

Christ Church News

Autumn 2023



***"The grass withers and the flowers
fall, but the word of our God endures
forever." (Isaiah 40:8)***

*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"*

In this edition of the Parish News:

- *Congratulations Christ Church*
- *Photos from our Christ Church families*
- *Update on the cross sculpture*
- *The vicar of neigh*
- *Thank you*
- *Operation Christmas child*
- *Book Recommendation*
- *Pear, hazelnut and chocolate cake recipe*
- *Autumn activities*
- *Regular Christ Church activities*

Dates for the diary

- *Gardening day Saturday 14th October 10am*
- *Christ Church Barn dance Saturday 21st October 6.30pm*
- *All Saints' service Sunday 5th November 3pm*
- *Taize workshop Sunday 12th November 6.30pm*
- *Christmas floral workshop Thursday 23rd November 6.30pm*
- *Dickens evening Wednesday 13th December 7.30pm*

CONGRATULATIONS CHRIST CHURCH

The Christ Church Community Hub is a go!

Our current building serves so well, but the kitchen and toilet facilities are beyond their sell-by dates, so a massive well done to everyone who has been dreaming about, planning and fundraising for this important investment in our church life and community. I can't wait to step into the new building and enjoy seeing the plans come to life.

And with all that excitement buzzing around in my head, I skipped beyond the temporary inconveniences of building work, to the grand opening ceremony that awaits us. As I was pondering who we would invite or how we would mark the occasion, I remembered another Colchester Church that had their fancy development opened by Bishop Stephen. The now Archbishop waved his hands and praised this lovely new facility before booming into the microphone, "BUT YOU HAVE WASTED YOUR MONEY!"

How very rude!

Thankfully he went on to elaborate, and he made a point that can help us too. Our building is a great blessing to us and our community, and the new upgraded building opens up opportunities for even greater blessing. We should definitely celebrate our achievement and the impact it will have on the people who come through the door of the new Christ Church Community Hub. But at the same time we must not forget the people who will not come to our building, but will meet the people of Christ Church elsewhere; in the shops, at school, at work, in the pub... the possibilities are endless.

The Bishop's point, so boldly delivered, was that every Christian is Jesus' representative, no matter what day it is or where they happen to be. This is a message for today - before the work begins, for next month - while we have slightly less access to our building, and for the years ahead - when we will be stewarding the blessing of a brilliant new building. The people of Christ Church represent Jesus both inside and outside the church building and everywhere they go.

Personally, I think the investment in the building of Christ Church is timely and wise. I am so pleased to be part of a church family that is willing to invest generously in their facilities. But having got to know you all over the past few months, I am so pleased that we Christ Church folk get around a bit – so that the people of Colchester and beyond can meet wonderful followers of wonderful Jesus.

Chris

Family photos from our Christ Church family



Rebecca and her daughter, Intisar, were baptised at Christ Church on 21st May and we praise God for all the Baptisms that have taken place this year.

Sara and Nigel's son, Will, married Maria on 5th August.



Caterina and Sophie officially adopted Morgan on 7th August.

Paul and Glyn became
grandparents.

Lyra Elowyn was born
on 9th September, a
daughter for Rachel and
Calin.



Give thanks!
Sheila



UPDATE ON THE CROSS SCULPTURE, AUTUMN '23

You may remember that about this time last year, a group of us with an interest in the garden had been meeting a selection of Ironworkers to find out if they could make and install a cross-shaped sculpture in the garden in front of Christ Church. The origins of the idea dated back to discussions pre-vacancy, about having some vertical features – possibly an arch or posts up which climbing plants could be grown.

These ideas metamorphosed and evolved into the design of a cross, which was accepted by the PCC subject to funding being found that was entirely separate from the building project. A year on from those times we have moved significantly closer to having the cross sculpture made!

After interviews and site visits by three local ironworking companies, we drew up a detailed specification of the type of cross we wanted. This was offered to the ironworkers, and in the end we chose Darren, from Suffolk Ironworks, who had impressed us at our meeting and is able to work in both types of metal that we are going to use in the sculpture. We asked for a detailed quote for costs, which we were able to accept, as sufficient funds had been raised.

So far so good! Then we needed to apply for planning permission, which took several months and a good deal of nail-biting as those of us involved were again on new territory here! Neighbours were circulated in advance of the application, and we were happy to receive no objections, a huge relief indeed, as we know how much our neighbours value the garden and green space around the church!

So, by this summer, we had initial funding in place, an Ironworker who could make the piece we wanted, and planning permission – Hooray!!

We then had to go back to Darren the Ironworker, who has been extremely patient and understanding through all these episodes of waiting, and, with a deep breath, ask for an updated quote from him – aware that his costs as well as all the materials would have gone up in price. Amazingly, we could still afford the new quote, and were very pleased to place an order with Darren about a month ago. He too is excited about making this piece of sculpture, and has made a public installation of a similar scale, as well as smaller fittings for churches.

We are now in the position that Darren has received a deposit of half the cost of the sculpture, and plans to start work on it in early November. All being well, it will be ready about Christmas time, and can then be installed near the lower door, on the grassy area outside, in the New Year. We are currently checking the details of the base/fittings Darren has proposed, with the help of Ken Wallace, whose structural engineering skills and knowledge are being lent to us for this purpose.

It sometimes seems a long process – and we are not quite there yet. Many people have contributed along the way, from initial discussions, questions and helpful challenges/critiques of the design ideas that were proposed, meeting with ironworkers, taking photos, making donations of money, advice on planning, communication with our neighbours and evaluation of the structure's base from an engineering point of view. We are extremely grateful for the interest, help and support shown – and really hope there will be something to see, love and be inspired by before this time next year.

Kate, on behalf of the Cross team



The text cut through one stainless-steel ribbon will be the Easter greeting: 'Alleluia, alleluia Christ is risen' and on the other 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

THE VICAR OF NEIGH

Have you ever been to church with some horses? Blyth burgh parish church, prominent sentinel on the Suffolk flatlands, hosts a 'blessing of the animals service' each August. The friends we were staying with took their dog 'Delilah to the service; us as well, not as pets but as curious bystanders.

Dogs were the majority group with some cats, a hen and a tortoise while at the rear of this huge cavern of a church half a dozen horses gently rustled the straw rushes while snacking on sugar cubes.

Remarkably quiet the animals were duly blessed as were the humans who lived with them. I like a bit of theatre and the conclusion of the service did not disappoint.



The vicar donned his hard hat and rode his horse majestically out of the church into the grounds and then presumably to the vicarage. The other runners emerged from the porch one of whom left his visiting card on the porch floor. Was this an unfortunate accident or a comment on the sloppy sentimentality of the service?

What about a similar scenario at Christ Church? Rev. Chris might ride in on a horse but the animal could not hold on to the stair banister. while it is unlikely that it would fit into the lift. So I suggest the service leader enters and exits on the urban equivalent of a horse, an e-scooter.

RG

THANK YOU



As always the parish afternoon BBQ and swim and games courtesy of Sue and Colin was great fun, despite the rain!!

Thank you for the hard work that goes into it you two!

Pat



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Here we are in October and Shoe Box time again. The church has once more agreed to participate and so the Shoe Boxes and Leaflets are available on the table in the foyer. The Leaflets give details of what to include in the boxes and also a list of unsuitable items.

You will see in the Leaflets that the week 13th-20th November is nominated as the collection week, but we are making **5th November, Shoe Box Sunday** to ensure all are collected in time. Please bring your boxes to the church that Sunday and if anyone is unable to attend then, boxes can be left in the church anytime before **15th November**. Late boxes cannot be accepted by the church after this date.

This will be my last year as co-ordinator for the OCC. The church first participated over 20 years ago after a very enthusiastic 15 year old [my daughter] had seen details of this charity and its work on the TV programme Blue Peter. Members have been very generous with their contributions over the years -- at one time sending 102 Boxes away! The Service Group is taking over and further details will be given during the coming year. Meanwhile, can we please make this a bumper year. There are about 90 empty boxes to fill.

Any problems or queries please telephone me on 01206 579148

Angela Ennals.

WELCOME TO

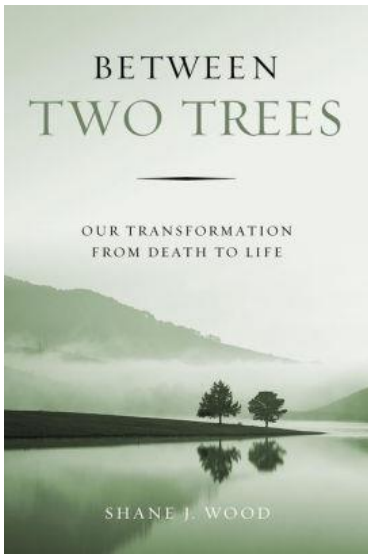
CHRIST CHURCH LIBRARY

Please browse our selection,
choose a book and sign it
out.

Open to everyone!



BOOK RECOMMENDATION



The problem of Eden is much worse than you thought, but the solution is much better than you could have ever imagined.

Between Two Trees reveals that the real tragedy of Eden is a union with death, a union that produces division and despair. Life isn't lived under Eden's tree of life or beneath the healing leaves of the tree in the New Jerusalem. It is lived between them. And between these two trees, life is hard. In spite of this tragedy, Between

Two Trees will challenge you to embrace hope, love, and the beauty of reconciliation at the true tree of life: the cross of Calvary.

By exploring the problem of Eden and the power of the cross, Shane Wood calls us to walk on a path to transformation, a path to union with God. The book journey ends under the shade of the tree of life in the New Jerusalem with God's unfinished creation now complete. Yes, Eden, but more importantly, you. The unfinished creation in us.

Emily

PEAR, HAZELNUT & CHOCOLATE CAKE

Preparation and cooking time

Prep:30 mins - 40 mins

Cook:50 mins - 1 hr

Moist, fruity pear, hazelnut and chocolate cake - try it warm with cream as a teatime treat

Ingredients

- 100g blanched hazelnuts
- 140g self-raising flour
- 175g butter, cut into small pieces
- 140g golden caster sugar
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 5 small, ripe Conference pears
- 50g dark chocolate, chopped into small chunks
- 2 tbsp apricot jam

Method

STEP 1

Preheat the oven to fan 140C/ conventional 160C/gas 3. Butter and line the base of a 20cm round cake tin. Grind the hazelnuts in a food processor until fairly fine. Add the flour and mix briefly. Add the butter and pulse until it forms crumbs. Add the sugar and eggs and mix briefly. Peel, core and chop two of the pears. Stir the pears and chocolate lightly into the cake mixture.

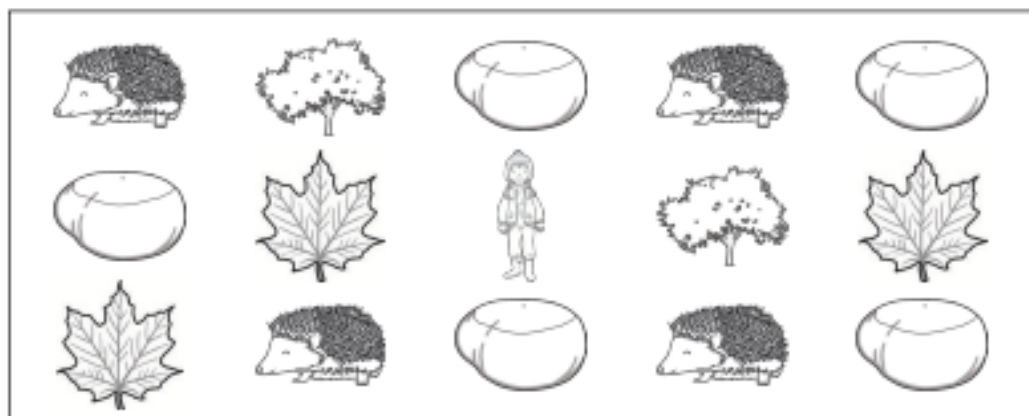
STEP 2

Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth the top. Peel, core and slice the remaining pears and scatter over the top of the cake. Press down lightly and bake for 50-60 minutes, until

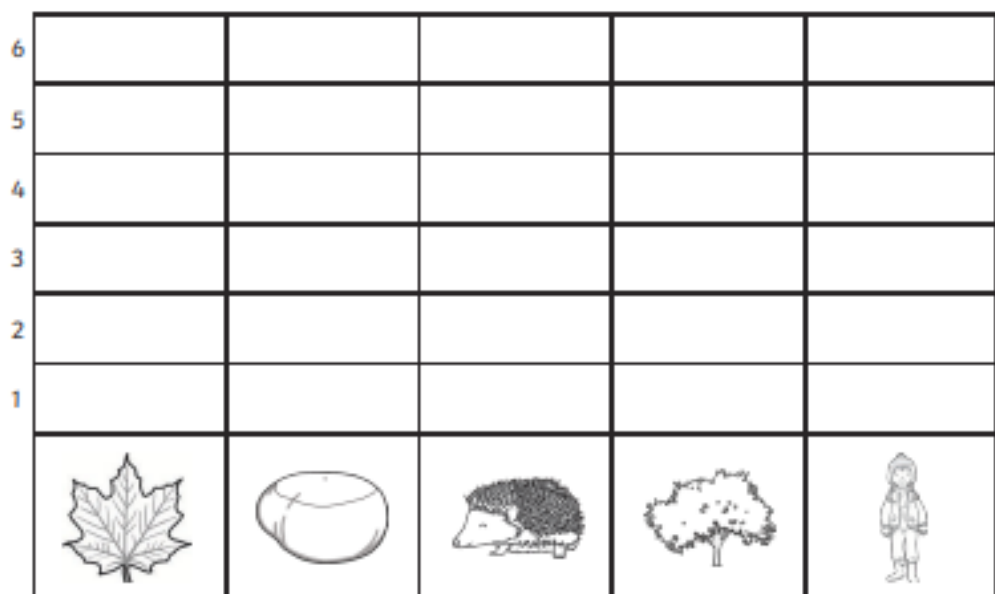
firm to the touch. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out and cool on wire rack. Warm the jam and brush over the top. Serve warm or cold.



Autumn Block Graph



Colour a box for each item that you find.

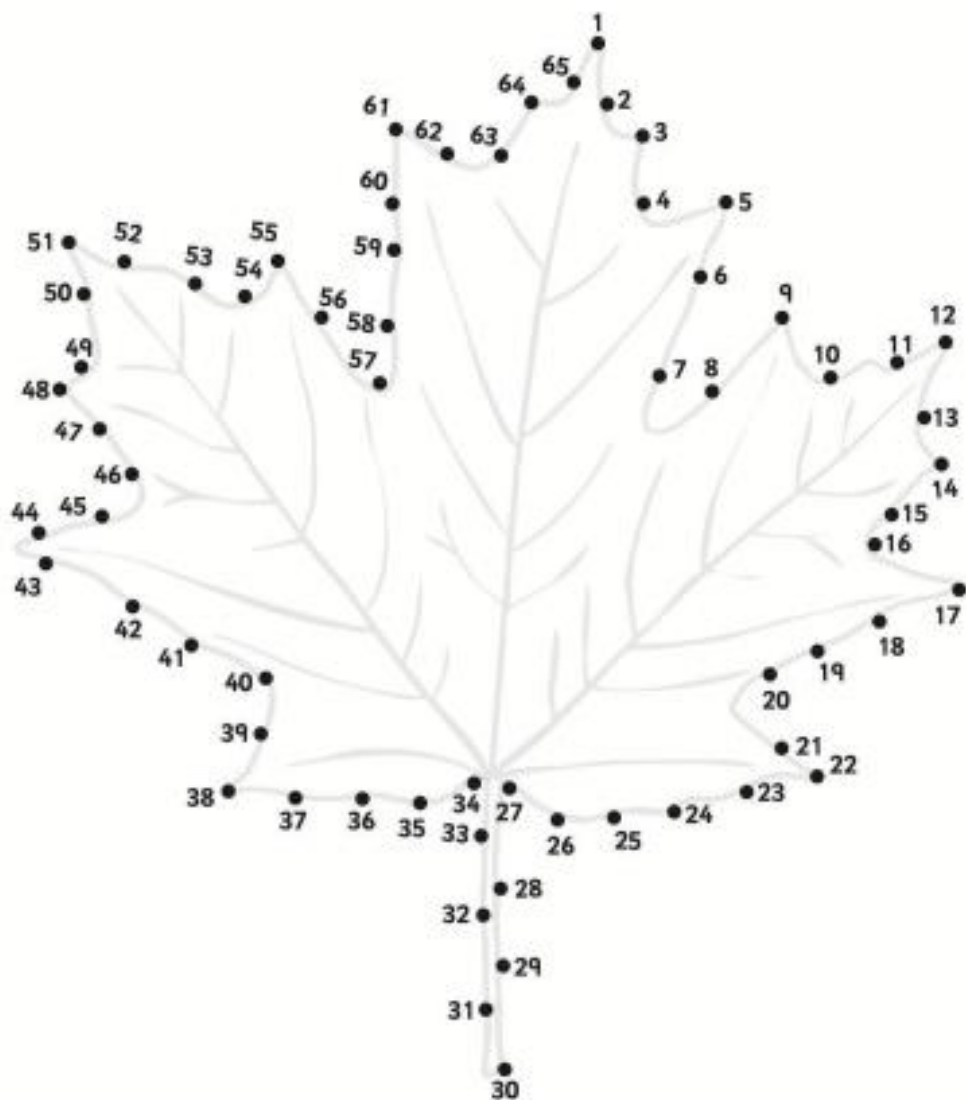


1. Which object appeared the most?

2. Which object appeared the least?

Autumn Leaves

Join the dots to reveal the full picture



Regular activities at Christ Church

time together

Meets every Tuesday morning in term time from 10am to 12 noon,

Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment for little ones (0-4yr) to play and for parents, grandparents and carers to chat and relax over a cup of coffee.

We close our morning together with a Bible story, some nursery rhymes, Christian songs and celebrate any family occasions e.g birthdays.

Please feel free to drop in for a short visit or stay for the morning.

Email:

timetogether@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk

the **BREAKFAST CAFÉ**

Thursdays from 9am to 11.30 ish.

A café for all ages held in the main church space, a safe space for little ones to play, adults young and old to meet over cake, breakfast quiche, tea coffee and other goodies.

Pop in for a short time or stay longer.

All ages welcome

FLAMES

(for all those aged 4-11)
On Sunday mornings

**Bible stories, games,
crafts and prayers**

more information contact Sheila



An after school club for primary school age children, on Tuesdays 3pm till 4.30pm.

Parents and Carers stay in the building with the children, pre-school children are also welcome (toys provided).

Activities include Craft, Stories, Videos, Lego and Games.

There are refreshments during the afternoon for children and adults.

FrOG club has a relaxed atmosphere for children and adults to enjoy.



**Join us at
Splodgy on the
2nd Friday of the Month
7:30pm till 9pm
School Years 6 - 10**



COVID19

We will have relevant COVID safety measures in place in line with the government guidance in place.

To see visit www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy



Christ Church
Colchester



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www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy

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