



EASTER 2014

Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers is still looking for people who would like to take part in this incredible event. We need people of all ages to be involved in prayer and worship, administration and technical roles, as well as people who would like to act (no experience necessary). We will use your gifts and talents to share God's love with the community. (Further information from Paul Hardy on 325234.)

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Nov 11th** - For Christians in many parts of the world who are suffering for their faith. May they find strength and comfort in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Nov 25th** - For the parish of Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre during their time of interregnum and for those who bear extra responsibilities in it.
- Dec 2nd** - For the many charities that work with children in any kind of need. May God work through them as messengers of his love.
- Dec 16th** - For all who will be leading and taking part in our Christmas services. May they be able to convey the true meaning of Christmas..
- Jan 6th** - For all who will be arranging activities for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us in all that we have in common.
- Jan 20th** - For the elderly and housebound of our parishes. May we seek to offer them support and companionship during the darker days of winter.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Nov 11th - Remembrance Day.
- Nov 24th - Sandon Church Christmas Fayre.
- Nov 30th - Patronal service at St Andrew's, Sandon, 7.30 pm.
- Nov 30th - Luxury Christmas Shopping Evening in Memorial Hall, Little Baddow, 6 pm.
- Dec 8th - Concert of Carols and Readings, Little Baddow URC at 7.30 pm.
- Dec 16th - Messy Church, Sandon, 11 am.
- Dec 16th - Carol Service at St Andrew's,.
- Dec 24th - Crib Service and Christingle at St Andrew's, Sandon, 4 pm.
- Dec 25th - Christmas Day!
- Jan 18th - 25th - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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

Issue Forty-six, November 2012

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.

TRANSFORMING PRESENCE DAY

Some 50 members of the Churches in the Chelmer Crouch Group attended a workshop at Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers on Saturday, 6th October to discuss the Bishop of Chelmsford's paper on Transforming Presence.

Each congregation in our Group could send up to 7 representatives to discuss the many questions that had been raised and to contribute ideas on improving our outreach within our communities and how we might find more effective ways of working together to promote our shared mission.

The day was led by Revd Canon Dr Graham Hamborg, Ordained Ministry Development Adviser and Bradwell Area CMD Adviser, and following the Opening Worship, was launched by the Bishop of Bradwell, John Wraw.

Discussions took place under 3 headings:-

- Living Distinctively
- Evangelising Effectively
- Serving with Accountability

The first of these took place in parish groups and we were asked to consider 'How do you pray and in what ways do you find prayer difficult?' Also we were asked to think of ways in which the Church in the parish, and the Chelmer Crouch Group could help to have a greater reality and depth in prayer. Each group reported back to the full meeting.

After a lunch break we gathered in mixed discussion groups to think about Evangelising Effectively. The first question was 'Who and/or what had helped each of us to come to a faith in Christ'. We then considered what nurture courses or 'first steps' existed in our Churches for those wanting to know more about

Christian faith. This led on to how Churches in the Chelmer Crouch Group might help one another in this direction.

The third session on Serving with Accountability looked into whether there is a set of ingredients of Church life that every Church, or group of Churches like ours, needs to have.

At about 3 pm the afternoon discussion groups presented their thoughts on flip charts which were placed around the church as a plenary feed back, which was followed by a very welcome cup of tea and cake.

The day ended with final comments from Graham Hamborg and then Closing Worship.

I was very impressed by the way in which everybody took an active part in the group discussions and was willing to share their particular thoughts and ideas. There was also a great feeling of trying to tackle the challenges together as a group.

If you would like to know more detail of the ideas put forward by the various discussion groups, Graham Hamborg has kindly produced a summary of the feedback charts, and this should be available for you to read in your own parish church.

Finally we offer our thanks to Graham Hamborg for leading us and to Holy Trinity Church for hosting our gathering.

Brian Gilders.

WHAT NEXT?

Since the Chelmer Crouch Group Transforming Presence Day the CCG Council has met to consider the various outcomes and how we might proceed.

A major suggestion was that we could set up a CCG School of Prayer which met on a monthly basis during the coming year. This would be in response to the people representing each of our parishes asking for help in praying - 'Teach us how to pray.'

Each would have a different topic such as :-

- Prayer and Music
- Prayer and Art
- Meditative and Contemplative Prayer
- Patterns of Daily Prayer from Common Worship
- Monastic Prayer
- Taize and Celtic Prayer
- Prayer and Worship

It would not require everyone to attend all the meetings. They could choose according to their particular interests. Also there could be afternoon and/or evening meetings to suit people's different situations.

This idea would fit in well with the Diocesan request to concentrate on Prayer for 2013, leading to a Year of Evangelism in 2014.

Other suggestions were the sharing of information and resources for work with young people, and a similar arrangement for House Groups and Teaching Groups. This would enable these activities to take place locally.

Brian Gilders.

APPOINTMENT

The Bishop has announced that Revd Clive Ashley has been appointed Priest in Charge of Danbury and will be licensed at the end of January. This means that he will be resigning from the parishes of Sandon and Little Baddow as the Bishop is placing them in a period of interregnum in order to give time for consultation with the parishes in regard to their future ministries.

EVENTS AT SANDON

Saturday, 24th November - Church Christmas Fayre, 12 noon to 3 pm.

Friday, 30th November - Patronal Service at 7.30 pm followed by **Wine and Cheese**.

Sunday, 16th December - Messy Church - Dressing the stable, decorating the Christmas Tree and playing handbells.

Sunday, 16th December - Carol Service followed by refreshments.

Monday, 24th December - Crib Service and Christingle at 4 pm.

LUXURY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

This will take place at **Little Baddow Memorial Hall on Friday, 30th November** from 6.00 pm to 9.30 pm. Come and join us for a convivial evening of retail therapy! There will be stalls packed with lots of goodies including fashion accessories, jewellery, household goods, cosmetics, bath products, children's books, toys, baby products, Christmas decorations, cards, cakes and a lot more. Entry is £3. This event is in aid of St Mary's Church.

NOEL NOEL

Times and Seasons Choir, conducted by David Bayley, are presenting a Concert of Carols and Readings for choir and audience on Saturday, 8th December at 7.30 pm. It was planned to take place in St Mary's, Little Baddow, but will now most likely be in Little Baddow United Reformed Church, which is only just up the road, as St Mary's is obstructed with scaffolding during the roof repairs. Tickets are £10 and include wine and refreshments and can be obtained from Wendy Godden (223873) or Lynda Ferguson (0771 4719842). Proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.