



news | views | events

JANUARY 2019



## CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY

*worshipping God, serving others and introducing people to Jesus*



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*worshipping God, serving others and introducing people to Jesus.*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas is done and dusted so here comes 2019 - it's amazing how time seems to fly!

At this time of the year we usually look back and take stock of where we've come from and evaluate where we are before we can start thinking and planning for the year ahead. So in this edition of **Cc: news | views | events** we look at how our past impacts on our present and our future. And we'll be looking back at some of the great memories from 2018 as well as what is on the horizon in 2019.

We're also featuring 'Ju's News' - produced each week by Livi. If you'd like to receive her update by email, so you can pray for what's happening in this ministry to Children & Families in our community, please speak to Livi.

As always if you have any thoughts about what you'd like us to feature in future editions of **Cc: news | views | events** please speak to anyone on the Editorial Team.

Be blessed!

### CC: NEWS | VIEWS | EVENTS EDITORIAL TEAM

**Stephen Derges**

stephenderges@gmail.com  
01395 568645 | 07929 835796

**Mick Cox**

mailmic@btinternet.com  
01395 270292

**Sarah Candlin**

sarahrosecandlin1@gmail.com  
01395 277098

**Richard Workman**

richardworkman@hotmail.co.uk  
01395 276906

**Helen Workman**

helen-workman@hotmail.com  
01395 276906

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## PASTORAL TEAM

A new confidential email - **[pastoral@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)** - is now available should you wish to contact members of the Pastoral Team for prayer or other support.



The New Year is often a great time to remember what has gone and to plan ahead.

As we look back we can see how over the years God has been incredibly faithful to us here at Christ Church. It was amazing to see how God brought Livi along at just the right time as Liz was looking to step back from her role, and it's great to have Steve Derges joining the Leadership Team as well.

Moving into 2019 we have much to look forward to.

- ◆ We will be exploring the theme of discipleship across 2019 in a variety of different ways.
- ◆ Our planned Week of Prayer starting 28<sup>th</sup> January should mean a great start to 2019.
- ◆ We will have a chance in the coming weeks to profile the variety of house groups we have in the church.

- ◆ We will continue to pray and talk and think about the Church Worker Role over the coming weeks and months, and God willing we might at the end of the year have someone working alongside us to help us grow and develop.

And we want to thank you too:

- ◆ Thank you for journeying with us this last year through the good times - and the not so good!
- ◆ Thank you for all you have given - practically and financially - in 2018 to enable so much to happen in and through this church family
- ◆ Thank you for your support, encouragement and willingness to serve.

We really are so grateful and as we move into 2019 we are trusting God for a fruitful year ahead serving the communities in which we live and work.

## HOUSE GROUPS

If you are interested in joining a house group, please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.

We will be featuring home groups during our February First Sunday service.



For more details about the Church, visit our website  
[www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](http://www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)

As we reflect on what's happened over the past 12 months, I guess most of us will have an assortment of emotions. Life is usually a fusion of surprises, exciting times, difficult periods and a combination of the good, the bad and the ordinary, so-so daily events. Whilst none of us are exempt from sadness and difficulties, there are also periods of joy and achievement when everything seemingly is going well for us.



Much of the way we perceive what is happening in our lives depends on our personality. Some of us have glasses that are half full whilst for others they are half empty and it's even worse for those who've just realised they have a leak in the bottom of their glass!

At our Nativity Service, Paul Friend referred to John 10:10 where Jesus said, ***"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"***. Most of us tend to live out that verse very well indeed - our lives are often so jam-packed full rushing around from pillar to post that we have very little capacity for anything else. But that's not what Jesus was talking about. He wants us to have ***"abundant life"*** or as the NLT version says, ***"a rich and satisfying life"*** - not some kind of *'let's get through this as quickly and easily as we can so we can move on to the next challenge or activity'* version.

Someone once said,

***"If our present is a result of what happened in the past,  
then our future will be determined by what we do today."***

Every choice we make has consequences. Decisions we made in the past have affected the way we live currently and so it stands to reason that what we choose right now will influence what happens *'down the line'*,

None of us knows what's going to happen in the future. We may have hopes, dreams and plans but it doesn't necessarily mean they will be achieved. Others of us may have worries, fears and concerns for the future but likewise it doesn't mean they will be realised.

I have to admit to being a bit of a planner - it's one of my personality traits. So whilst I don't try and work out everything in advance in microscopic detail, I do like to think about issues, work out options and then hopefully make a reasoned decision. Sometimes taking the time to plan is really just an excuse for not making a decision and I end up with *'paralysis by analysis'*.

But I take comfort from the Living Bible's version of Proverbs 27:12 - ***"A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences."***

The Message puts it more graphically, ***"A prudent person sees trouble***



***coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered."***

Now I'm not knocking those who are more flexible and spontaneous in their approach to life - I really admire that particular trait. But although I have been known to make the occasional 'on the spot decision' because I'm more 'risk averse' in my approach, I rarely have a tendency to be impulsive.

So because we are called to ***"live by faith"*** (2 Corinthians 5:17) it's somewhat of a 'work in progress' for me especially as ***"without faith it is impossible to please God"*** (Hebrews 11:6). And we all know the way we spell faith is R-I-S-K.

**Every choice we make has consequences**

At the beginning of this New Year we have a tremendous opportunity to take a risk and influence the future. As we prayerfully consider the appointment of a Church Worker to help us increase our capacity to share the Good News, we will be making a decision that has the potential to irrevocably impact the eternal destiny of the people in the communities around us.

Sure it's a big step of faith - none of us have walked the road we are embarking upon in 2019. But when we recognise that God's power within us ***"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"*** (Ephesians 3:20) we can confidently approach this coming New Year. Not only will we be able to live the abundant life ourselves in an uncertain, ever-changing world but we'll be demonstrating our faith in a totally reliable and unchanging God.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES @ CHRIST CHURCH			
DAY	WEEKLY	FORTNIGHTLY	MONTHLY
SUNDAY	09.30 Prayer Meeting 10.30 Morning Service		12.30 First Sunday Lunch
TUESDAY	18.30 Chalet Group	14.30 Housegroup	
WEDNESDAY	18.00 Chalet Plus	19.45 Housegroups	19.30 Reflections (for ladies)
THURSDAY	08.00 Prayer Meeting 15.15 Kids Café 19.30 Smoothie Bar	19.30 Housegroup	
FRIDAY	09.30 Gems	20.00 Housegroup	
For details of other Activities please see the Church website: <a href="http://www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk">www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk</a>			







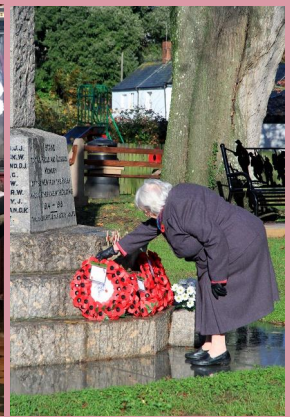




Photos from the wonderful Nativity production put on by our fabulous children and young people. Many thanks to **Livi** and the whole team for a great event attended by around 200 people, followed by a brilliant lunch courtesy of **Ann Wheeler** and team, served to over 160 adults and children.

## WOODBURY REMEMBERS

We joined with around 300 people from the local community at 11.00am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November to remember, followed in the evening with a joint service at St. Swithun's.



## MISSION FOCUS

Yusef cries constantly. He's trying to swallow but his throat is badly swollen. He has a high fever. His little body is covered in an angry rash which throbs.

Yusef is 4 years old and lives in the Gaza Strip, part of the occupied Palestinian territories. It is closed off to the outside world. Yusef's village is little more than a rubble road - a desperately poor neighbourhood. His extended family of eleven people live in a one room dwelling, the conditions are shocking. They have no kitchen or gas; they cook outside on an open fire. There is no running water. No government services. There's not enough food. And lack of medical facilities and care turns even a minor illness into a dangerous situation. The tonsillitis and scabies attacking little Yusef's body are both treatable, but the closure of Gaza has created a scarcity of drugs and medical care. So Yusef and others like him suffer.



The situation in Gaza is heart-breaking. And worsening. Poverty makes it almost impossible for people to get adequate medical treatment. Power cuts, undrinkable water, lack of medical care, and a dying economy - this is the reality! Electricity is only available for 3 hours a day. Tap water is contaminated with sewage. People are not allowed to leave Gaza to find work. Each day presents a fresh struggle. Trapped in 'an open prison',

they feel alone, isolated from civilisation. The number of under fives dying in Gaza is rising. The United Nations says life in Gaza is getting *"more and more wretched for its citizens"*.

Think how it must feel for families like Yusef's. Locked in, unable to function normally and powerless to help themselves. Yusef's mother Imaan looks at her son with anguish. This is not the first time Yusef has been unwell. A few months ago he was dangerously malnourished. She feels helpless.

Right now in Gaza, the *Al Ahli Arab Hospital* is giving children and families the medical care they urgently need. It is a Christian hospital which runs free medical missions for the poor. It is a lifeline for children like Yusef. His mother Imaan says: ***"I cannot go to any other clinic; I have no money - without Al Ahli, no treatment"***.

*Article reproduced from Embrace the Middle East - find out more at [www.embraceme.org](http://www.embraceme.org)*

Please remember **Sarah Collins** in your prayers. She is working as a medic with the International Red cross in these terrible conditions.





## "KIBERA KIDS"

The "Kibera Kids" are a team from Christ Church who will be travelling to Nairobi, Kenya to support the work of **Peter Abungu** in the Kibera Slum - the largest urban slum in the whole of Africa.

The team comprises: **Linda & Charlie Collins; Anne Wynne; Carolyn Fulls; Mary Raffell; Sara Hurlock; Richard Workman; Dave Lowrie; and Richard Critchley** who will be leaving on **16<sup>th</sup> February**, returning a week later.



Tin roofed one-roomed houses



Water is always infected

They will be involved in a huge range of activities including: foot washing and shoe distribution; visiting the widows' home with food baskets; visiting a Children's home and a Young Offenders reception centre; helping at a mentoring and employment program; and speaking at church services.

We can support them through **PRAYER** - especially for their travelling, protection and safety—as well as assisting them **PRACTICALLY** through:

- ♦ **Buying a Gift Voucher:** £10 provides a pair of shoes and £15 a Food Basket. The team are committed to providing 100 pairs of shoes and 40 food baskets - vouchers available from **Sara Hurlock**.
- ♦ **Booking a table at the Quiz & Ploughman's Fundraiser** on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm - reservations via **Anne Wynne**: cost £10 per person.

More updates will be provided ahead of the trip but any of the team will give you more information and check out the website: <https://swahiba.org>

**"True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice"**

Billy Graham

**PRAY  
CONTINUALLY**

2 Thessalonians 5:17



# JU'S NEWS ♥

CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY



## VERSE OF THE WEEK

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

## PRAYER REQUESTS

To end this term well, and build strong connections with the families in our community.

## A Word from Livi

This last term has been very busy, but also incredibly fun and rewarding. I have really enjoyed creating activities to entertain the kids and also getting to know their parents.

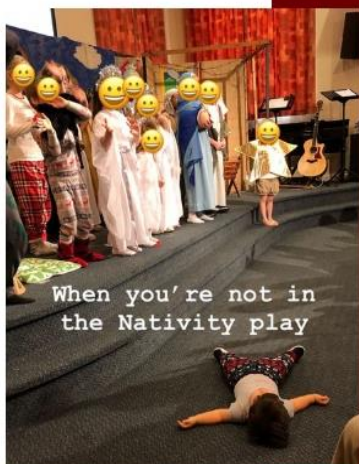
This last term we have had a few sensory sessions at Gems, where we had rainbow rice, water play, a shaving foam snowman, flour & sugar snow, and so much more messy fun! At Kids Cafe I have organised build your own pizzas and decorate a Pudsey biscuit for Children in

Need. They have also enjoyed pom pom racing, obstacle courses, crafts, the floor is lava, and so many yummy cakes from our wonderful Church bakers! It has been a crazy first term with the Light Party and Nativity, but I can honestly say I am thoroughly enjoying it!

Getting to know the children and families has been a true blessing. Did you see how brilliantly all the children did in the Nativity?!

I am meeting a mum this week from our community and I am handing out my first, of hopefully many, new baby baskets. It was an idea I had to celebrate the birth of new babies and support the mums in our community, while also giving them a handout of what happens at our Church on a weekly basis.

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered this term, everyone who has prayed, and to all the support I have received. I am incredibly grateful. - Livi x







A glance at  
the last term



## CONTACT LIVI

families@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk

or oliviawestwood@hotmail.co.uk

PHONE: 07498680377

Ju's NEWS ♥

To receive Ju's News  
- contact Livi



# WHO TO CONTACT AT CHRIST CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP TEAM | TRUSTEES

**Paul Friend** - Vision & Teaching  
paul@swym.org.uk  
01395 232798

**Jon Breeze** - Safeguarding  
jonbreeze1983@gmail.com  
01395 239874

**Linda Collins** - Mission/Pastoral  
lindacollins@stundoc.plus.com  
01395 232731

**Stephen Derges** - Finance  
stephenderges@gmail.com  
01395 568645

**Mally Fulls** - Worship/Pastoral  
marilyn@moshulu.co.uk  
01395 2333526

**Tim Moyler** - Outreach  
tim@moyler.org  
01395 239130

**Clair Wigg** - Youth/Children  
clair@swym.org.uk  
01395 239924

## CHILDREN'S & FAMILIES WORKER

**Livi Ju**  
families@churchchurchwoodbury.org.uk  
07498 680377

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Sarah Breeze**  
sarahb@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk  
01395 233425

During times when the Church Office is not open please leave a message which will be answered as quickly as possible.

## PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team are available to pray with people after the service or at any time.

They provide pastoral care and support as well as welcoming people to our services.

Contact the Pastoral Team by email:

**[pastoral@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)**

Emails to this address are treated as being highly confidential and are monitored by two members of the Team - **Linda Collins & Jennie Cox**. Alternatively call members of the Team as follows:

**Linda Collins** - 01395 232731

**Jennie & Mick Cox** - 01395 270292

**Mally Fulls** - 01395 2333526

**Pat Holland** - 01395 232372

**Graham & Val Thomson** - 01392 204768

## ELDER EMERITUS

**Henry Fulls**

## AND FINALLY...

A pastor was completing a sermon on abstaining from drinking alcohol.

With great expression, he said, "If I had all of the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis, he went on, "And if I had all of the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." Finally, he thundered, "And if I had all of the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

The church was silent. Not a single person made a sound.

The worship leader then stood up hesitantly and announced, "Our closing song is 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

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**Parsonage Way | Woodbury | Devon | EX5 1HZ**

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