

The Heartland Bulletin

Issue 16 - 17th January 2018



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.



This bulletin has been collated by Gill Elliott of Trinity URC St Albans. If you have news or notices that you wish to be included in the next Bulletin, please email gilldotelliott@gmail.com, or ask your Heartland representative to do so on your behalf.

Christmas events in the Heartland churches



Edward Street,
Dunstable



Here are some pictures from our carol service. 'Glory to God, peace on earth and goodwill to all' was the theme. The scene was set by our singing group who sang "Angels sing your songs of glory", written by one of the members. Our prayers of concern for others were written on paper chains which were linked to the paper chains that had been made at the Heartland Day. The collection, together with proceeds from the Advent lunch, were sent to Crisis and we were able to fund two tables for guests at a Crisis centre over Christmas.



Panshanger LEP



34 Hampers finished and ready to distribute on Wednesday to CAPClients Huge thank you to Christchurch, URC WGC & Salvation for the Nations Church for their generous donations and to @knitforpeace for the fantastic knitwear!

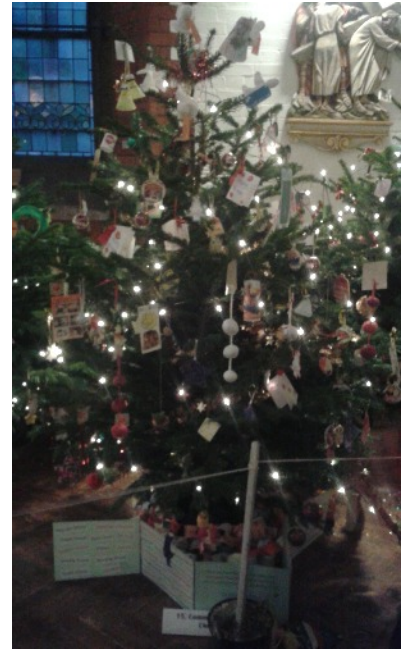
Homewood Road



The photos show the two Christmas trees that Homewood Road contributed to the St Saviour's Christmas Tree festival, one from the Ladies' Flower Groups and one from the Children's Church.

Many people donated a Christmas gift to the residents of Kingsley Green; gifts were taken there and were gratefully received. A large number of little Christmas angels were knitted and distributed around St Albans, and some messages have been posted on our Twitter account. A Choir Carol Service was held entitled 'What Child is this?' This

was a service of traditional and less well known carols to sing and listen to, as well as a variety of readings. The amazing sum of £460 was collected at the carol service and the Christmas Eve Midnight Service which were divided between the charities Emmaus and Open Door.



Wigmore – Carol singing at Asda and church Christmas post box raised over £300.

St Ninian's – gifts were supplied for those on their own at Christmas.

St Katherine's – Carols on a weeknight included local schools and the U3A Choir. A Christmas Eve crib service was held.

Chiswell Green – The Second Saturday group set up the crib in the church

Harpenden's – carols for all went well.

Bricket Wood



Our Christingle Service on 7th December saw both adults and children making the Christingles with the guidance of Rev. Debbie Hodge who led the service. It was a magical moment when the lights were turned off and each face was lit up by a Christingle candle.



Trinity

The photos show a piece of artwork created at Messy Church, and some of the Messy Church activities.

Mike and Fiona Smith attended Anne Main's party at Parliament for volunteers, as representatives for TCP and Rough Sleepers project.

People from Trinity will be supporting the Christian Aid initiative "The Big Shift" on January the 25th, meeting at Barclays Bank at 12:50, to lobby Barclays, Lloyds and the Royal Bank of Scotland, to try to persuade them to invest in clean, renewable energy rather than in 'dirty' fossil fuels. This is in order to slow down climate change which disproportionately affects the poor of the world.

Wheathampstead

supplied several Samaritan Christmas boxes which were piled high in St Mark's church from people in the village. A magazine was given out with information about services.

Birdie Coffee Morning For All Ages



Saturday Jan 27th at WGCURC
10am to 12noon

Bird-watching, Crafts, Toys
and Refreshments

Help us count the birds in the church
garden through the windows for the RSPB
Big Garden Birdwatch

No charge, but donations appreciated.



Welwyn Garden City's Christmas Eve service was very well attended. Looking forward, they are holding a coffee morning for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and are already planning a February half term holiday club.



Chansons d'Amour



*An evening of
opera and song*



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*Clare Tunney soprano
Tamsin Raitt soprano
Hannah Bennett mezzo-soprano
Zuzanna Basinska piano
from the Royal Academy of Music*



Saturday 3rd February 2018, 7pm

Wigmore Church, Crawley Green Road, Luton

Tickets: £8 (£5 students and children). To book, call Sheila on 01582 721592



Study opportunities

At Harpenden - **TLS Lite**

'You, the Bible, God and Worship' - 13th Feb, 6th March and 20th March
7.30 -9.30 pm at **Harpenden URC**.

TLS - Training for Learning and Service - is not so much a programme, more an experience. There is no exam, although it can be used as the first stage of study towards accredited ministries.

LITE is a tool for helping people to develop in their own spirituality and discipleship. The applied learning approach, the content of the units and the group encounters all encourage personal reflection and growth.

The aim of the Introductory Course, 'You, the Bible, God and Worship' is to provide a basic introduction to studying theology with a purpose in mind.

The course booklet can be obtained online at www.urcshop.co.uk in the 'training' section at the cost of £4.50 plus postage. This should be refundable from your Church Training Budget. The preface should be read and the Unit 1 worked through before the first session.

There will be a collection, to cover refreshments and Tutor expenses.

To find out more and to register for a place on the course, please contact Anna Barrett by 1st February 2018:

Email: poppyana57@hotmail.com or Phone: 07805306258

If you are interested but unable to make these times please let Anna know as we hope to rerun the course later in the year.

At Trinity - **Zionism Unsettled**

A Study course entitled Zionism Unsettled is being offered on 4 successive Thursdays starting on 22nd February at 7.30 at Trinity URC St Albans (Beaconsfield Road).

This is based on material produced by the Presbyterian Church of the USA which has a good track record in supporting Palestinians. The course is aimed at Christian congregations helping them to understand the basis (or otherwise) of various claims to the land, and to be informed about Christian Zionism in particular. It should, however, be of interest to anyone concerned about the current situation in Palestine / Israel. There will be information through video, and then questions for discussion.

Church and Heartland Events		
Date & Time	Location	Event
19 th January 7.30 p.m.	Harpenden Friends' Meeting House (sponsored by Trinity)	dramatised reading about the Balfour Declaration 1917
20 th January 7 - 11.30 p.m.	Harpenden	Burns Night Supper
25 th January 12:50 p.m	Barclays Bank, St Albans	Big Shift - lobby.
25 th January 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.	Christchurch Peartree, Welwyn Garden City	Riding Lights theatre company
27 th January 10 - 12 noon	Welwyn Garden City URC	Bird watching morning for all ages
3 rd Feb 7 p.m.	Wigmore	Concert of opera and song
13 th Feb 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.	Harpenden	TLS Lite
22 nd Feb 7.30 p.m.	Trinity	Zionism Unsettled
1 st March 7.30 p.m.	Trinity	Zionism Unsettled
6 th March 7.30 - 9.30 p.m	Harpenden	TLS Lite
8 th March 7.30 p.m.	Trinity	Zionism Unsettled
15 th March 7.30	Trinity	Zionism Unsettled
20 th March 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Harpenden	TLS Lite

Prayer Calendar		
January 21 st	St Albans, Homewood Road	Vacancy interview the following day
January 28 th	St Albans, Trinity	Good outcomes from review of future plans
February 4 th	Welwyn	Communication and outreach
February 11 th	Wheathampstead	Ongoing project
February 18 th	Heartland Group	Mutual support and joint activities
February 25 th	Bricket Wood	
March 4 th	Chiswell Green	Vision for the premises
March 11 th	Dunstable Edward Street	Contact the Elderly group and continued growth
March 18 th	Dunstable St Katherine's	Positive planning for the church's 50 th anniversary
March 25 th	Harpenden	For strength to carry on
April 1 st	Luton, Bury Park	For our fellowship
April 8 th	Luton, St Ninian's	For our fellowship and for inspiration
April 15 th	Luton, Wigmore	For Rev. Heather Whyte and contact with our user groups.
April 22 nd	Panshanger	For the congregation
April 29 th	Homewood Road	For the Youth and Families worker

A date for the diary.....

Sustainable St Albans Week is in April and Trinity is involved!

Sustainable Money: Climate Risk and Investment

Description for the programme: "Come for powerful insights into climate risk, green finance, and how money and fossil fuels intertwine. Speakers from Helen Wildsmith of CCLA; Mike Wilkins of S & P Global; and a representative from Christian Aid's Big Shift campaign (to be arranged by Adrian Whalley). Chaired by Catherine Ross (Transition Towns). After talks from all the speakers, the panel will take questions from the floor.

Date/time: Tuesday 24th April. Doors 7:15, event 7:30-9:30
(Free event, refreshments provided at beginning)