie.a.prisk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Adrian Prisk 01908 605815 or aprisk@doctors.org.uk

Worship Co-ordinator: Susan Gander 01908 312162 or susan.gander@gmail.com

Items for the Newsletter: Pat Parsons 01908 318188 or pat.a.parsons@gmail.com

Christ Church web site

Please take a look at our website on www.christchurchmk.org.uk

Gift Aid It

Donations and Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation(s). Please see our treasurer, Adrian Prisk about signing a Gift Aid declaration form. If making cash donations, please put notes and coins in an envelope and add your name before depositing it in the collection box which is currently placed by the door into the Worship area. Please consider making regular donations by standing order or bank transfer. We can supply bank details etc. Thank you for supporting the work of the church.

Congregational guidelines for attending Christ Church

If you feel unwell and/or are displaying the classic symptoms of COVID-19, please do not come to church. If you have tested positive for COVID in the last 7 days, please do not come to church.

Hand sanitiser is available just inside the coffee lounge, for you to use on entering and exiting the building and at any other time, as needed. Additional hand sanitiser is available in the entrance porch to the hall.