

## Opportunities

**Christ Church Christmas Cards** are now ready, sorted into bundles for delivery. Volunteers needed to deliver to local homes in good time for our Christmas services. Can you or your group help? Please take a bundle and sign on the list in the vestibule.

**Decorating church windowsills for Christmas:** Sat. Dec.15. If you can help please turn up with scissors or secateurs during coffee morning – materials provided for simple arrangements. You don't need to be an expert florist! Contact Ishbel Wood and Vivian Salter.

**Getting Your Kids Through Church**, a teaching series from **Care For the Family**, takes place here at Christ Church on Mondays Jan 28, Feb 11 & 25 at 7.45pm. Come and help to stop a generation of young people being lost from the church,

**Volunteers needed for the sound-desk rota** at 9.30am services. Hands-on training can be arranged outside service times. Please speak to Phil Hayter or David Dickens.



**December 9<sup>th</sup>  
2018  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

## Prayer Points

The LORD Almighty says: "I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant. He will come to judge like one who refines and purifies silver."  
*From Malachi 3:1-3*

**Pray:** that the latest effort to hold peace talks to end the Yemeni conflict may be more successful than previous attempts: or if they have already failed that efforts for peace may continue and relief reach the suffering population.

**Pray:** for the recently-appointed steering group for Refugee Support in Braintree District, meeting Sunday afternoon Dec.9, that Braintree District will become actively involved in the national scheme for refugee resettlement.

*Holy God, your promises stand through all generations. Renew our hope as we await the coming in glory of our Judge and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we be alert and ready for his coming. Amen*

## This Week

### Welcome to Christ Church

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

Our services this morning are led at **9.30am** by Alan Rolls and at **11.00am** by David Burton

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Dec 16<sup>th</sup>

**10.30am All Age Toy Service** led by Revd. David Sebley, JC's & Youth. Gifts of toys received (see Notices). *No 9.30 service*

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>: **9.30am** and **11am**  
Christingle services  
**4.30pm** Carol Service

#### Christmas Services

Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: **11.30pm** Christmas Eve Communion

Dec 25<sup>th</sup>: **10.30am**  
Family Worship

Dec 30<sup>th</sup> **10.30am**  
Family Worship

#### **Church Office Opening Hours**

Tuesday Dec.11<sup>th</sup> 8am-5pm  
Thursday Dec.13<sup>th</sup> morning only

*Zelma will be in the office on Tuesday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>; but will then be away till Tuesday Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Office closed from Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, re-opening Jan.3<sup>rd</sup> (morning only).*

## Events and Things to do

**CAMEO:** Christmas lunch December 13<sup>th</sup>. We then take a break until Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Christ Church Christmas Dinner** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12.45pm. Tickets are £7 adults, £3.50 children under 13, Family tickets: for 2 adults and 2 children £19. This will be your last chance to get your tickets from Dorothy Lodge at church; or you can phone her on 01376 331234

**Carol Service Dec. 23 at 4.30pm:** Can you help to make teas/coffees for refreshments to be served afterwards? Can you bring mincepies/ sausage rolls/cake to share? Please contact Vivian Salter

**Lou Fellingham: on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 8pm,** as part of her UK tour, Lou Fellingham, worship leader and former Phatfish lead singer, returns to Christ Church with 'This Changes Everything'. Tickets £12 (£8 under 18 or over 65) from <http://www.loufellingham.com/tickets/>. Perfect Christmas presents!

**Swaziland Expedition:** I'm going on a two week educational expedition to Swaziland, with World Challenge, in the summer of 2020, to work on a community project alongside the local people, with 11 others from school. As part of the programme I need to raise £2,850 towards expedition costs. To begin my fundraising I am selling quiz sheets at £1 each (there is a £10 prize). If you would like to buy one, I will have them available between services and after the 11am service. Also, if anyone knows any companies that may wish to sponsor me, or my group, for the trip, please let me know. Thank you for your support. Daniel Beckett

**Braintree Area Food Bank shortage list:** cereals (750gm), instant mash, tinned food (spaghetti vegetables, tomatoes), cold meats, rice puddings, sponge puddings, long life milk, toilet rolls, nappies, long life carrier bags. This year's winter appeal asks for normal food donations rather than Christmas items. For information on our Winter Appeal go to <https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/winter-appeal/> or phone 07717 204316..

**Join us in prayer** for God to revive His church and to move in Braintree. Wednesday evenings in Christ Church vestibule from 19.30-20.30: or come and go at any time if you cannot make the whole hour. Please speak to Yvonne Coombs, Peter Crow, Tina Logan or Bridget Goodman.

**New mission boxes** available in the vestibule; Our 2018 mission is PARC'

## Notices

**Our Unsung Heroes for December** are our banner-making group, for the time and work they put in to making beautiful banners, including those in the dais arches which will be unveiled each Sunday of Advent. Please say a massive thank you to them

**On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am** we hold our **Toy Service (no 9.30am service)** led by children and leaders of JC's and Youth. Come to hear the Christmas story! You're invited to bring donations of new or nearly new toys (and wrapping paper) for **Homestart** to distribute to needy families this Christmas around Braintree. Gifts to be unwrapped, suitable for babies or children (not guns or similar items please).

**The Church Photobook** needs updating. If your picture isn't there or you'd prefer a fresh one inserted, or if you don't know about the Photobook and what it's for, please contact Tony Evans.

**2019 Church Directories** are available from Zelma in the vestibule between services from this Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, or from the Church Office during office opening hours. Suggested donation £1.

**Cards for sale:** new stock on the table. If you can't see what you'd like, speak to one of us; we may be able to make to order. Nearly £300 raised last year for the next Mission to Uganda trip. *Sally and Maggie*

**Shoebboxes:** Thank you for the 26 filled shoebboxes which have been delivered to Operation Christmas Child to bring joy to the children who will receive them. *Margaret Crow*

**To email David Sebley, send to:** [minister@christchurchbraintree.org.uk](mailto:minister@christchurchbraintree.org.uk)

**Church Office December and January:** Office closed from December 20<sup>th</sup>, reopening January 3<sup>rd</sup> morning only. We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a blessed 2019. Zelma and Nikki

Our **Notice Sheet for Sun 16<sup>th</sup> December** will also cover Sundays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December. Notices for those 3 weeks must be received by the morning of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the email address in the box below. You can also use that email address to ask to receive Notices weekly by email.

*Please send e-mail items for the Weekly Notices to [notices@christchurchbraintree.org.uk](mailto:notices@christchurchbraintree.org.uk) by Thursday morning. Later items might not be included.*