

TEST YOUR BRAIN AGAIN

A Quiz Night has been arranged by St Mary's Fund Raising Committee on Friday, 29th January at 8 pm in Little Baddow Memorial Hall. Further details and tickets are available from Lynda Ferguson (222575).

TALK – THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH PAINTING

A talk by John McCafferty at St Andrew's Room, North Hill, Little Baddow on Friday, 13th November at 8 pm. Proceeds to the Umpium Missionary Link.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Nov 8th** - For the parishes of Sandon and Little Baddow as they await the appointment of a new incumbent. We pray for all with extra responsibilities during this time.
- Nov 22nd** - For all involved in the presentation of Christmas Journey Alive at Marsh Farm. May the occasion be a strong witness to the true meaning of Christmas.
- Dec 6th** - For the elderly and housebound of our parishes. May we try to offer them support and companionship during the darker days of winter.
- Dec 20th** - For the many charities that work with children in any kind of need. Let us pray that God will work through them as messengers of his love.
- Jan 10th** - For all who will be arranging activities during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us in all that we have in common.
- Jan 24th** - For the schools that serve the children of our parishes. May teachers and pupils together learn more of the wonders of your world and your provision.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Nov 1st - All Saints' Day
- Nov 1st – 18th – Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Collection. Look in your Parish Church for local arrangements.
- Nov 7th - Tools with a Mission Collection, St Andrew's Room, North Hill, Little Baddow, 10 am to 12 noon.
- Nov 8th - Remembrance Sunday.
- Nov 13th - Talk - The Golden Age of Dutch Painting, St Andrew's Room Lt Baddow, 8pm
- Nov 14th - Joint Trip to Whitechapel Bell Foundry. THIS IS HAVING TO BE RE-ARRANGED.
- Nov 21st - South Woodham Ferrers Christmas Bazaar (2-5pm) and Switch-on of Town Centre Lights.
- Nov 29th - Advent Sunday.
- Dec 1st - Joint Trip to Dickens' House and Dr Johnson's House.
- Dec 3rd – 5th - Christmas Journey Live at Marsh Farm, South Woodham Ferrers.
- Dec 5th - St Mary's Church Christmas Bazaar in Little Baddow Memorial Hall, 12 noon to 2.30 pm. Lunches will be served.
- Dec 19th - South Woodham Ferrers Town Carol Service.
- Dec 25th - Christmas Day!!
- Jan 18th – 25th - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- Jan 29th - Quiz Night at the Memorial Hall, Little Baddow, 8 pm.

*Please send items for inclusion in CCGN to Brian Gilders
2 Green Meadows, Danbury, CM3 4LD. (01245 224524)*



Issue Thirty-four, November 2009

Chelmer – Crouch Group News

For the Churches of St Andrew, Bicknacre; St Andrew, Boreham; St John the Baptist, Danbury; All Saints, East Hanningfield; St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow; St Andrew, Sandon; Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers and St Mary, Woodham Ferrers.

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ST ANDREW'S, BICKNACRE

During August 20 of our members went to Kenya where they worked very hard. They did some more building on the school that they helped build last year. They had a 3 day medical project. For this they had saved money, bought medical supplies and then hired doctors and nurses. They delivered flyers for miles around and then waited to see whether anyone would come. You have to pay for medical help in Kenya and this was free. Over 1400 people came from all over the place. They were all seen, names taken, help given and also prayed for individually – if they wanted that. That is only some of what they did!!

Two other members of the church went to Uganda in the Spring for a two year placement; Geoff to help with Education and Sabrina with health issues. While there they have recently met with our church's sponsored Compassion child, Josephine. They took lots of presents from the church. It was not an easy task. They set out at 7.00am. They drove for three hours to Kasese, met with the Compassion rep. And drove a further 40 minutes to Kajwenge – a lot of this on mud roads. It was a very exciting meeting with Josephine. They looked round the school, had lunch and then they were ready to go to Josephine's home. They had to walk up a steep, rocky track for two hours to get there and on the way it poured with rain. They had climbed up 1450 feet. And were totally exhausted. Apparently it only takes 45 minutes for Josephine to do the journey! They had a wonderful time with the family and saw how very worthwhile it is to sponsor children and how it helps the whole family.

There is a lot more we could say about both these things but there isn't enough space!!
Mary Cottee.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION COLLECTION

Reminder! It's time to clear out your garage, shed or loft! Your unwanted tools can be a lifeline to other people. The next collection will be at St Andrew's Room, North Hill, Little Baddow on **Saturday, 7th November** between 10 am

and 12 noon. Traidcraft goods (gifts, cards and food) will be available. Tea and coffee will be served. Further details 223183.

CHRISTMAS JOURNEY LIVE AT MARSH FARM

For the fourth year in succession, the Joint Churches of South Woodham Ferrers are performing their Christmas Journey Live at Marsh Farm, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 3rd, 4th and 5th December. The Joint Churches of South Woodham Ferrers are organising this event in conjunction with Marsh Farm and have decided that all profits will go to Essex Air Ambulance.

The Christmas Journey is performed by people from the local Churches of South Woodham Ferrers (Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Evangelical Churches) joining together to show everyone the true meaning of Christmas. We would like to invite anyone from within the Diocese to come and take part in the event. This is a wonderful way to witness the 'real' meaning of Christmas.

The live nativity is set at Marsh Farm (educational farm) at night. It is a walking journey around the farm taking in the whole of the Christmas story. So far over 1500 and 7 primary schools have stepped back in time to see Roman soldiers order everyone to travel to their birth place. They have then followed Mary and Joseph with their donkeys on their arduous journey. Along the way they have seen shepherds in amongst the sheep and a host of angels telling the good news, finally seeing Mary and Joseph with a real live baby. The journey lasts approximately 1.5 hours and is followed by mince pies and mulled apple juice.

However, none of this would be possible without the many volunteers needed to take part in the event. We need people to play the parts of shepherds, villagers, Kings and more. The majority of these parts are non-speaking and costumes are provided. All ages are welcome to take part in this special event.

For more information, please look at the website www.christmasjourney.co.uk or contact 01245 325234.

Make this Christmas a Christmas to remember!

Julie Hardy.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP BARBEQUE AT SANDON ON SUNDAY, 30th AUGUST

This was a very enjoyable and happy occasion, with nearly 100 people attending. The food cooked by the Sandon 'chefs' was excellent and plentiful, salads were brought to accompany it, and a wide selection of sweets were provided by those who attended. A meal set in the churchyard is quite an unusual experience, but never-the-less an opportunity to bring the people of our group of parishes together in a social way. Our thanks are due to the Sandon folk who organised every thing, including suitable weather!

Next year the event will be hosted at St Mary's, Little Baddow on Sunday, 29th August. So make a note of the date and remember to transfer it to your new diaries in January.

SING HALLELUJAH!

Sing Hallelujah is a nationwide project which encourages people to find their voice and discover the joy of singing through Handel's famous "Hallelujah Chorus". St John's in Danbury is taking part and everyone is welcome, from complete beginners to more experienced singers. If you would like to join us there is a workshop on Saturday, 21st November at 3.30pm – 4.30pm in the Church. The performance is on Sunday, 22nd November during the 10am Morning Worship, followed by Tea and Coffee (Hallelujah!).

For further information, please contact Paul Hagger on 01245 4000079.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project - devoted to spreading love, joy and smiles to children in parts of the world who really need them.

In the UK alone last year 1.2 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were wrapped, packed and sent to children in disadvantaged situations by children and adults in the UK.

But what Operation Christmas Child boils down to is one gift, from one individual to another. So, this Christmas, share in the power of a simple gift - reminding a child in need that God loves them and that they have not been forgotten.

Samaritan's Purse have been running this project for over 19 years now. Thanks to a huge army of volunteers who give their time to help this Christmas miracle come to life, we deliver gifts to children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They work with local churches and charities overseas to ensure that your shoeboxes get delivered by hand to the children that most need them, regardless of their background or beliefs. Where it is appropriate their local partners will make available to children a booklet of Bible stories, including the original Christmas story - the birth of Jesus.

Your Parish Church may well be running a collection of shoeboxes, in which case they will have a leaflet suggesting suitable contents and how to pack them. A donation of £2.50 is requested to cover shipping and transportation, etc. for each box. Further information can also be found on the website www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

JOINT TRIPS

The last trip from South Woodham Ferrers Railway Station this year is as follows:- **Tuesday, 1st December** to Dickens' House and Dr Johnson's House. The party meets together at 9.20 am and makes use of a group ticket. For further details contact Revd Paul Haworth on 322134

* Please note that the trip to Whitechapel Bell Foundry is having to be re-arranged for another date.