Sunday 8\textsuperscript{th} December 2013

Welcome to Christ Church
We extend a very warm welcome to everyone.

\textbf{Services today}

- 9.30 am  Holy Communion
- 3.00 pm  Parkinson’s UK Carol Service

\textit{Refreshments} - the service will be followed by refreshments – please do stay and share some fellowship together.

\textit{For those with children} - Flames (Sunday School) meets together in the Headgate Room every Sunday during term time. All primary age children are very welcome and those who are younger too, if accompanied by an adult. Please do ask the door stewards for directions.

\textit{Hearing loop} – there is a hearing loop in the building. If you use a hearing aid please set it to “\textit{t}”.

\textbf{Services this week}

\underline{Tuesday 10\textsuperscript{th} December}
9.00 am  Morning Prayer

\underline{Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} December}
10.00 am  Holy Communion
in St Mary’s Chapel

\underline{Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} December}
9.00 am  Morning Prayer

\textbf{Christ Church Anglican Congregation Vision Statement}

“Through our worship, mission, nurture and service we want to enable all people to enter into a living relationship with Jesus Christ”
The Week Ahead

Monday 9th December
10.00 am Coffee +

Tuesday 10th
9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Time Together on Tuesday
A time for pre-school children and their parents and carers – NB all children must be accompanied by an adult
3.15 pm FRoG club
For children and their parents and carers to have fun exploring the Christian faith – NB all children must be accompanied by an adult

Wednesday 11th
10.00 am Holy Communion in St Mary’s Chapel

Thursday 12th
9.00 am Morning Prayer

Friday 13th
6.00 pm Crusaders
Games, Bible stories, crafts, fun and friends for children aged 5-11 years

Saturday 14th December
10.30 am Saturday Prayerworks

Sunday 15th December
9.30 am Family Worship
6.30 pm Holy Communion

Rector:
Rev Paul Norrington (01206) 563478

Curate:
Revd Jackie Sams (01206) 530586

Church Treasurer:
Brian Taylor (01206) 540392

Churchwardens:
Delia Bloom (01206) 571788
Rod Green (01206) 768242

Church Office:
Liz Bird (01206) 542307
christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com

Service notes
Each week there will be space here for you to jot down any notes you want to make during the service
Welcome:

"this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God."

Loving God, we have come to worship you.
Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Wreath

The candles in our Advent Wreath remind us of the story of how, through the years, through different people, and finally in Jesus Christ, God's Kingdom comes on earth.

The first candle reminds us of the first leaders of God's people: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and David.

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We remember the Prophets, and how God spoke through them to challenge evil, injustice and unbelief among the people.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

Isaiah said, ‘A child is born to us! A Son is given to us! He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.’

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The second candle is lit.

As we light this candle we remember Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah and all the prophets who had unshakeable hope in the purposes of God.

Like them we put our faith in God who fulfilled his promises by sending his Son Jesus Christ to be the Saviour and King of all.

Amen.

Song: Make way, make way

Time together with Flames
We say sorry to God:

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Songs of praise: Immanuel, O Immanuel, You are the mighty King

The Collect:
Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 Please sit

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3: 1-12. Please stand

Sermon followed by song of response Please sit

Jesus, You are changing me, by Your Spirit You’re making me like You. Jesus, You’re transforming me, that Your loveliness may be seen in all I do. You are the potter and I am the clay, help me to be willing to let You have Your way.
Jesus, You are changing me, as I let You reign supreme within my heart.
The prayers:  

Please sit

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace:  

Please stand

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

Offertory hymn: Hail to the Lord’s anointed

The communion:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The Lord be with you,  
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give thanks and praise.

...ever praising you and saying:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...until he comes in glory.  
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

for ever and ever. Amen.
The Lord’s prayer:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen

Breaking of the Bread:
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

We share bread and wine together:

During the sharing of communion there will be an opportunity for prayer for healing. If you would like prayer or a simple blessing then please move to the ‘prayer place’ to the left of the dais where someone will come to you.

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Notices

Closing hymn: Light has dawned

Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing...

Our Lord says, ‘I am coming soon.’
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
Amen.
Come and join us as we celebrate
Christmas at the Rectory
You are welcome to join Paul and Glyn for mulled wine and festive food
Friday 20th December from 7.30 pm till late
21 Cambridge Road
Colchester

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester invites you to a
United Service of GRATITUDE and BLESSING for our
Health and Caring Services in Colchester
This united service is to bless those working in Health or Caring services - to say ‘thank you’ on behalf of the town and ask God's blessing on them
Sunday 19th January at 6.30pm at
Colchester Baptist Church

We will be offering a Seasonal Service at Parsley House (Balkerne Gardens) on SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER at 5.15pm

Please join us if you wish
(speak with Clive Joyce for further details)

Christmas Services 2013
Sunday 23rd December
6.30 pm United Carols by Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve
6.00 pm Carols for Kids
11.30 pm The First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day
10.00 am United Family Communion Service
PRAYER

The World
• Give thanks for the life of Nelson Mandela
• The Philippines – pray for those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost homes and pray that aid reaches those in so much need quickly.
• India where it is estimated a million people have been made homeless following Cyclone Phailin
• The situation in Syria
• The situations in Egypt and Zimbabwe
• The financial concerns around the world
• The humanitarian crises in West Africa
• Those areas of the world affected severely with flooding and landslides, all those who face lack of clean water, starvation and homelessness and the many troubled areas of the world.
• Remember all those who work for Aid agencies around the world.

National and Local
• Our Queen and those who govern our lands.
• Those deployed in Afghanistan and around the world.
• Our emergency services.
• Those who have concerns over employment, debt and relationships.
• Those affected by the storms and flooding this week

Our Church and pastoral needs
• Rev Paul and Glyn Norrington.
• Our ministry team.
• Jackie Sams as she now gently returns to Curate duties.
• Give thanks that Rod Green’s surgery went well and he is now home. Prayer for good recovery for Rod and also remember Sara
• Anne Rodgers.
• Pauline Womersley.
• Tom Savill for good health as he awaits further appointments.
• Those undergoing hospital tests, those recovering from surgery or receiving treatment and those who are unwell
• Those who mourn
• The family worker application process
• The preparations for our Christmas services.