

is divided - and that really is a scandal!

Watch out to see what activities your local Church is planning.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ALERT! A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, November 29th, 6.00 to 9.30 pm in Little Baddow Memorial Hall, North Hill. Stock up for Christmas at this evening of convivial retail therapy. Entry £3 to include coffee and biscuits. Raising funds for St Mary's Church.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Nov 10th** - For Christians in many parts of the world who are suffering for their faith. May they find strength and comfort in the power of your Holy Spirit.
- Nov 24th** - For all involved in the distribution of Shoe Boxes by Samaritan's Purse and for the children who will be receiving them.
- Dec 8th** - For all who will be leading and taking part in our Christmas services. May they be able to convey the true meaning of Christmas.
- Dec 22nd** - For the many charities that work with children in any kind of need. May God work through them as messengers of his love.
- Jan 5th** - For those who will be arranging activities for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us in all we have in common. May we be generous in our giving and caring in our prayers.
- Jan 19th** - For the elderly and the housebound of our parishes. May we seek to offer them support and companionship during the darker days of winter..

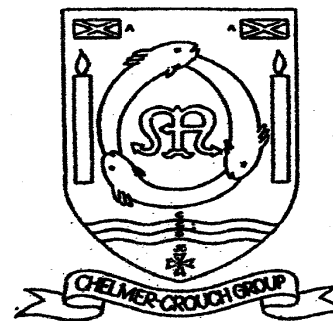
FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Nov 2nd - Quiz Night at Sandon Village Hall, 7.30 pm..
- Nov 7th - CCG School of Prayer at St Mary's, Little Baddow, 8 pm.
- Nov 10th - Remembrance Sunday.
- Nov 16th - Boreham Autumn Concert 7.30 pm.
- Nov 17th - One Life, One Passion auditions.
- Nov 23rd - Christmas Fayre at Sandon Village Hall. 12 noon to 3 pm.
- Nov 24th - One Life, One Passion auditions.
- Nov 29th - Choral Evensong at St Andrew's, Sandon, 7.30 pm.
- Nov 29th -Luxury Christmas Shopping at Little Baddow Memorial Hall, 6.00 - 9.30 pm.
- Dec 5th - Compline at Boreham (Joseph), 8 pm.
- Dec 7th -Lighting of Christmas Tree at Sandon, 5 pm.
- Dec 7th / 8th - Christmas Tree Festival at St John's, Danbury.
- Dec 12th - Compline at Boreham (Herod), 8 pm.
- Dec 15th - Christingle Service at Sandon, 4 pm.
- Dec 15th - United Carol Service at St Mary's, Little Baddow, 6.30 pm.
- Dec 19th - Compline at Boreham (Mary), 8 pm.
- Dec 22nd - Carol Service at Sandon, 6.30 pm.
- Dec 22nd - Christingle Service at St Mary's Little Baddow, 4.00 pm.
- Dec 23rd - Beer and Carols at The Crown, Sandon, 7.00 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 Fifty, November 2013

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.

WELCOME

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome Revd Susan Iskander to the Chelmer Crouch Group. She will be serving as Priest-in Charge at East Hanningfield for two days a week. We now have a full clergy team at last, and it is good to know that there are no vacancies as we continue to find ways to work more closely together as the Chelmer-Crouch Group.

Revd Lee Batson



This event took place on Saturday, 14th September, when cyclists and walkers set out against a rather changeable weather forecast. At least there was no wind, which made cycling a little easier on the open road. All went well until just after mid-day, when those of us who took routes around Chelmsford found ourselves having to shelter in churches and chapels that were open as we were attacked by heavy rain showers. It was true that they passed over fairly quickly, so we were able to make use of the gaps between them - rather frustrating though for progress! By contrast, those who chose routes in the country beyond Maldon seem to have escaped most of the rain. Looking at the lists as we signed in the numbers of visitors seemed to be fewer than last year, no doubt due to the weather. Now the hardest task for the participants is to complete the collection of sponsorship money which, thanks to our generous supporters, would seem to be pretty close to last year's contributions. Thanks are also due to all the cyclists and walkers who took part, and also to those who stewarded churches and chapels, and our sponsors.

Did you take part in any way? If not, there's a chance to have a go next year!
Book Saturday, 13th September 2014. It can be an enjoyable day out.

Brian Gilders.

COME AND CELEBRATE IN A SHARED SERVICE

Friday, 29th November is the Eve of St Andrew. Sandon Parish has arranged to hold a Service of Choral Evensong at St Andrew's Church beginning at 7.30 pm. It will be led by the combined choirs of St Andrew's and the Church of the Ascension, Chelmsford. Revd Terry Brown offers a cordial invitation to people from all the parishes in the Chelmer Crouch Group. The service will be followed by Wine and Cheese.

BOREHAM AUTUMN CONCERT

All are welcome to St Andrew's, Boreham on Saturday, 16th November at 7.30 pm for an evening of music entitled "Ladies' Night" - though I know that men are very welcome to come as well! Admission is £5 payable at the door.

Revd Lee Batson.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP SCHOOL OF PRAYER

The final meeting on different types of prayer will take place on 7th November. The evening starts at 8 pm and will consist of three key elements:- an introductory talk, an opportunity to experience prayer and praying, an opportunity to meet, discuss, and share thoughts over a cup of tea/coffee. There is no course or session fee, however a contribution towards refreshments would be appreciated.

The remaining session is:-

Thursday, 7th November ... **St Mary's, Little Baddow**

Pentecost and Prayer - Lee Taylor.

COMPLINE IN ADVENT

Advent is a time when we should be giving more time to prayer and contemplation as we ready ourselves to hear again the good news of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. On Thursdays in Advent, Boreham Church will be holding a service of Compline (Night Prayer) at 8 pm. It will be preceded by 15 minutes silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and will include a hymn, an address and a time of prayer. The service will conclude by 8.45 pm. The addresses will focus on Joseph (5/12), Herod (12/12) and Mary (19/12). All are welcome.

Revd Lee Batson.

LIGHTING UP SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

On **Saturday, 16th November** Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers will be holding their **Christmas Bazaar** between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. The

town Christmas lights will be switched on and there will be music and stalls in the square outside the Church. We will have lots of stalls inside with a grand raffle!

Margaret Hill.

ONE LIFE ONE PASSION - EASTER 2014

Auditions for the Passion Play will be held on **17th and 24th November**. If you are interested in taking part in the play which takes place in the streets of South Woodham Ferrers next Easter weekend please contact **Paul Hardy on 01245 325234**.

EVENTS AT SANDON

Saturday, 2nd November - **Quiz Night** in Sandon Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 23rd November - **Christmas Fayre** in Sandon Village Hall, 12 noon to 3 pm.

Saturday, 7th December - Lighting of Christmas Tree outside the church gate with Carols at 5 pm, followed by refreshments in church.

Sunday, 15th December - **Christingle Service** and decorating of Christmas Tree inside the church, 4 pm.

Sunday, 22nd December - **Carol Service** with the choir from Sandon School at 6.30 pm followed by refreshments.

Monday, 23rd December - **Beer and Carols** in The Crown Public House at 7.00 pm.

Tuesday, 24th December - **Crib Service** at 4.00 pm.

Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm.

Wednesday, 25th December - **Christmas Day Family Service** at 10.00 am.

SUPPORT TRAIDCRAFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Do you have Traidcraft in your Church? Did you know that you could buy Traidcraft goods from a catalogue, or on line at the Traidcraft shop?

If you place your order with Elizabeth Willington, a Traidcraft Fairtrader, there is no postage and your goods will be delivered to your church. 10% will go towards helping producers in third world countries.

Contact Elizabeth for a catalogue on 01245 224060, or email emwillington@hotmail.com

However small your order, it all helps someone less well off than ourselves. She is always willing to bring a stall to your church.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2014

This runs from 18th to 25th January and is organised by Churches together in Britain and Ireland. The theme is 'Is Christ divided?'

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have just grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get round to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself