

# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

OCTOBER 2018



## **The United Church**

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# Minister's Letter

## Open Days

Were you able to take advantage of the Heritage Open Days in September? Anne and I went on a guided walk through the St Faith's and St Cross water meadows. We have been walking in and past them for years, but we learned so much about the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust, how the meadows were managed in the past and what the Trust is doing now to encourage a diversity of wild flowers to grow, and for wildlife to flourish. This will take several years.

Afterwards we went to St. Cross Hospital where we enjoyed scrumptious home-made cake and a cup of tea. Isn't that always a part of the experience?

The tag line of the fund-raising stall for the Friends of the Hospital was: 'Celebrate the Past, Support the Future'. I thought that would be appropriate in some ways for The United Church, as we have much to be thankful for in the past, and we want to do our best to build for the future. However, whereas one or two of the St Cross buildings are empty and a museum to the past, we have a building which is vibrant, with people of all ages taking part in activities throughout the week. We have much to offer in terms of worship, community and spiritual growth, all built on the best of past traditions together with all that we are learning and experiencing in the present.

We are having our own open days at the beginning of Advent. There will be a banner in front of the church with our tagline: 'Building Community through the love of Christ'. Our new mission statement will be prominent in leaflets we will hand out. 'We proclaim the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ. We are an inclusive church where all

are welcome, whether joyful, hurting, confident or doubting. We journey alongside all faiths and none, as we seek to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, guided by the Holy Spirit.' Our hope is that some people who have been walking past our building for years will be drawn to come inside, learn about us and will want to join us. We pray that newcomers to the city will visit us and feel called to join us.

We are designing an attractive website which will go live at the beginning of November and we have updated our logo. I know we will all do our best to make newcomers welcome with or without scrumptious home-made cake! Thinking of the water meadows, I pray that we will all play our part in a fertile, diverse and inclusive community where all are eager to share and flourish in Christ's love and care.

*Bob Lord*

*(Welcome back to Tim after his sabbatical. He will be writing for November Yours)*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We extend our sympathy to the family of June Beard who died on 23 August. June had been a faithful church member since the formation of The United Church. At one stage she attended the Friday service regularly, but more recently she had been unable to get to church. The funeral service in the church on 10 September was taken by the Revd Kate Cambridge.



We congratulate several of our young people who have achieved good exam results. We wish them well as they move on to the next stage in their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been bereaved or who are unwell, housebound, in hospital, waiting for test results or treatment, or recovering from an operation.

As you know, Tim returns from his three months' sabbatical at the start of October. We look forward to welcoming him back, and hope that he has found it a positive time from which he will benefit in his continuing ministry.

**Graham Rolfe**

## **A Message from Dick Parker**

*As you might imagine, I have received a great many cards on the occasion of my 100th Birthday, and could not possibly write to you all to say thank you. Among the many cards was, of course, one from Her Majesty which I will cherish, but also there were cards both individual and collective from Church friends which I shall equally cherish.*



*I would have liked to extend a general invitation to you all to my party, but with already over 60 guests you will understand that this would not be possible, and so we asked Mike and Hilary as friends, pastoral visitors and your representatives. As well as the cards and best wishes, I must also say thank you for the flowers.*

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## **Julian Group for Contemplative Prayer**

Each Tuesday afternoon for the past 30 years an ecumenical group has been meeting in Hyde for half an hour's silent prayer – listening to God.

Why does it continue? Reasons for coming are varied but we all find that shared silence is very different from praying on one's own. Praying together deepens our sense of peace and connectedness to God's love.

We meet at 3 pm in each other's houses. We begin with a reading, not necessarily from Scripture, after which we sit quietly for half an hour and then have tea and chat.

You are very welcome to come along and see if it might be for you. Please contact Jill Cook (01962 850311) for details of where the next meeting will be. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Be open to God in the silence, do not strive or be anxious. Be still and let God reach you. Let God love you.

## **An update from the Winchester Live at Home Scheme**

We are now in our eighteenth year and continue to expand and grow our services in Winchester. Live at Home itself is now operating across Hampshire with nine new Schemes having been set up in the last eighteen months. We are currently supporting over 350 older people in Winchester and provide activities six days week including singing sessions, lunch groups, twelve weekly exercise classes and regular outings.

In September we started a new drama group and are always looking for new and interesting services to provide for our members. We still offer one to one services for less able members such as befriending, telephone link and transport and will soon be expanding our services to the Bishops Waltham and Swanmore areas.

This summer we had another successful Scheme holiday on which we took twenty-six of our members for a five-day trip to Cricket St Thomas in Somerset, and we're already making plans for our holiday in 2019. We are very grateful for the support shown to us by our volunteers, without them we wouldn't be able to provide the services we do. However we are always in need of additional

volunteers. We are currently in need of more volunteers to help with driving, for one-off transport and regular clubs, so if you or anyone you know would be interested in getting involved then please get in touch.

## **Fundraising**

### **Murder Mystery Evening: Friday 19 October**

7 pm, a performance by 'The Geriactors' at Twyford Parish Hall  
£22 – includes 2-course meal.

Bring your own drinks ~ Raffle on the night

Tickets can be purchased from the Live at Home office – we now have the capacity to take payment by card as well as cash or cheque.

### **Horse Race Night: Saturday 24 November**

At the Worthies Sport and Social Club, Kings Worthy

Date for your diary - Details TBC

**Contact Winchester Live at Home Scheme** – 01962 890995 or email [winchester.liveathome@mha.org.uk](mailto:winchester.liveathome@mha.org.uk)

Keep up to date by visiting our website [www.wlahs.org](http://www.wlahs.org) or following us on Facebook.



# SPACE IN THE CITY AUTUMN 2018

## Remembering War... Making Peace

**Our speakers this series will consider what has been said  
and done, painted and composed and written, that  
has been inspired by the experience of war  
and the hope of peace**

- |            |                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 October  | Michael Jackson on <i>Woodbine Willie</i>                  |
| 10 October | Mike Gowlett on <i>Sandham Memorial Chapel</i>             |
| 17 October | Christopher Seaman on <i>War Musicians</i>                 |
| 24 October | Pat Gaffney on <i>Pax Christi</i>                          |
| 31 October | Sarah Hills on <i>Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral</i> |
| 7 November | Michael Wooldridge on <i>Reporting War and Peace</i>       |

**Wednesday lunchtimes 12.30–1 pm**

**at**

**The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester**

***No entrance charge but your donations are most  
welcome***

**See the Archive at [www.spaceinthecity.org.uk](http://www.spaceinthecity.org.uk)**



## Thursdays

It is usually very busy in the church on Thursdays. The NHS hire the hall to hold a Baby Clinic every week. New mothers/fathers/nannies and sometimes grandparents come into our building, often for the first time, to have their babies weighed for a health check or advice. Baby Playtime is an extension of the Coffee Bar to offer a warm welcome to everyone.

We welcome new parents, providing a room with toys for their toddlers, allowing them to play, and to give adults a chance to chat and meet new friends. We can provide them with information about our Toddler Group and Messy Church.

You may not be aware, but we have had four Baptisms from 'Baby Playtime'. Some of these 'Thursday' visitors regularly attend Messy Church and have supported our pancake event. Earlier in the year we had a very successful toy sale for 'Luna', our Mission Charity. The 'Mum's ' Chaplain, Carol, is here every week befriending and encouraging young mothers as they face the joys and challenges of caring for children.

Yvonne North, myself and sometimes Mel Grigorian are here each week supporting this group. Do come and see a different Coffee Bar on Thursdays. We would welcome extra help at any time, but we would be really appreciative if anyone could help put the toys out once a month (before 10 am.)

Baby Clinic is on from 10 am to 1 pm.

If you can help us we would love to hear from you.

**Ann Coleman**

# **Trainer & CATT Practitioner Training in Amman**

## **21-29 April 2018**

### **Report for partner agencies and funders**

Luna Children's Charity's training trip to Amman last April was an especially important one, because in addition to training 20 more Jordanian-based mental health professionals to help children suffering the symptoms of psychological trauma, we also trained our first two local trainers. This means that future training can now take place there without the expense of sending trainers from the UK, who may not speak Arabic. Our aim is to develop the skills of local people who work most closely with children who are suffering from the effects of war and displacement. Jordan is now home to nearly 7 million refugees from the never-ending war in Syria, and over half of them are children. A large number continue to re-experience the traumatic events that led to the flight of their families from Syria, and find it impossible to live a normal, happy life. These children are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and badly need skilled help and support.

#### **Manar and Ghalia with Luna trainers in Amman**

*(Left to right: Maria Chambers, Manar Hasan, Anna Kalin, Ghalia Al Ashar, Shellee Burroughs, Victoria Burch)*

Manar Hasan and Ghalia Al Asha first learned to use a child-centred approach to trauma treatment, called the children's accelerated trauma technique (CATT) two years ago, when Luna first visited Jordan to train people there how to help children suffering from PTSD. They did an excellent job in supporting UK-based Luna trainers, and participants loved the fact that they were being taught by people who had used CATT

successfully in their own clinical practice with Syrian refugee children. Trainees also reported that having locally based trainers provided them with an opportunity to discuss cultural and local contextual issues which the UK Luna team were not able to provide.

Manar, who works in Amman as a training officer for Doctors without Borders, found accommodation in an Amman hotel and selected the 20 trainees on behalf of Luna. They came from varied backgrounds with mental health experience, and included psychologists, charity workers, academics, counsellors, an art teacher and a graphic designer.

Attendance was exemplary, and all of those who completed the 5-day course were awarded a CATT practitioner certificate, which means they could immediately start helping children using the technique. The Luna team also included a Jordanian interpreter who works in London as a paediatrician. Yara also went through the course and became qualified to use CATT. She initially translated everything from English to Arabic, but this was not always necessary because many participants were already used to being taught in English. However, CATT training involves sharing some difficult emotional issues, which is more easily done in your mother tongue. So, when these discussions took place with everyone talking, there was much 'switching' between Arabic and English. CATT involves telling your traumatic story using characters made from craft materials, or anything that children have to hand that can be creatively used. In learning to work with children, trainees have to do this for themselves.

Luna will now keep in contact with all the new practitioners via its website ([www.lunachildren.org.uk](http://www.lunachildren.org.uk)) and follow up with future training when requested. However, the next priority is to return to Turkey, which is home to the largest number of Syrian refugees, and spread trauma treatment expertise among people working with children there.

**Thank you to everyone who donated to Luna and helped this training happen!**

### **World Action Projects – Commitment For Life**

Did you know that in the same way as you can set up a monthly payment for your church-giving you can also make regular monthly donations to the Commitment For Life fund? This allows you to make a monthly donation that continues for each new project until such time as you might decide to stop the payment.

If you think this is something that you might be interested in please talk to Christine Cook or, if you are able to Gift Aid, to David Worrall for further information.

The World Action Group would be very pleased to welcome new members – we are a small group who facilitate the Church's support of an overseas mission project, as well as raising awareness of other relevant social justice issues such as Fairtrade. If this is something that you feel you would like to be involved in please speak to **Jo Pellatt, Pat Fry, Christine Cook or Ann Coleman**.

# The Wednesday Fellowship

Join us for fun and fellowship over a good cup of tea.

## October 2018

- 3 Pam Oliveck Fukkot
- 10 See weekly Notice Sheet
- 17 See weekly Notice Sheet
- 24 See weekly Notice Sheet

Before our Summer Break we enjoyed the following meetings in June and July.

### 27 June: Alan and Brenda Rickman – *Music and Stories*

The afternoon started with highlights from a recording of *Songs of Praise*. While enjoying the benefit of organ, choir and orchestra playing, everyone sang along with 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', and 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'. This was followed by music from Will Martin's CD entitled *A New World*, which included 'Over the hills and far away', 'Going Home', and 'The Last Rose of Summer'. From a Book called *Hear our Prayers*, Alan read a lovely prayer to us, and then followed this with a story from *Leaves of Gold*, called 'Fragments', about a young apprentice who wanted to produce his own stained-glass window. After persistent asking, he was finally allowed to make up his window for the Cathedral. He systematically gathered many pieces of broken glass from the floor, designed and made the window, which proved to be more popular with the visitors than the rest of the windows.



### 4 July: Brian Merriman – *A ramble through a Royal Forest*

Brian treated us to a PowerPoint presentation on the New Forest. In 1079 when William the Conqueror named the area his 'new hunting forest', little could he imagine that nearly 1,000 years later

his 'Nova Foresta' would still retain its mystery. An ancient system established by William the Conqueror to protect and manage the 7,000 acres of woodlands and wilderness heaths is still in place today through the efforts of Verderers, Agisters and Commoners – literally the judges, stockmen and land users of the forest. We were



shown a picture of the Knightwood Oak, aged approx. 400 years, and a picture of the Rufus Stone, where King William II is said to have been fatally wounded and died due to an arrow being shot at him. The Rufus Stone, is (supposedly) located in the exact place where

this happened. There are some 5,000 donkeys and ponies owned by Commoners and many deer roaming the forest. Alice Liddell, Lewis Carroll's inspiration for *Alice In Wonderland*, is buried in the churchyard in Lyndhurst.

### **11 July: Pamela Gilbert – Malawi**

The William Stewart Foundation, whose Mission statement and story is one of bringing hope to those in Malawi who are living in despair and hopelessness let us borrow two short films covering the work of the foundation in Malawi.

Levison Mlambya, a teacher in Malawi, was filmed riding on his bicycle to various families, over difficult terrain, bringing with him sacks of maize, Bibles, clothing, toys and food. In one film we witnessed a six-year-old boy sitting on the ground, wrapped in a blanket. He had the most beautiful smile, but very clearly we could see he had disabilities, and his family were immensely grateful for their gifts. In the second film Levison visited a grandfather and his family, again they were given a sack of maize, a Bible and clothing. The grandfather looked through his Bible and cried with joy. We found both films to be very moving.



**Pamela Gilbert**

# Hope for Planet Earth – Witnesses: Churches Together in Winchester, WinACC and the University of Winchester



## Profile

These organisations are collaborating to create the first Winchester and District Green Week, 13–20 October.

## Evidence

A week of events that anyone can attend. Various things on every day of the week. The programme will be available soon, but for the moment here are some things to whet your appetite.

### **Incredible Edible Community Allotment Open Day**

On Edington Road SO23 7AF

Saturday 13 October, 10 am–2 pm

Seed and plant sale; 'love food hate waste' goodie bag; free homemade cake with every drink

### **Green Week Fair**

St Maurice's Covert on Winchester High Street

Sunday 14 October, 10 am–2 pm

Find out more about local green organisations and activities.

### **Green Week at the Coffee Bar**

United Church, Jewry Street

10 am–2 pm Monday to Friday, 10 am–12 noon Saturday

Fairtrade tea, coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices; seasonal local baking; books and toys; environment quiz.

### **Inspiring Sustainable Living**

Tuesday 16 October, 7.30 pm University

Join us for the launch of WinACC's new strategy and website, with presentations from local green initiatives.

### **Green Business Fund Workshop – An Introduction to Energy Efficiency**

by The Carbon Trust, hosted by WinACC and Winchester City Council

Wednesday 17 October 9 am–12 noon at the Guildhall

This workshop will help small companies across Great Britain learn how to identify and implement opportunities to reduce energy costs within their business

**Free and available to book at [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**

### **To the Ends of the Earth – documentary film screening**

by The University of Winchester

Wednesday 17 October 6 pm–9 pm

'To the Ends of the Earth' is a feature documentary about the state of our energy system today and the people living at the frontiers of extreme oil and gas extraction, bearing witness to a global crossroads. Narrated by Emma Thompson, 'To the Ends of the Earth' brings forward the voices of those who not only denounce the rise of extreme energy, but also envision the new world that is taking shape in its stead: a future beyond the resource pyramid, a post-growth economy.

**Free and available to book at [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**



## Faith and Climate Justice gathering

St Lawrence's Parish Rooms, Colebrook Street

Friday 19 October 7.45 pm

Meet others from churches in the area who are working towards creation care, and learn about the latest campaign actions we can take part in from the climate coalition

## Inspiration

So much is already happening in our city and surrounding area that celebrates and promotes sustainable 'Green' living that we want to highlight and support. Please come along, learn, enjoy and be inspired!



## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Leaflets will be available during September from the table in the Hall or in the Coffee Bar.

If you do not feel able to fill a shoe box but have items that will help fill a shoe box (hats, gloves, soft toys – not knitted – toiletries, stationery, etc.), or would like to make a donation we will be very pleased to receive them.

We are holding a **shoe box covering and filling morning on Wednesday 31 October in Room 1, from 10 am to 12 noon.** All welcome to come and lend a hand and drink coffee/tea!

**The last day for handing in completed boxes is Friday 16 November** (but it would be helpful if they could be brought in as soon as they are ready). We will be **dedicating these boxes during the 10.30 am service on Sunday 18 November.**

**Yvonne North & Ann Coleman**

## Seen in St Mary-in-Castro Church, Dover

To the parents of our children:

**Relax. God put the wiggle into children, you don't have to conceal it here. All are welcome.**

Please feel free to sit where they can see what is going on, after all, who wants to only see the back of other's heads?

It may help to explain the service to them, sing the songs, pray, and join in the responses.

Remember, how we welcome children in church affects the way they respond to God, Church and one another. Let them know they are at home in our church family.

To all members of our Church:

The presence of children in our church is a gift, and they are a reminder our congregation is growing.

Please welcome children, and give their parents a smile of encouragement.

**Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'**

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# Inspirational Christians

This is the second in a series of articles introducing inspirational Christians, as discovered by South Wonston House Group. The idea is to learn a bit more about what is behind well-known names and to encourage people to find out more for themselves. Last month it was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, this month it is St Francis of Assisi.

## St Francis of Assisi

More biographies have been written about St Francis than any other person in history, perhaps this 'snapshot' will prompt you to read one of them!

Francis was born in 1182 into a wealthy merchant family and was baptised as **Giovanni Bernardone**, but was known as Franceso – because of his ease in learning the French language and his father's successful business interests in France. He was very outgoing and sociable, he loved the good things of life, and was 'the life and soul of the party' – nicknamed 'the King of Revels'. He was generous and gave to anyone who asked him.

While working with his father in the cloth business, his ambition was to become a distinguished soldier. His father bought him the most expensive armour and horse and he went off to war in 1202, but he was not very capable and was captured and imprisoned. Whilst waiting for his father to pay his ransom, he contracted malaria and a respiratory infection. He was bedridden for about a year – he was bored and spent time wondering what to do with his life. However, he set off to fight again, determined to succeed, but was told in a dream to return home and, very shame-faced, he did so and went back to his father.

Whilst sitting in a chapel at San Damiano, he was startled to hear the voice of Jesus saying. *'Francis, don't you see that my church is falling into ruin? Go, then, and repair my church.'* Francis took these words literally; he was sitting in a church that was collapsing and needed to be rebuilt. He took some of his father's cloth from the shop, and a horse, sold them, and used the money to finance the building work. His father was furious and, by now fed up with the money and time Francis had squandered, berated him in the town square in front of the Bishop, calling him a fool and a madman. In response, Francis returned the money and all his belongings to his father –even stripping off the clothes he was wearing, saying that from that time on the only father he had was his father in heaven. He was imprisoned under the local church as a madman but inspired a few of his rich friends who joined him, gave away their belongings and became itinerant preachers working with the poor and the sick, especially lepers. He did repair the chapel with his own hands, asking all the townspeople to give a stone each and so collected enough for the work, but he came to realise that Jesus's words – *'repair my church'* – referred to the whole Christian church not just one building.

Francis lived on the cusp of change from the medieval age to the modern age. We are living on the cusp of the modern age and post-modern age. Both times see vast social change and crisis within the Christian Church. In medieval Europe times as well as seasons were marked by the church, the bells rang to mark the times of the day and everything was controlled by the church. Modern times began with people wanting to know the time for themselves and control their own lives – town clocks began to be erected. There was a rise of individualism and capitalism – a reaction against the church which had become controlling and commercialised – people were starting to mock the church as irrelevant.

Francis did not speak against the church of his time, nor did he go along with it, he just lived his life differently. He was the first

environmentalist and taught that everything created is part of the 'great chain of being', preaching that Christ came to redeem all creation – very different to the view of individual salvation only. He followed Jesus' lifestyle, working mainly with the poor. In 1979 Pope John Paul II made Francis the patron saint of Ecology and the present Pope adopted the name Francis because of his own focus on the poor of the world and on climate justice.

The story of Francis publicly stripping himself naked and returning the money he had from his father symbolised his rejection of his culture's focus on pursuit of wealth and status; he overcame a profane and worldly society in order to follow Christ's example, and so transfigure the meaning of Christianity by living a simple life of holiness and spirituality. We are all touched by St Francis in some way – even if it just looking at a nativity scene at Christmas, which he first introduced, with live animals, in 1223.

## NOVEMBER *Yours* MAGAZINE

Publication date for the **November** magazine (the next one) is **Sunday 28 October**. The deadline for articles and notices is **Monday 15 October**.



**All contributions gratefully received.**

The *Yours* Team is: Barbara Dunton and Sophie Armstrong  
Email: [yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk](mailto:yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk)



**Creationtide** runs from 1 September until St Francis Day on 4 October and is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Originally an Eastern Orthodox initiative, it is now spread widely among Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations bringing Christians together to pray and work for the protection of the environment that sustains everyone.

Pope Francis gave a major boost to the profile of Creationtide in 2016 when he declared 1 September an annual 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation'.

*'Responding to climate change is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation. Meanwhile, to love our neighbour – particularly, in this case, our neighbour whom we may never meet but who lives daily with the profound threat posed by this moral crisis – is at the core of what it is to follow Jesus Christ.'* **Justin Welby**

## The Canticle of the Creatures

*The first poem to be written in the Italian language was by St Francis of Assisi in praise and recognition of Creation and has been used through the centuries in many translations and adaptations for hymns and prayers.*

**Most** High, all powerful, good Lord,  
to you be praise, glory, honour and all blessing.

**Only** to you, Most High, do they belong  
and no one is worthy to call upon your name.

**May** you be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir brother sun,  
through whom you lighten the day for us.

**He** is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.  
He signifies you, O Most High.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars:  
clear and precious and lovely, they are formed in heaven.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for brother wind;  
and by air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers,  
by which you give sustenance to your creatures.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for sister water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for brother fire,  
by whom the night is illumined for us.

**He is beautiful** and cheerful, full of power and strength.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for our sister, mother earth,  
who sustains and governs us  
and produces diverse fruits  
and coloured flowers and grass.

**Be praised**, my Lord, by all those who forgive for love of you  
and who bear weakness and tribulation.

**Blessed** are those who bear them in peace:  
for you, Most High, they will be crowned.

**Be praised**, my Lord, for our sister, the death of the body,  
from which no one living is able to flee.

**Woe** to those who are dying in mortal sin.

**Blessed** are those who are found doing your most holy will,  
for the second death will do them no harm.

**Praise and bless my Lord** and give him thanks  
and serve him with great humility.

*St Francis of Assisi*

# Curry Night



**Saturday 13 October  
7.30 pm**

**United Church, Jewry St,  
Winchester**

**Come and join us for a relaxed evening of good  
food - non-curry, GF & veggie options  
available.**



No tickets but donations in aid of Luna Children's Charity

*To help with catering please indicate on the list in the hall if  
you hope to attend but don't worry if there is a last-minute  
change of plan — please join us if you can.*



# Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2018

Is Christmas usually a joyful time of year for you? To be plotted and planned for and full of pleasurable anticipation? Many of us are lucky, and some of this scenario will prompt smiles of recognition. As Christians we certainly hope it will be special. However, for some people in Winchester there is another side to that time of year – exhaustion, worry, disappointment and even dread. All around will be adverts for things that cannot be afforded, bills to be paid, the expectations of children that cannot possibly be fulfilled.

Winchester Churches Christmas Project is an attempt to help those in Winchester for whom Christmas is a really difficult time. Each case is different but perhaps we can provide a boost after a difficult year, a helping hand with a worrying bill, or the peace of mind brought by knowing that the electricity won't run out over Christmas. There could be new toys and festive food but the list might also include warm clothes (to replace those left when fleeing domestic violence), carpeting, second-hand furniture or a morale-boosting treat. Our volunteers need to be understanding and resourceful!

This project was started in 1993 by The United Church but is now truly ecumenical, and last Christmas 92 volunteers from 18 different churches helped 168 people. Money for the Project is raised each year through the churches – from whole congregations and from individuals.

Many of you will be very familiar with how the Project works but a brief explanation for newcomers:

From mid-November onwards, each pair of volunteers will visit a family that has been referred to us (by professional social work agencies) to ascertain their needs and then to shop with, or on

behalf of, the family. Each family has a set amount of money allocated. There are no strings attached to our help. We show our Christian faith and witness in caring for and helping those we visit. Those visited are in charge as much as possible – they choose what will make Christmas special for them (hence the variety of examples above). Sometimes the money is not the most important bit – knowing that someone is prepared to spend time and take the trouble to listen can mean a lot.

Over the years we have managed to transform Christmas for many families, and volunteers have found an extra blessing in their own Christmas celebrations.

We hope that those who have been so supportive in the past, and anyone now able to help, will participate this year through volunteering, prayer and with donations.

We will be contacting volunteers from previous years directly to ask if they are able to help again this year. However, if you are new to the Project and would like more information with a view to volunteering then please contact me as soon as possible. A newcomer will always be paired with an experienced volunteer. We need to know volunteer numbers by **5 November**, please.

Donations can be made via The United Church - ideally by mid-November. I realise that this is an early date but we do need to have an idea of what funds we have available before allocating money to families. Cheques should be made out to 'Winchester Churches Christmas Project' and if you pay tax and wish to Gift Aid please add 'Gift Aid' to the project name. Gift Aid envelopes and special collecting boxes will be available at church from October.

Thank you very much.

**Helen McTiffin**

# DATES FOR OCTOBER 2018

2	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
3	<b>Fairtrade shop</b> <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace'</b> – Michael Jackson on <i>Woodbine Willie (1of6)*</i>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30pm
4	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	3.30-5.15pm
5	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
8	<b>Church Council</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	9.30-12noon
9	<b>Daytime House Group</b> <i>in the Chapel</i>	2.30pm
10	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace'</b> – Mike Gowlett on <i>Sandham Memorial Chapel (2of6)*</i>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm
11	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
12	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
13	<b>WAG Curry evening</b> <i>in the Hall*</i>	
16	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
17	<b>Fairtrade shop</b> <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace'</b> – Christopher Seaman on <i>war musicians (3of6)*</i>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm
18	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
19	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
23	<b>No Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>(half term)</i>	
24	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace'</b> – Pat Gaffney on <i>Pax Christi (4of6)*</i>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm
25	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
26	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
29	<b>Craft Club</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10-12noon
30	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
31	<b>Shoebox covering &amp; filling morning</b> <i>in Room 1*</i>	10-12noon
	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace'</b> – Sarah Hills on <i>reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral (5of6)*</i>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm



# SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2018



## 7 OCTOBER

9.00 am Word & Worship

Mrs Delcie Dalby

10.30 am Holy Communion

Revd Tim Searle

## 14 OCTOBER – *Prisons Sunday*

9.00 am Holy Communion

Revd Tim Searle &

Revd Howard Mellor

10.30 am Morning Worship

Revd Tim Searle &

Revd Howard Mellor

## 21 OCTOBER

9.00 am Word & Worship

Revd Sue Keegan von Allmen

10.30 am Morning Worship

Mr Tom Belshaw

## 28 OCTOBER

9.00 am Holy Communion

Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am Morning Worship

Revd Tim Searle



## Messy Church – 4 October

3.30–5.15 pm (straight from school)

Fun, games, craft, DVD, Bible Stories followed by a meal.

Children must bring an adult with them.

**Future date: 1 November**



## Circuit Events:

**CLT Meeting:** 30 October at Chandler's Ford, 7.30 pm

**Circuit Prayer Fellowship:** 11 October at Wellow, 7.30 pm