

# Colchester Christ Church News – October 2019



*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”*

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## ***The Rector Writes October 2019***

### ***The Good Steward***

On Harvest Sunday I preached from Luke 16 and the Parable of the Shrewd Manager or Good Steward as some texts have it. Most commentators say that this is one of the most challenging of all Jesus' parables and having prepared and preached this text it would be hard to disagree. Jesus turns everything upside down.

*<sup>8</sup>'The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup>I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*

Is Jesus saying it's okay to be a dishonest steward, cooking the books, running the company for personal gain at the cost of the clients – sounds a bit like the Thomas Cook tragedy! No, but simply to consider the possibility of looking at fresh ideas and innovations in the 'stewardship' of a new relationship with God. And in this he points his hearers to a new and radical way – the gospel way and the Kingdom of Heaven it shares. It is true for us today. The church and the body of

Christ cannot just carry on where action is needed – we need to embrace the power of the gospel, rejoice in its challenge and gain a greater confidence to share the good news of Jesus.

At a recent meeting with the company leading the development of the New Garden Communities' in east and west Colchester I was surprised to hear the 'planning team' use the word 'stewardship' in the context of providing a future legacy for those who will live in one of the thousands of houses to be built there. This was about making sure these new communities could share in a lasting vision, looked after and cared for not just for this generation but for many to come. More so, it seems that the 'church' and its enduring capacity to support and steward life was enabling those in the 'secular context' to understand the full meaning of legacy, posterity and so on. All very exciting.

However, the work goes on for the church. The Diocese of Chelmsford is grappling with some of its own formidable 'stewardship' issues. In particular how we support ministry, Lay and Ordained by being more innovative, generous and spiritually entrepreneurial in the way we share

the good news to our often fractious and broken communities. We at Christ Church are playing our part with our amazing ministry of outreach, in-reach and more. But, we also need to be mindful of Christ's call to be good stewards in the way we use our God given resources.

With this in mind, over the month of October we are exploring

stewardship and the meaning of giving and sharing God's given resources. We have a preaching series called 'Giving in grace' which through the bible explores what it means to give 'First to the Lord'. Each week we will have some words to take away for reflection and action. The series runs as follows:

**6<sup>th</sup> October Morning Worship – One body - A living sacrifice**

Romans 12.1-13

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.*

**13<sup>th</sup> October Holy Communion - The overflow of Grace**

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

*And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

**20<sup>th</sup> October Cafe Church – Fair Shares**

2 Corinthians 8:10-15

*<sup>13</sup> Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.*

**27<sup>th</sup> October Holy Communion - Sowing and Reaping**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

*<sup>6</sup> Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**Gift Day 24<sup>th</sup> November Christ the King**

I am grateful to our treasurer Nigel Humphreys who has written a very helpful article encouraging us to consider our response to 'stewardship' at Christ Church. Do please read this and reflect along with the preaching and sharing together. Pray that we may all consider how we may think afresh as to how to be open to God's call to be a 'good steward'.

There is much to consider. God's call to be good stewards begins with listening to his heart for us, seeing what he has in mind for us and then acting in joy to ensure the good news of His Son Jesus is declared in the parish and beyond.

*Yours ever Paul*





## Prayer of the month

At the end of this month it is Bible Sunday. Recently the chairman of the Mid Essex Branch of the Gideons UK was on the BBC Essex early Sunday morning programme. He was in conversation with the host about the work of the Gideon movement in promoting the reading and study of the Bible. As you are probably aware, the Gideons try to place a Bible where it may be read by anyone (hotel rooms, guest houses, hospitals, schools and children and youth organisations) and bring comfort, solace and occasionally conversion.

We know the Bible and have ample opportunity to read it daily and have

study guides and notes which are readily available. Not everyone does though.

The following portion of a poem was the chosen prayer by that guest for the day. Entitled "God Knows" it is well known at New Year and in 1939 at a time of crisis and war, King George VI quoted it in his Christmas message.

We are in times of anxiety – political, personal, climate, environment. May these few lines be of comfort to you.

*Andrew Witard*

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

# Prayers for our nation from the Church of England

## a prayer for the nation

God of hope,  
in these times of change,  
unite our nation  
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## A Prayer for a Shared Future

God of past,  
    present  
        and future,  
            be with us as we take our next steps as nations together.  
May we strive to love  
    our neighbour as ourselves  
        Listening and speaking  
            with respectful kindness,  
                embracing difference.  
Remembering how much all have been forgiven by you,  
    May we offer friendship,  
        grant mercy,  
            And Seek peace and justice  
in our shared future. Amen

## Hidden Hurts

On the BBC News today, I read that a new iceberg has been created. Scientists are tracking its movements, as it may get into shipping waters. Satellite images have shown, that a crack was growing on the ice shelf for many years.

Our physical world, political world and personal worlds at present, are not only showing cracks, but breakages like the iceberg. People get hurt, families, and communities. So who cares?

God cares.....He always has cared for his children. As we see in the Bible, he cared for the very first of his children, Adam and Eve, and he cares about us today. He heard his children's cries in Egypt and rescued them. He is still doing this today, by transforming broken lives. But many still don't know this.

At Christ Church over the last few weeks, we have set Monday evenings

aside to listen to God, and ask him to show us what he has for us to be doing here in Colchester.

The Who Cares project has also just launched in Colchester, where God's people are going to be asking the question "what hurts the most?"

Please pray for this project that those suffering in our communities will

know that they need not be alone in their suffering but there is a church who cares, and ultimately a miracle making God who cares deeply about them and can help them.

If you would like to know more about

this project or get involved then please contact me at [emma@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](mailto:emma@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)

God bless you all

*Emma Jarratt*

*Families and Youth Worker*

*Christ Church, Colchester*



**WHO  
CARES?**



## Stewardship 2019

I hope you'll agree it's great to be part of the Christ Church family. We're blessed with a brilliant Ministry Team led by Paul, and we have so many inspired, committed and hard-working leaders and members who make us a vibrant, welcoming and growing Church.

It's great to see so many young families and children taking part in Church activities such as the Holiday Club, Time Together and Frog, the Splodgy Youth Club, Breakfast Café, Messy and Café Church ... the list goes on!

We have regular Alpha Courses, lively Home Groups, and we engage with the local community with projects such as the Soup Run, Street Pastors, and social events such as the Barn Dance and Scalextric Evenings. It's difficult to list everything we do, and there are many other equally valuable activities I haven't mentioned. We give valuable pastoral support to our congregation, and a warm welcome to the local community at the major Christian Festivals of Christmas and Easter.

OK, we're not perfect and there's much room for improvement – but I think we're entitled to celebrate what we do.

But as your new Treasurer I've learned that running a Church costs money! Contrary to popular misconceptions;

(1) We get no direct support for our running costs from the Government or the Local Authority, although we get some tax relief, for example by way of Gift Aid and relief from Council Tax.

(2) The Church of England is not wealthy. It can't sell its great Cathedrals or Treasures – although it has sold off most of its beautiful old Rectories and Vicarages. It's struggling to meet its financial obligations.

So who pays to run our Church? – our congregation. Historically, although we pay a contribution called the 'Parish Share' to the Diocese, individual parishes (including us) have been net beneficiaries of funding from the National Church, who supplement our Parish Share to pay the salaries and pensions of our Ministers and to provide them with housing. This is set to change over the next few years because the National Church can no longer afford it.

At Christ Church we have been running a 'deficit budget' for some

years, which simply means we've been spending more money than we receive. We're lucky to have had some very generous gifts and legacies, which have kept us afloat. But at the current rate our capital will run out in 3 – 5 years, just at the time that support from the National Church is being turned off.

We've taken some steps to turn our budget around:

- We're signing up to the 'Parish Giving Scheme'. This will give a much quicker turnaround for our receipt of the Tax Office contribution of 25% on your donations. For every pound you donate we get another 25 pence under the 'Gift Aid' scheme if you're a taxpayer, or if you put money in the collection plate. Under the Parish Giving Scheme we'll get this money within 2 -3 weeks, instead of the present 3 -6 months. The Scheme also encourages donors to increase their giving annually in line with inflation, although this remains entirely voluntary. Other Parishes have found that their income increases under the Scheme;
- We're making budget savings to avoid any unnecessary spending, and encouraging people to make a contribution to cover our costs

wherever they can, for example those attending the Holiday Club or Youth Club. This should reduce our annual deficit by 25%, and already looks set to do so for this year.

- We're starting a legacy campaign to encourage people to think about making a gift to us in their will. This can reduce the Inheritance Tax payable on the balance of your Estate. We can treat at least some legacy money as income, like other national charities.

We're hoping you can fill the remaining gap in our budget over the next 3 -5 years, by setting up regular monthly giving, or reviewing your current monthly donation. A Biblical guide is 'tithing', which means to give 10% of your net income (income after tax) to Charity.

If all our congregation did this, we would have no problem in continuing to finance our amazing Church. So please give this your careful and prayerful consideration as we approach our Stewardship month in October.

*Nigel Humphreys*  
*Treasurer*

## Confirmation Service

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September the Bishop of Colchester, Rt Revd Roger Morris led a Confirmation Service at St Michaels Church, Myland. Katherine Wakefield and Steve Curley were two of the candidates from across the Deneary to be confirmed. We offer them our congratulations and pray for God's blessing on them.



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## The Curious incident of the Bird and the Plane

*Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Ecclesiastes 1:2. Some might recognise this from Trollope's Barchester Towers.*

Recently I went to Marks Hall, near Coggeshall, to see the excellent sculpture exhibition dispersed amongst their lovely walled garden and arboretum. The most striking item was a polished steel Spitfire aeroplane, about 7 feet high, which was pivoted on the tip of one wing ground-wards so the fuselage was horizontal, like a very large weather vane, and it was able to turn in the wind -- a remarkable and dramatic item.

What was very curious however, was that this item had attracted the attention of a very special viewer. A

male peacock, in immediate proximity, was comfortably ensconced at the foot of the item seeing his reflection in the highly polished wing. He was entranced, even transfixed by the image and spend ages in this pose or nearby the item. It was well noticed by other visitors. The thing was that as the plane turned a little in the wind the peacock would crane its neck round the corner to keep his head in vision.

Did he think that this was another peacock who, like a boxer at a weigh in he had to "eye-ball"? Or was this just a narcissistic act of self-appreciation? -- *vanity, all is vanity!!* Does vanity exist in nature?.....Over to you Chris Packham!

*Roger Ennals*

# FLAMES

Some years ago the children renamed Sunday School as FLAMES  
(**F**un **L**earning **A**nd **M**ore **E**very **S**unday)



and we continue to flourish under that name. We have a lively group ranging in age from 2- 16, the older ones leaving us for their own group, Ignite, after our initial time of sharing and prayer.

We are currently using Scripture Union 'Light' teaching material which is designed to enable children to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and to understand the Bible and the Christian faith. We found that the lectionary-based material we were using focused only on the gospel reading for the day but find that SU material looks at both New and Old Testament. Over the coming month we will be exploring Joshua and discovering that God is always with us and has a plan for each one of us.

Children are valued, precious members of our church family and are becoming more involved in serving in church – the older ones helping on sound/vision desk or as junior leaders at Holiday Club and the younger children helping with collections, prayers and taking the bread and wine to the Holy Table.

Thanks to Pat (Prestney) we now have excellent resources to help children understand both Communion and Baptism services.

If you would like to find out more about our time in FLAMES why not join us one Sunday morning – you would be most welcome.

*Sheila Godwin*

## Operation Christmas Child

Intense heatwaves are over {we hope}; the harvest has been gathered in; school term has been recommenced and various church activities are back in full swing, so what should we think of -- *yes Shoe Box time!!*

This year Shoe Box Sunday will be **3<sup>rd</sup> November** and this is the date when the gift boxes can be left at Church for onward transmission to needy children abroad. This date is earlier than that mentioned in the leaflets, but this is to help with administration at the local collection points. Boxes can always be left on the table at Church before the 3<sup>rd</sup> if it is inconvenient to attend on Shoe Box Sunday.

A supply of leaflets and ready made boxes for those who wish to use them will be available in the Foyer, shortly. Please only take a box if you intend to return it duly filled. The Church is



paying for these boxes, but not charging for their use. Full details of what to do and suggestions for contents are set out in the leaflets. If there are any queries at all, please contact me on **01206-579148**.

If you are using your own shoe box, please remember to cover the lid separately from the box. All boxes have to be checked before dispatch.

Finally, please ensure you use a rubber band to secure the lid on the box -- NOT sellotape or string.

Happy gift hunting and we look forward to a table stacked high with gift boxes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

*Angela Ennals.*





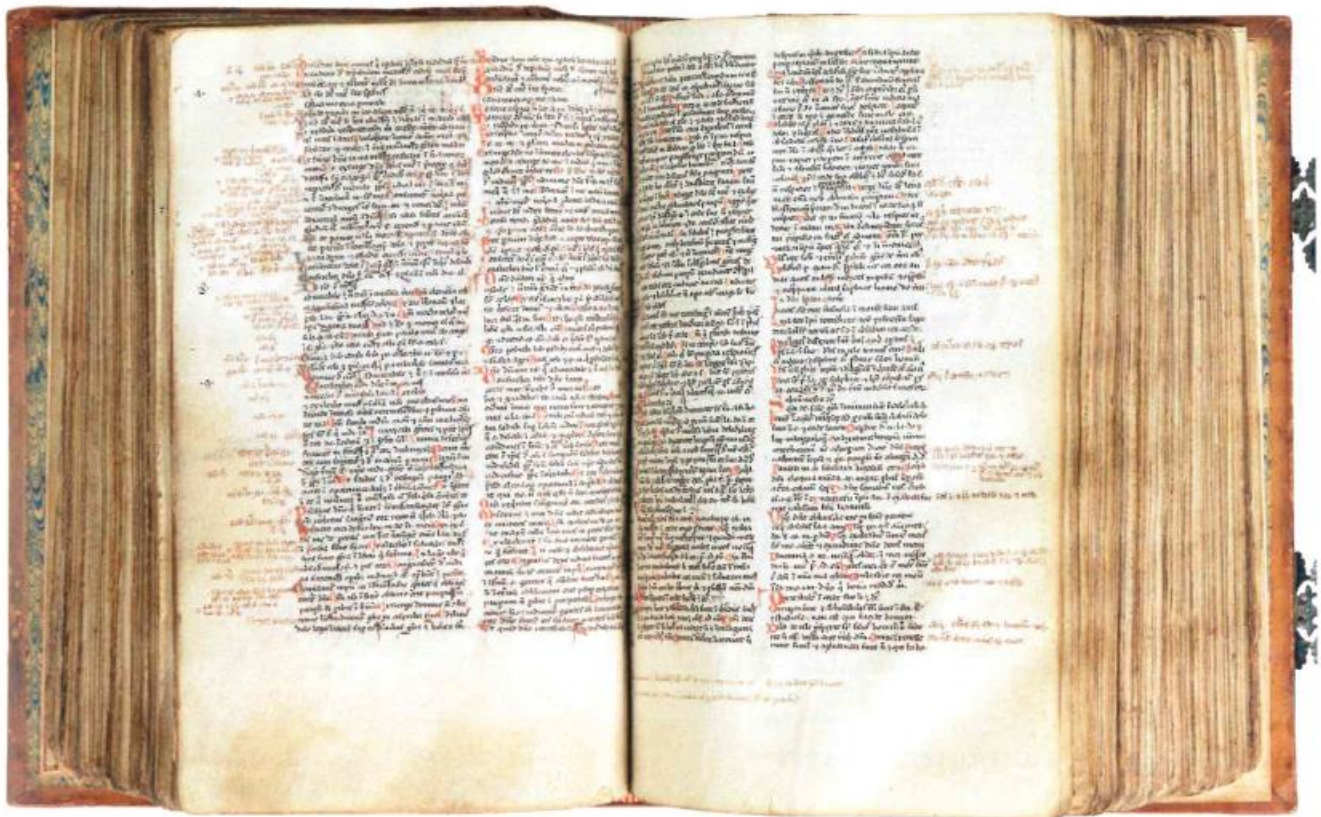
# THE 'COLCHESTER' BIBLE

Who was William Ketyll? Nowadays he would probably be known as Rev. Bill Kettle. He was rector of St. Mary-at-the-Walls from 1468 to 1476.

During his incumbency he pawned and redeemed a 13<sup>th</sup> century Bible written in Latin on pages of vellum.

This Bible was on display for some

for sale again at Sotheby's on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed to its sale because storage of the Bible required high technical specifications which would be very expensive and could not be justified by the PCC. Its value made the Bible uninsurable on the



time in a glass fronted cabinet in St. Mary's Chapel at Christ Church. After many pledges, redemptions and sales, it returned to St. Mary-at-the-Walls in 1949 when it was sold at Sotheby's in London and the buyer gifted it to the church from where its journey some five hundred years earlier.

The 'Colchester' Bible as it has become known colloquially, is now up

Church's premises. The Bible is written in dense Latin script and is not relevant to most modern readers. Should the sale prove successful the proceeds will be used for ministry and mission activities at Christ Church and particularly for the encouragement of biblical literacy and knowledge.

*Rod Green*

# Prayer Gatherings on Mondays

We invite you to gather with us so that together, in His presence, we may seek God's will for us as the Body of Christ in this place.

This gathering will have little or no structure or agenda, just an opportunity to spend time with God, time set aside specifically to discern His will – to listen to Him.

Join us in church on Monday evenings starting at 7.30pm ...

*The Ministry Leadership Team*

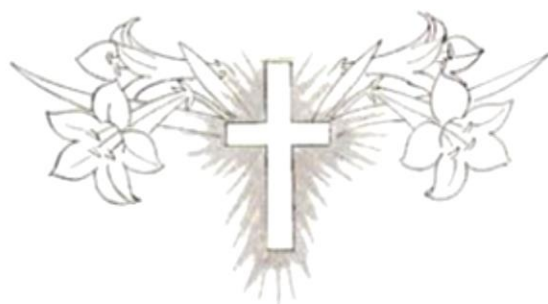


Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester

*All Souls Day*  
*Service of*  
*Remembrance*

*An opportunity to remember those  
we love but have died*

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November*  
*3.00 pm*



Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester

# Curry and Scalextric evening



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**  
**7.00pm**

**All Ages welcome!!**

***Please bring your own drink***

*For further details or for special dietary requirements  
please contact us on Colchester 542307 or  
[curry@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](mailto:curry@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)  
[www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)*



*Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# IGNITE

# WORSHIP

## SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

## NOVEMBER – 4.30 PM

*YOUTH ALPHA, WORSHIP, PRAYER, CREATE  
YOUR OWN PIZZA*

## EXCITING AND NEW

## FOR AGES 11-18

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:*

*DAN CANT (07960 069284) OR*

*EMMA JARRATT (07930 605674)*

[www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)



# Christ Church Advent Quiet Day

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Thy Kingdom Come  
...in a time of crisis

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*led by Rev David Thomas*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Assington Hall**

*9.30am for 10.00am start  
to 3.00pm*

*A time for reflection, refreshment  
and worship*

*Please bring a packed lunch – drinks  
will be provided*

*Please sign up in the foyer*

# Fairtrade Carrot and Pineapple Cake

## Ingredients:

- 1 teacup grated carrot
- 1 teacup plain flour, sieved
- $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp bicarbonate of soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cinnamon
- 2 medium eggs
- 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz can crushed pineapple
- 1 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teacup caster sugar
- 5 tbsp cooking oil

## Topping:

- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp margarine or butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp vanilla essence
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp soft cheese
- 4 oz icing sugar

## Method

Mix all the dry ingredients together. Add the beaten eggs and mix well.

Stir in carrot and well-drained pineapple and empty into a cake tin.

Bake for 35-40 minutes at 180°C/ 350°F/ Gas Mark 4.

Beat topping ingredients together and spread on top of cake when cool.





# time together

## Tuesdays

10.00 am – 12noon

**Activities for Children and their Parents and Carers**



All welcome, with or without children, although all children must bring an adult with them

*Loads of toys and space for free play, with songs and story time about 11.30am. It's a great place to make friends, share the joys and struggles of bringing up children, and drink good coffee!*

**Christ Church Parish Church**

Ireton Road, Colchester CO3 3AT

01206 542307

[christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com](mailto:christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com)

[www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)



Friends Of God Club

## Tuesdays

3.15 pm – 4.30 pm

Refreshments provided

For children with adults

*FROG Club is designed especially for children and adults to have fun exploring the Christian faith.*

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# Flames

## Sunday School

For primary aged children  
(4-11 years and also 3 year olds and under when accompanied by an adult)

9.30 am (term time)

All very welcome

**Christ Church Parish Church**

Ireton Road, Colchester CO3 3AT

01206 542307

[christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com](mailto:christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com)

[www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)

# Splodgy Youth



*Where fun lives!*

## Fridays

7.30 – 9 pm

**Christ Church Parish Church**

Ireton Road, Colchester CO3 3AT

[colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)

[facebook.com/christchurchcolchester](https://facebook.com/christchurchcolchester)



*the*  
**BREAKFAST  
CAFÉ**

**Most Thursdays\***

**9-11am(ish)**

*\*normally except the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month*

**Breakfast treats**

*(think tea & coffee, freshly-made scotch pancakes,  
home-made quiche, bacon baps, smoothies...)*

**and space for little ones to play.**

[www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)



**Christ Church  
Ireton Road**

**KEEP  
CALM**

**Come to our**

**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**Join us for Coffee,  
Cake and Chat**

**most Mondays**

*(except Bank Holidays)*

**from 10.00 am to 12 noon**

**All Welcome!**

**For more information telephone 563478**

**Support In Loss  
Sessions**

Are you making the  
journey through grief?  
If so we would be happy  
to share that journey  
with you..... we are on it  
too!

We are meet once a month on the first  
Friday of the month from 10.00 - 11.30am  
at 36 Inglis Road in a very informal setting,  
to have a coffee together and simply chat.

Please let Pat Prestney (07825 222780) or  
Gordon Rodgers (01206 574287) know if  
you would like to join us

## **October 2019 Diary**

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

8.00 am Holy Communion  
9.30 am Morning Worship  
4.30 pm Messy Church

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Coffee +  
7.30 pm Prayer Gatherings

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Morning prayer  
10.00 am Time Together  
3.15 pm FRoG Club

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Holy Communion

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>**

2.30 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Service at  
the Oaks

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

7.30 pm Splodgy Youth

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

9.30 am Holy Communion  
6.30 pm Spirit Space

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Coffee +  
7.30 pm Prayer Gatherings

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Morning prayer  
10.00 am Time Together  
3.15 pm FRoG Club

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Holy Communion

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Breakfast Café

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

7.30 pm Splodgy Youth

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am Café Church  
6.30 pm Holy Communion

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

10.00 am Coffee +  
7.30 pm Prayer Gatherings

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9.00 am Morning prayer  
10.00 am Time Together  
3.15 pm FRoG Club

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00 am Holy Communion

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Breakfast Café

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

7.30 pm Splodgy Youth

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Bible Sunday**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Coffee +  
7.30 pm Prayer Gatherings

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Morning prayer

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

8.00 am Holy Communion  
9.30 am Holy Baptism  
3.00 pm All Souls Service  
4.30 pm Messy Church



*[www.colchesterChrist Church.org.uk](http://www.colchesterChristChurch.org.uk)  
01206 542307*

*[christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com](mailto:christ-church-vestry@btconnect.com)*



*[www.facebook.com/ChristChurchcolchester](http://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchcolchester)*



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  

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Diocese of Chelmsford