



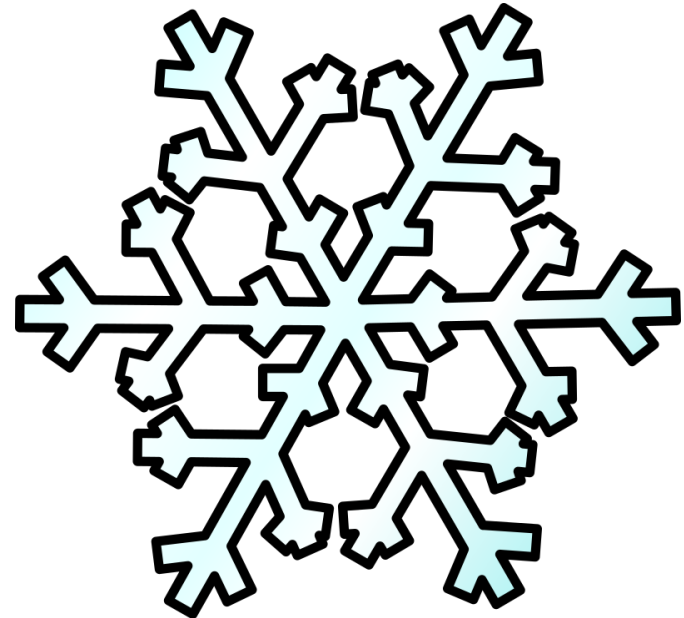
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Charity No 1134870

The Circuit Office staff would like to wish you all a very Happy & Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

## **CIRCUIT NEWS WINTER 2015**

Please note that the Circuit Office will be closed from Thursday 24th December 2015 to Monday 4th January 2016



## **HEXTABLE**

### **CHRISTMAS** **EVE**

BURHAM	2PM CHRISTINGLE	
DENE HOLM	6.30PM	DEACON VIC DOWNS
GILLINGHAM	7PM HC 11.30PM HC	REV WILL GRADY REV WILL GRADY
GRAVESEND	11PM HC	
LARKFIELD	11.15PM	REV TONY GRAFF
ST. ALBAN'S	11.30PM HC	
ST. DAVID'S	11.30PM HC	
ST. WILLIAM'S	11.30PM HC	
SPITAL STREET	4PM HC	REV TONY GRAFF
SWANSCOMBE	7PM	MANDY HARRIS
THE BRENT	6PM	REV VELMA CAMPBELL
TONBRIDGE ROAD	8PM HC	REV BONNI-BELLE PICKARD

We are so pleased to have Rev Velma Campbell back with us following her long absence due to illness. Taking it easy to start with but now back in full swing. We have just completed an advent course which Velma ran called "Finding a Voice" based on the film of the King's Speech which was well received and brought us together. Our ecumenical Lent course will be based on community. We hope to run another course for our church from mid September next year.

Our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade have done well over the summer and autumn months with good results in Battalion and District events. Their award evenings are always well supported but still struggle to get the majority of members to the enrolment service.

We were pleased to have three GB girls playing in the Brigades London Massed Bugle Band at the 800th Lord Mayor's Show recently and so pleased that eight young people were able to attend 3Generate 2015 and thank the District for the grant to help fund this event. As a church we had not been able to do this before so nobody knew what to expect. They all came back enthused and want to go again. They have written this short report:- "Our first adventure to 3Generate was an eye-opening experience. After arriving late we were greeted, fed and shown to our rooms by the kind helpers. Then we were thrown into a lively worship with young worship leaders and a band. The weekend was largely centred around God and being fearfully and wonderfully made. We tried many different activities such as archery and a giant swing which we found exhilarating. We spent time individually but also felt like part of a new community meeting fellow Christians from all over the UK. We are definitely going back again next year and hope to see more young people from our Circuit there too."

Peter Matthews

## **THE CHURCH IN BURHAM**

Our small village church continues to thrive and we enjoy a variety of services from the traditional to the more informal. One of our oldest members has recently died but we have welcomed a new member. Besides our Sunday services, we have a number of regular outreach activities to which we welcome many members of our wider community. We hold a weekly Afternoon Tea with tea, cakes and a quiz. Additionally we have a monthly Film Club, Country Lunch and Book Exchange which are generally very well supported. We ask for a donation of £1 for each of these and any money left over after expenses have been paid, is given to charity. Over the past year we have given over £2000 to a number of small and local charities.

In November we again held a successful Concert in aid of Children in Need and although it was not as well attended as in other years, as it clashed with Bonfire Celebrations, it was a most enjoyable evening.

As in other years, we have decorated our Church windows with the theme of Christmas carols, created by our local school and members of our Church and village community. The school children will come to the Church on the last day of term for their Christmas service.

We will hold a special Celebration of Christmas on December 13th at 4.00pm with the music group Mosaic taking part in special music, sketches and poems.

Christmas Eve at 2.00pm will again see our Christingle Service which is always a very successful, if rather chaotic, service when we welcome about 30 children and their families. They assemble their Christingles and enjoy popular Christmas carols. We hold a short informal service at 10.30am on Christmas morning which is led by one of our members.

Eileen Smith

## **CHRISTMAS** **DAY**

BEARSTED	9.30AM	REV BONNI-BELLE PICKARD
BURHAM	10.30AM	
DENE HOLM	10AM	GILL GRAY
HEXTABLE	10.30AM	JENNY FORCE
GILLINGHAM	10AM	
GRAVESEND	11AM	
LARKFIELD	10AM	LA
ST. ALBAN'S	10AM	
ST. DAVID'S	10AM	
ST. WILLIAM'S	10AM	
SPITAL STREET	10AM	US @ HIGHFIELD RD BAPTIST
THE BRENT	10AM	REV VELMA CAMPBELL
TONBRIDGE ROAD	10AM	REV GARETH WEST
UNION STREET	10.45AM	REV BONNI-BELLE PICKARD

## **UNION STREET**

The Church and Church Centre continue to be well-used by church groups and for external booking as well as by the Maidstone International Community Church which now shares the use of the premises with our Methodist community. Our Messy Church sessions have gone from strength to strength, and as I write this, we are looking forward to our Christmas session, as well as occasional Saturday morning family breakfasts. Happily Union Street will be a warmer place this winter as we feel the benefits of our new boiler!

Laurel Townend

## **SPITAL STREET**

We are again hosting The Dartford cold weather Shelter at our Church every Wednesday night, where we give 10 homeless people a place to sleep out of the cold, we also supply them with a hot evening meal & a breakfast as well as activities & people to talk to during the evening. Luckily there are 7 churches in Dartford willing to host one night each week so these people will have somewhere warm to go every night from January to April.

Please pray for these people, guests & volunteers, both before, during & after this time.

On the 12th December “Fiddle & Faff” are performing their Christmas Gig at our church. Tickets are £5 each & include mince pies & a hot drink. Although it would be good to know in advance, we are sure there will be tickets available on the door.

Terry Green

## **HOLY TRINITY**

Our parish monthly **Arts Café** is now well underway on first Sunday evenings (St. William’s, Walderslade). Doors open 6.00 for 6.30pm. Admission free, pay as you can scheme. Coming up:

Jon Archer (one of the UK’s top comedy magicians) on 6th December.

Andy Kind (popular stand up comedian who’s featured on TV) on 3rd January—an ideal post-Christmas treat!

**Public Lectures** also continue (same time/venue as above):

“The Theology of Christmas Films” - Dr Chris Deacy—13th December.

“In the Beginning - the book of Genesis” - Dr Clare Amos—10th January.

Rev Elaine Cranmer

## **BEARSTED**

Our Carol Service (by Candlelight) is a week earlier than we usually hold it and will be at 6.30pm on Sunday 13th

December. All are welcome and mince pies will be served after the service.

Shan Lythgoe