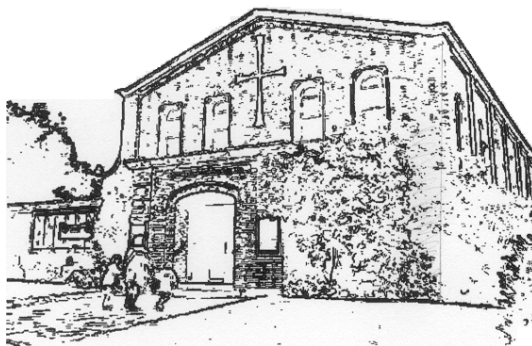




FOCUS



**ISSUE NUMBER 106
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2013**

www.st-georges-urc-hemel.org.uk

The Minister's message

Dear All,

I know it's a tad early to talk about Advent and Christmas ... but as the next issue of Focus will be in January ...here goes.

Chocolate advent calendars, counting down to New Year, a mad dash to buy Christmas presents, making expensive Christmas lists ... this is the stuff of Advent!?

And yet it's really important and worthwhile to stop the whirl of Christmas activity, take a deep breath and remember what it's all about.

For many of the population – even those of us who are Christians – the preparations can take over, leaving us fractious and exhausted and forgetful of the reason for all the palaver!

Christmas has become too big and too commercial, that is the main problem!

We get caught up in wanting it to be something special. For children, this means getting the play station or the DVD that they have set their hearts on, for adults it means capturing some elusive moment of complete happiness...

But we set about it all the wrong way!

Advent is a timely festival, helping us to focus on why Jesus came. Although it has some aspects of penitence, the recognition of the sin which sent Jesus to the world and ultimately the cross, it is by and large a festival of hope. We anticipate Jesus coming into the world. We look forward to seeing God's kingdom established, we remember that Jesus came into the darkness, and brought light and life. Advent is also a time when we think about Jesus' second coming, where the kingdom that He came to set up will be finally established. As Christians we are reminded that Jesus will come again, and ask ourselves if we are ready for that?

It can be difficult to get the balance right in celebrating Christmas. We know that '**Jesus is the reason for the season**' and so we rightly want to make Him the focus of our activities. But sometimes I think we can do that in a way that makes us feel inappropriately guilty about the

tinsel, turkey and presents and that's not helpful, especially if that is how we are going to be celebrating with their friends and family who are not Christians. There's nothing wrong with tinsel and turkey - there's just a lot more to Christmas than that. It's not a case of either Jesus or presents – let's enjoy both Jesus and presents.

For Christmas is a time to celebrate!

For Christmas is about the amazing gift that God gave to the entire world – His Son – God – incarnate. The word incarnate comes from the Latin word meaning 'to make flesh', and encapsulates the idea that Jesus became human. The Message expresses it brilliantly in John 1:14:

The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one of a kind glory, like Father, like son. Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

Jesus' time on earth means that He can understand what we go through, our joys and sorrows, difficulties and temptations. It emphasises that God is not a distant God who looks down from afar, but He is a God who is involved, who lives and breathes, sweats and laughs just like us. And yet Jesus was also different. He was tempted and yet didn't sin (Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:15, 16). He also retained His divinity while here on earth - He was both fully God and fully human. And the incarnation is a source of great wonder - that Jesus should leave the safety and comfort of Heaven, to come to earth as a tiny, vulnerable baby in order to live among people who were so slow to recognise who He was, and ultimately to die for us.

In light of all that, let's put Jesus in his rightful place at the centre of all our festivities ... I hope you have a very Merry Christmas

Jane





CRAFTS, CAKE AND CHAT

**Our next ladies social evening is
Saturday 9th November 7.30-10pm in the church hall.**

**All ladies are invited to come and either share their craft or have
a go at a new one, (or just observe!).**



**Maybe have a go at sewing, painting, knitting, baking, writing,
drawing, flower arranging, card making etc
or just enjoy one another's company and have a chat!**

**Bring drinks and cakes to share and take this opportunity to
have a fun, relaxing evening out and get to know the other
ladies better too.**

**You don't have to be good at crafts, but if you are and would be
happy to share your skills with others then please let me know.**

**Any questions, or offers of help, please email
angela.such@sky.com**



The next two dates for Messy Church are
Sunday 17th November and Sunday 15th December,
from 3.30 – 6.00 p.m. as usual.

Messy Church on 15th December will include a Crib
Service.

If you are able to help out in any way,
please let Amanda Hobbs know!





‘Hush’ before the ‘Rush’

Tuesday 3rd December
7.30pm @ St George’s

Christmas, and the lead up to it, can be exhausting.....

Come and take some time out before the rush begins, enjoy the stillness and the presence of God together.

Through music, poetry, God’s word and some quiet space we will carve out some time to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Cheese & Wine (and Tea/Coffee) will be served afterwards and there will be an opportunity to relax together.

All ladies welcome

Suggested donation for the cheese & wine is £2, on the night

Any questions please speak to Angela Such
(07941534123)



CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Singers needed
to learn two performance pieces
(plus leading the carols)
for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service
on 22nd December at 10.30 a.m.



Choir practices
6.00 p.m. on 8th & 15th December



All welcome – any age!

If you would like to join the choir please let Jane know

Below is an introductory letter from Nikki Daly who is the new Chair of Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead,

To all,

Firstly let me say what an honour it is to be asked to become the new Chair of Churches Together in Hemel. Working with other Christians to share God's good news is a great passion of mine and I look forward to being able to do that in my new role. Secondly, I would like to thank John for his hard work over the last few years. Churches Together has become a united network with a shared vision. It is my hope to carry that vision forward. I have lived in Hemel my whole life and it is always a joy to see the good work of projects such as Street Pastors, CAP and the Foodbank working to supporting those who live in Hemel.

There are some wonderful new projects in Hemel being set up and run by the Christians and Churches in this town. I hope that we can build on our past success and work to do more and to do it together. I hope, in my time as Chair, to be able to get to know each of the churches within Hemel better, to find their strengths and use them and to develop the communication between the churches to enable us to fully support each other in whatever way needed.

It brings to mind the bible passage, which was used to encourage us throughout last summer's Across Hemel event - 1 Corinthians 12 -14 *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."*

We each have differences and do things in different ways and yet we are united being God's blessed children. I hope over the coming months and years we can celebrate our diversity and our similarities. I hope that by listening to God's voice and discerning his plans for us, we can work together towards our vision of being a common voice in this town, of supporting each other, working in partnership and truly demonstrate God's love.

God Bless

Nikki Daly
Chair of Churches Together in Hemel

FROM VENGEANCE TO FORGIVENESS

Taken from the story of Mitsuo Fuchida and Jacob DeSazer, as recounted by Paul Wilkinson

Seventy-two years ago on the morning of Sunday, 7th December 1941, 39-year old Mitsuo Fuchida flew out to an island off the West Coast of America. As general commander of the Imperial Japanese air squadron, he led the first wave of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour, which ultimately drew the US into the Second World War. As Fuchida later wrote "My heart was filled with joy at my success".

In the remaining years of WWII Fuchida experienced narrow escapes from certain death at the Battle of Midway, and from the atom bomb (and subsequent radiation) that was dropped on Hiroshima.

As WWII ended, so did Fuchida's military career. Bitter and disillusioned he drank excessively and his marriage was in danger of breaking up.

Three years later, at a railway station, an American missionary passed him a Gospel tract entitled "I was a Prisoner of Japan" written by another American missionary, Jacob DeShazer. Later Fuchida wrote "What I read was the fascinating episode which eventually changed my life".

At the time of Pearl Harbour, Jacob DeShazer had been a 29-year old Corporal based in California. Angrily he had shouted: "The Japs are going to have to pay for this!"

A month after the attack the young corporal volunteered for a secret bombing raid on Tokyo. Running out of fuel on the way back, he and the other members of the team parachuted into Japanese held territory in China, and became prisoners of war. Over the next three-and-a-half years they were beaten and tortured and some men died or were executed. Two years into their captivity, the American prisoners were given a Bible looted from the home of a missionary. Hope began to awaken in DeShazer's heart.

In "I was a prisoner of Japan", DeShazer recorded how eagerly he began to read the Bible and how every chapter "gripped his heart". He found that every writing of the prophets seemed to focus on a divine

Redeemer from sin, one who was sent from heaven to be born as a human babe.

In the New Testament he read of the birth of Jesus Christ. On 8th June, 1944, the words of Romans 10:9 stood out boldly before his eyes: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved". In his tract DeShazer says: "In that very moment God gave me grace to confess my sins to him, and he forgave me and saved me for Jesus' sake". Deeply moved by Jesus' prayer on the cross, he began to pray for the forgiveness of his captors. After his release DeShazer trained as a missionary, returning to Japan in 1948 to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

As Mitsuo Fuchida began to read DeShazer's story, he decided that he too needed to read the Bible. Eagerly reading, he came to the Crucifixion, reading the prayer of Christ at His death "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". Fuchida knew that he was certainly one of those for whom Christ had prayed, as he remembered the many men he had slaughtered in the name of patriotism. He seemed to meet Jesus for the first time, understanding His death as a substitute for his, Fuchida's, wickedness. He prayed for forgiveness and to be changed from a bitter, disillusioned ex-pilot into a well-balanced Christian with purpose in living. He writes: "That date, 14 April, 1950 became the second 'day to remember' of my life"

Soon others learned of his decision to be a follower of Christ. There were newspaper headlines, accusations of cosying up to the American victors, and old friends who failed to understand.

Noboru Nakamura, a former Japanese pilot, not only failed to understand what had happened to his hero, but held a knife to Fuchida's throat and threatened to kill him. For the next three hours Fuchida shared the scriptures with Nakamura and spoke of his own love of Jesus. Nakamura spared his life and left pondering what he had heard. Five years later, when Fuchida spoke in a church in Amagasaki, he found Nakamura was one of the congregation and one of the elders of the church!

When Fuchida learned that DeShazer was serving in Japan he arranged to meet him and the one-time enemies were soon preaching the gospel together in Japan and the US. In 1952, Fuchida visited DeShazer's home church in Salem, Oregon, and also met DeShazer's

mother, who told him how she had prayed for her son for many years, not knowing if he was alive or dead.

Before he died in 1976, Fuchida said that he would give anything to retract his actions at Pearl Harbour – impossible, of course. Instead, he worked at striking a death-blow to the basic hatred which infests the human heart, causing such tragedies. This was only achievable with assistance from Christ, who had been powerful enough not only to change Fuchida's life but had been the only answer to DeShazer's tormented life and is the only answer for people today.

Jacob DeSazer died back home in Salem in 2008, aged 95. Like Fuchida, he had been greatly used by God after the war. One of his converts was Captain Kato – the guard who had given him the Bible while he was interned in the POW camp!

The full story is told in a book by Don Stephens entitled *War and Grace*.

The testimonies of Fuchida and DeShazer serve to remind us that God takes “no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11), but “desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

Many thanks to Lynn Wilsher
for passing Paul Wilkinson's article to *Focus*.



Welcome to Community Focus from **Grove House / Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.**

As a valued member of our local community we are keen to keep you updated with our latest news, events and fundraising suggestions and hope that you enjoy this first edition of our newly styled quarterly newsletter for *educational establishments / religious organizations / clubs and associations / pubs and restaurants.*

Headline News

Hospice service leaders in Bucks and Herts say they need to prepare now for a coming spike in demand, as the number of people living to older age in the UK starts to rise sharply over the next few years.

Our very successful Retail team now provide two online opportunities to bag a bargain. Why not check out their latest E-bay offerings and take a peek at their new online shop?

To find out more about the above visit our website www.renniegrove.org

How Can You Support Us

This quarter we would like to ask that you consider supporting us with one or more of the following:



Knitted Christmas Stockings This Christmas we are asking local groups and individuals to knit mini festive stockings, fill them with sweets, chocolates or pet treats and sell them to family, friends and colleagues to raise funds to help our nurses to carry on caring at Christmas. For further details and a free stocking pattern visit

<http://www.renniegrove.org/support-us/support-us-as-an-individual/fundraising-events/community-events/knitted-mini-christmas-sockings>



LUAL Remember a loved one this Christmas with Light Up A Life. LUAL gives people the chance to remember a loved one in their own personal way. Further information can be found at: <http://www.renniegrove.org/support-us/support-us-as-an-individual/support-in-memory/light-up-a-life>

and we would ask that you help us by making your *members / colleagues* aware of the LUAL services being held during November and December.

Ambassador Talk If you still have spaces available in your 2014 calendar of events we would really appreciate an opportunity for one of our Ambassadors to come along and talk to your members about the services that we provide for patients and their families in YOUR local community. A Booking Form can be found at <http://www.renniegrove.org/support-us/support-us-as-a-group/schools-colleges-and-universities/book-a-talk/book-a-talk> or you can call us on *01442 890222 / 01727 731010*

How We Can Help You

Mutually working together with you to benefit the patients and their families supported by *Grove House / Iain Rennie Hospice at Home*, the Community team will be pleased to discuss any fundraising ideas or thoughts you may have. We can offer a range of support, including:

- Advice and guidance on organizing an event
- Design and printing of posters and tickets
- Event publicity opportunities, to include our website events listing, social media and monthly Enews mentions; *Grove House – Herts Advertiser*
- Branded resources, to include balloons, collecting tins and literature

We value your comments and would appreciate your feedback on this newsletter to ensure that we are providing you with the information that you want to receive. If you have any suggestions for future editions please email us on community@renniegrove.org

Thank you for your past support and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Penny Crosswell / Nicola MacKinnon
Community Fundraising Manager

The Institute for Indian Mother and Child

I am now preparing to visit India again in January. The vaccines that I had 10 years ago for my first trip, needed to be updated! In addition the Visa for India has to be renewed every year, so there are many preparations to be made.

This time I will be travelling alone. Last time my daughter and her daughter came with me, which was great. Jane made suggestions that I had not thought of, so we were able to get a lot of work done.

Many of the people we met were fascinated by “three generations” working together. They loved to talk to a “young English girl” or rather have her talk to them.

The main idea of IIMC is to help people to become self-sufficient, rather than to give charity. Rural womens’ groups are formed to encourage them to take social responsibility, and to educate them in Health Programmes with visiting teams from IIMC.

Women are encouraged to attend meetings with an egg and a small loaf of bread being given when they leave. Visiting volunteers-such as us, and medical student volunteers, give short presentations and talks at these “Network” meetings out in the rural villages.

We attended travelling medical clinics, each day of the week in a different village, with 500 patients queuing patiently.

At the “Indoor Clinic” (a small hospital) we found children with the results of kerosene lamps catching light and severely burning the children.

We have made it a priority to buy solar powered lamps for the families of our sponsor children - if a child can be saved from being burnt- our work is not in vain!

We can buy the lamps locally to the IIMC Clinic. They are the price of a man’s monthly wage, (£17) so they are not the families’ first priority.

For further information – look at youtube-IIMC-Documentary or www.IIMC-UK.

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray.
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Ivy Silk
IIMC UK Coordinator

IIMC works in the region to the south of Kolkata and particularly in the Ganges delta area known as the Sundarbans. Their headquarters is at Sonapur, about an hour's journey south from the city centre.





JUNIOR CHURCH NATIVITY PLAY SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

If you have children in Junior Church, please can you let Sharon Boyall know if they would like to be involved in this year's nativity play.

This year's play will be a simple retelling of the Christmas story, so there will not be a dress rehearsal – although the children will be dressing up on the day, so it would be a good idea if we knew who was likely to be there and wanted to be involved.



This will also be our **Gift Service**, where there is an opportunity to bring along a gift for those spending their Christmas at the Women's Refuge. Please mark the gift with a tag stating who the present is intended for, e.g. 'Girl aged 3-5' 'Boy 8-11' or 'Mother'



A big thank you every one who signed the 'India' petition

You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matt5:43-44.

"I admire Communists." The words seem strange from a pastor who spent 14 years in Communist prisons, but Richard Wurmbrand was sincere when he said them.

"Many Communists were willing to die to defend their 'Utopia'. They were more committed to their cause than some I met in churches."

In every enemy Pastor Wurmbrand saw a potential friend and a potential Christian. By loving his opponents he not only saw many come to know Christ but also increased his opportunities to witness.

"When they called me a 'dirty Jew' and told everyone not to read my books, people immediately went out to see what this 'dirty Jew' had to say," he chuckled. "I welcome anyone who has offense against me. Others are not always interested in what you have to say. You need to challenge them to the truth before you share your beliefs. To do this you must understand where they are coming from and be able to speak intelligently but we must always remember to speak in love."

Pastor Wurmbrand's words were not some high minded ideal that he didn't exemplify. He and his wife Sabina welcomed into their home a Nazi officer who worked at the very concentration camp where all of Sabina's family had been exterminated. When the officer saw their love and forgiveness for him, he was won into the kingdom. --- taken from one of Pastor Wurmbrand's final interviews.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders: make the most of every opportunity Col 4:5

With loving compassion Pastor Wurmbrand knelt beside the badly beaten pastor and asked "My brother can you say the prayer 'Father forgive them?'"

The man winced with pain, touching his swollen, bruised face. It was difficult to speak. The words came out slowly. I cannot.

Just as Pastor Wurmbrand began feeling sympathy for the man, the beaten Pastor began to speak again. With tears in his eyes he said "My prayer is Father forgive them and me. If I had been a better Pastor perhaps there would have been more converted torturers. "

This weary Pastor expressed his concern for the missed opportunities to convert his enemies to Christ. Both Pastors realized a young member of Romania's Communist Youth Organisation was once arrested and unmercifully beaten by a supposedly Christian police officer. This incident hardened his heart toward Christ for the rest of his life. The missed opportunity for the gospel finally became the dictator of the former Communist nation of Romania. Nicolai Ceausescu was responsible for the torture of countless Christians including Pastor Wurmbrand and his fellow beaten pastor.

ooOOoo

Both above items were taken from a *Voice of the Martyrs* (Release's U.S.A branch) daily devotional book. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was the founder of both organisations.

Comment: 6th November is International Day of Prayer for persecuted Christians. There are still plenty of Communist nations to be remembered in prayer: Vietnam, China and North Korea to name a few! The old ex-communist 'eastern block' countries are still anti-Semitic and antichristian as are the Muslim countries and our own country fast becoming.

Lynne Wilsher

St. George's Church *Release* representative

May the Lord bless you and may He give you His peace that passeth all understanding.

THE BIRD CAGE

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit.

Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak. . "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, 'What do you have there, son?'

'Just some old birds,' came the reply.

'What are you going to do with them?' I asked.

'Take 'em home and have fun with 'em,' he answered. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time.'

'But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?'

'Oh, I got some cats,' said the little boy. 'They like birds. I'll take 'em to them.'

The pastor was silent for a moment. 'How much do you want for those birds, son?'

'Huh??!!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!'

'How much?' the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, '\$10?'

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. 'Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!'

'What are you going to do with them?' Jesus asked.

Satan replied, 'Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!'

'And what will you do when you are done with them?' Jesus asked.

'Oh, I'll kill 'em,' Satan glared proudly.

'How much do you want for them?' Jesus asked.

'Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!'

'How much?' He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, 'All your blood, tears and your life.'

Jesus said, 'DONE!' Then He paid the price!.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

Lynne Wilsher
(from Linda Smith)



THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD Luke 1: 26 – 38

And God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and

you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elisabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her



**DEADLINE
FOR
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2014
ISSUE OF FOCUS
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER**

Ideally send contributions to
watson@melsted16.co.uk
but hand-written articles given to Judy are
also very welcome!



CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2013

Sun. 3rd Nov.	9.00 a.m.	Elders' Prayer Meeting
Mon. 4th Nov.	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Sat. 9th Nov.	9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Workday – Church maintenance & cleaning
	7.30 – 10.00 p.m.	Women's Ministry - Craft, Cake & Chat – Church Hall – see separate announcement
Sat. 16th Nov.		Synod Meeting
Sun. 17th Nov.	3.30 – 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church – see separate announcement.
Sun. 1st Dec.	9.00 a.m.	Elders' Prayer Meeting
	3.30 p.m.	Advent Songs of Praise followed by tea and cakes. If you would like to choose a favourite advent song/hymn please let Jane know.
Mon. 2nd Dec.	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Tues. 3rd Dec.	7.30 p.m.	Women's Ministry – Hush Before the Rush – see separate announcement
Sun. 8th Dec.	6.00 p.m.	Christmas Choir Practice
Sun. 15th Dec	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church Nativity Play – see separate announcement
	3.30 – 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church including Crib service.- see separate announcement
	6.00 p.m.	Christmas Choir Practice

Dates for the New Year

Awakening Hemel: 3 day youth event, Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th afternoon sessions only, and Friday 21st February afternoon and evening session. For those in school years 7 upwards. More details to follow.

Holiday Bible Club: 28th July – 1st August – to all my wonderful helpers – please mark the dates in your diary now – Jane.

Mission Direct: Mission trip to Kenya 17th – 31st August

SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER AND NOTES
3 rd Nov.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
10 th Nov.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Remembrance Sunday - Communion
17 th Nov.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
	3.30 - 6 p.m.	Messy Church
24 th Nov.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Thanksgiving & Blessing Service for Ellis Hazlett
1 st Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
	3.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise
8 th Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Choir Practice
15 th Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Children’s Nativity Play
	3.30 - 6 p.m.	Messy Church
	6.00 p.m.	Choir Practice
22 nd Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church Party
24 th Dec.	6.00 p.m.	Jane Wade
	11.30 p.m.	Angela Such - Communion
25 th Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade = CHRISTMAS DAY
29 th Dec.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – All Age service, no Junior Church

No p.m. services except where stated

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Mondays	<u>Home Group</u> - 8.00 p.m. Leaders: Linda & Kevin York
Tuesdays	<u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 8.00 p.m. at Peter & Jo Taylor's home. Leader: Tracy Malan. <u>Home Group</u> – 7.30 p.m. Leaders Amanda and Dan Hobbs
Wednesdays	<u>Wednesday Welcome</u> – 10.30 a.m. in Church Hall in term time. Coffee/Tea served at 10.15 a.m. <u>Prayer Fellowship</u> : - 2 nd /4 th Wednesday of each month from 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. in the Bell Lounge <u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 8.00 p.m. Leader: Richard Waymark <u>Home Group</u> : 1 st /3 rd week of each month, 8.00 p.m. Leaders – Jeremy & Nicky Flynn.
Thursdays	<u>Toddlers' Group</u> - 10.00 – 11.45 a.m. <u>Pilots</u> : Deckhands – 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. Adventurers – 5.45 – 7.00 p.m. Voyagers – 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. Cell Groups. (Navigators) 8.30 – 9.30 p.m. <u>Grandparent & Toddlers' Group</u> – Weekly in term time, 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. <u>Home Group</u> – Weekly in term time; 1.30-2.45 p.m. Leader: Gill Griffin
Fridays	<u>Youth Chill Zone</u> 4 – 6.00 p.m.
Saturdays	<u>Table Tennis</u> - 9-11.00 a.m. – Church hall, Leader Dennis Chang and Gill Griffin

Music Group Practice – TBC weekly by Worship Leader

◆ **What is a home group?**

Quite simply, a group of people drawn from the St George's Family who meet together regularly in a home (or even at Church!). We have 6 groups currently, with a total membership of over 60.

◆ **What is it for?**

To enable the members of the small group to get to know and care for one another, and help each other grow in the Christian life. The groups are really appreciated by long-standing and new members alike.

◆ **What happens at a home group?**

Each group develops its own particular style of sharing and learning together, drawing on the ingredients of worship, prayer, Bible focussed study/discussion, and maybe a "cuppa". Leading is shared among those members of the group who feel happy to do so, and the subject may be of their own choosing or part of a prearranged series. Meetings typically last 1½ to 2 hours.

◆ **When and where do the groups meet?**

<u>Leaders</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Amanda & Dan Hobbs 07725525176	Tues 7.30 p.m. Weekly	2a Redbourne Rd.
Kevin & Linda York	Mon 8.00 p.m. Weekly	6 Stronsay Close, Northend, Hemel
Tracy Malan HH 389022	1 st /3 rd Tues 8.00 pm	"Lauries" London Rd Bourne End (Peter and Jo Taylor)
Jeremy & Nicky Flynn HH 215268	Wed 8.00 pm 1 st /3 rd in month	4 Haybourn Mead (Jeremy and Nicky Flynn)
Richard Waymark HH 262646	Wed 8.00 pm 1 st /3 rd in month	4 Sidford Close (Richard Waymark)
Gill Griffin HH 243267	Thursday 1.30 – 2.45 pm Weekly in term time	The Bell Lounge

Can I join?

Yes! If you are interested, or would like to find out more, please speak to Jane Wade or one of the Home Group leaders.

DIRECTORY

ST. GEORGE'S URC

Minister: Revd. Jane Wade	Tel: 216597
Secretary: Jeremy Flynn	Tel: 215268
Treasurer: Brian Hardy	Tel: 266337
Focus Magazine: Judy Watson Ai Ling Chang	Tel: 261056 or Watson@melsted16.co.uk
Magazine Distribution: Alf Guilder	Tel: 256926
Junior Church co-coordinator Sharon Boyall	Tel: 213538
Pilots: Captain: Jane Wade Deckhands (Years R-2) Andrew & Yvonne Masters Adventurers (Years 3-6) Jane Wade Voyagers (Years 7-9)	Tel: 216597 Tel: 389278 Tel: 216597
Toddlers Group Carol Edgeworth	Tel: 392389
Wednesday Welcome Jo Taylor	Tel: 862754
Home Groups Revd. Jane Wade	Tel: 216597
Music Group Co-ordinator: Mark Wade Music Director: Dan Hobbs	Tel: 216597 or 07869131756 248427 or 07717201775
Prayer Co-ordinator Penny Crosswell	Tel: 211457
Prayer Chain Alistair and Joyce Beadle	Tel: 245901
Hall Bookings (<i>Church Activities</i>) Dave Greenwood	Tel: 258757
Transport Co-ordinator Denise Chennells	Tel: 246277
Table Tennis Leaders Dennis Chang & Gill Griffin	Tel: 243267 (Gill Griffin)
Women's Ministry Angela Such	Tel: 07941 534123