

All the latest news for our communities for December 2022



be, belong, encounter, grow

Keep up to date on our websites:

www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk

Regular Weekly Services and Meetings

**St Stephen's—Sunday mornings at 11:00 am
together with our Wednesday morning Holy Communion or
Morning Prayer services at 10:30 am.**

2nd and 4th Sundays from 9:30—10:00 am (before Sunday Service) a time of Christian meditation

Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month, on the second Sunday of the month we have Morning Worship, including Holy Communion and Kids Club. The third Sunday we have Café Church in the morning including Breakfast Club and a short service of Holy Communion at 6 pm. On the fourth Sunday of the month we meet for All Age Communion (with activities for the children).

**St Margaret's—Sunday mornings at 9:30 am
and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 9:30 am**

1st Sunday of the month is All Aged Worship, 2nd and 4th Holy Communion and Morning Prayer on the 3rd.

5th Sunday of the month (if there is one) joint worship at either St Stephen's or St Margaret's—see notices for further details

**Three Together; St Stephen's, Wimpole Road and St Margaret's
Worship & Meetings**

Weekly Sunday Evening On Line Worship on Facebook at 6:30 pm. This will stream into our Facebook pages. You are able to join us live at the time or take part at an alternative time that better suits you.



Weekly Prayer Meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday via Zoom

[Click here](#) to access Zoom on the internet or Meeting ID: 195 594 506 & Passcode: 011904

Bible Study at 7:30 pm on Thursday via Zoom

[Click here](#) to access Zoom on the internet or Meeting ID: 780 700 295 & Passcode: 011904

You can also access Zoom Meetings via the telephone; please contact Andrew Tople for further information.



Our Christmas Services

**Friday 16 December Community Carol singing
(meet at St Stephen's at 5:45 pm)**

**Sunday 18 December Crib & Christmas Tree Service
at St Stephen's at 11:00 am**

**Sunday 18 December Carol Service
at Wimpole Road at 6:30 pm
(with the Boxted Methodist Silver Band)**

**Thursday 22 December Carol Service
at St Leonards the Hythe at 7:00 pm**

**Saturday 24 December Family Holy Communion
at Wimpole Road at 4:00 pm**

**Saturday 24 December Candlelight Carol Service
at St Margaret's at 6:00 pm**

**Saturday 24 December Midnight Mass
at St Stephen's at 11:00 pm**

**Sunday 25 December Christmas Day All Age Communion
at St Stephen's at 10:00 am**

**Sunday 25 December Family Christmas Day Service
at Wimpole Road at 10:30 am**

Pause for thought Rev Dan

'God gives us His All, so can we, offer our all this Christmas?'

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'. Isaiah 9: 6

Autumn with all its beauty and colour is passing; winter will soon be upon us. The Advent season has begun signalling a fresh journey to Bethlehem. Are you prepared for the journey? Advent celebrates the approaching light, Jesus, the light of the world coming among us. It is a time of preparation and a time of reflection, a time that is both disturbing, as it is thrilling. During this time, we are drawn into making a new personal and corporate journey coming together with our King Jesus in Worship.

Are you currently prevented from being fully invested in these precious days of Advent? We may feel overwhelmed by financial pressure, time stretched and stressed with multiple tasks to complete. This can be a time of great pressure, normal life plus gift buying the "to do lists" can be many and there is only a few days before the Christmas celebrations begin.

Perhaps there is a greater emphasis on celebrating this year – after all the last two Christmases have been overshadowed by Covid. And who knows what state the economy will be in next year.

Well, I think that is the story of Christmas. God gives 'His all' trusting a handful of risk takers to give 'their all,' - the risk takers were people who were open enough to let God distract, challenge, and ultimately change them forever.

Mary, a young teenage girl who receives an unexpected visitor bearing news that was at the same time disturbing and thrilling. 'Me the bearer of the Saviour: How can this be? Why me? I am not worthy...'. Then that same news shared with Joseph; a disturbing secret, shattering moment of great fear and concern that could destroy Mary and the child, causing too a great humiliation for Joseph.

The rough and tough Shepherds disturbed by an angel in their fear and trembling found courage to ask "How could it be? Whose child, is he?" Even in the busyness of tending their flocks they were willing to respond.

The Magi, (astrologers) discover a new star, disturbing and thrilling news indeed. A new star was a sign of a major event or new authority coming upon the world.

Ultimately the news of Jesus' coming sent a shock through the political and religious authorities of the day. An anxious Herod knew that a new challenger King had been born. The religious leaders of the time understood well the scriptures and the

Cont..

Cont...

prophetic nature of this event. They too, would have exhibited the sweat of concern. "What will it mean for us today? What of our religious leaders and governmental authorities?"

History proves that disturbing news is never welcome but always brings with it the possibility of a greater hope and light. Mary, young and favoured, was totally obedient even in fear. "Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word." Joseph, righteous before God 'awoke from sleep, and did all the Angel of the Lord commanded.' The Shepherds leave all they have to be the first to see and tell of this wonder – Jesus the Christ child - God born into the world.

The Magi from the East came asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?' They were obedient and travelled far to worship the new born King Jesus.

Herod and the authorities both had the freedom and opportunity to worship Jesus, but they chose darkness instead of light, seeking to kill him as a child and failing. But their ultimate greed and lust for power and control lead them to achieve their goal some thirty years later.

What for us today? Two thousand years ago, God called a few ordinary people to give 'their all,' so that 'His all' may be given, and once received used willingly to transform a broken world. This is the story we know well and are called to live out each day of our lives, and more so as we celebrate Christmas this year. Let us be willing in the busyness to give 'our all' this Christmas time, and to be a Christ light to our world and each other. May the peace and grace that we have each received, be part of our giving to others.

May God's peace and blessings be with you and among you always.

Rev. Dan



Learn more about:

How our Church is funded? What does our Parish Share pay for?

Who decides how much each parish is asked to contribute? How do Churches raise the money they need? How can I help?

Pick up a leaflet to get answers to these questions from the back of the Church and also from the foyer and for more information you can always talk to Rev Lorraine or Chris Poole our Treasurer.

We can also now accept donations via our new contactless card machine.

Over 60's Lunch Club at St Stephen's on

12 December 2022

from midday for 12:30 lunch

A special Christmas Treat!

If you are interested in coming along please give Jill a ring on 01206 572 605. Booking is essential for catering purposes. Two courses will be served with tea or coffee to follow for a charge of £5.

Dietary needs can be catered for if known in advance.

Many thanks from **The Lunch Club Team**



Youthy is Back!

on Thursday evenings during time

6:30—8:00 pm for ages 10—13

8:00—9:00 pm for ages 13—17

Simply come along and have a great time

**For further information or if you would like to volunteer to help
email or message Sarah at**

sarah.daniels@ymcachelmsford.org.uk or 07508 151 225

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES



Please pray for the people living in the following roads across out two parishes:

Week 1. From 28th Nov to 4th Dec. Morant Road, Harsnett Road, Kimberly Road, Midway Road, Glebe Road and Mareth Road.

Week 2. From 5th to 11th Dec Military Road. Golden Nobel Hill, Mill Street, Coronation Avenue, Sage Road and Sheering Walk .

Week 3. From 12th to 18th Dec Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Ridgewell Way, School Road and Firlie Walk.

Week 4. From 19th to 25th Dec Hythe Hill. Spurgeon Street. Timber Hill, Windsor Close, Talcott Road and Buxton Road.

Week 5 26th Dec to 1st Jan. Schools, Shops, Organizations & include YMCA, Café on the Rec. and all other business in the area

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

Transport to St Stephen's Church

If you'd like to come to Church, but you are struggling and a lift would help, please speak to Belinda and she will see if she can start up a lift rota.

If you could help with proving lifts to people, please also speak to Belinda.





Concorde Singers



INVITE YOU TO AN AFTERNOON OF...

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

***Including
Mulled Wine and Christmas Nibbles***

***CONDUCTED BY MARGARET NOTLEY
ACCOMPANIED BY BARBARA CUTTER***

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2022 at 3pm

AT

***ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH CENTRE
CANTERBURY ROAD COLCHESTER CO2 7RY***

TICKETS £8.00 children £4.00

Free car parking at St George's School

Phone for tickets 01206 213065

Acknowledgement to EAST OF ENGLAND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Silver Threads at St Margaret's



December 7th Tea and company

December 14th Knit and Natter

December 21st Fun and games

December 28th & January 4th—No meeting

January 4th No meeting

January 11th Knit and Natter

January 18th Fun and games

January 25th Food for thought

A warm welcome awaits you

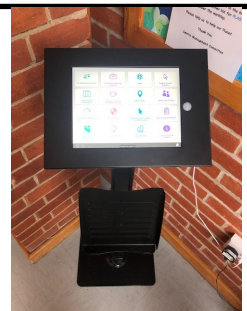
Worship Song Suggestions

You may have spotted the box at the back of Church asking for suggestions for worship songs. Thank you to everybody who has already made suggestions. We would like more ideas and suggestions, so if you have songs that you would like the worship teams to consider using please don't hold back! Pop your suggestions in the box which will remain in Church for the next few weeks.



Fixed Access Data Point

This can be found in the Foyer and is for all to us to use to access key sites on the internet. Thank you to the Digital Access Support Team at Colchester Borough Council for providing this.





A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well.



budget. save. spend.

A free, short course that makes managing your money simple.

Budget Save Spend.

Venue is The Lifehouse Church, King Harold Road, Prettygate, Colchester CO3 4SE

Three Thursday sessions for around 1 ½ hours on 24th November, 1st December and 8th December at 7.30 pm.

For more information or to book for yourself or someone else, call Graham on 07905 840820 or email gmac4capmc@hotmail.com

See the course details at :

<https://capuk.org/i-want-help/courses/cap-money-course/introduction>

and Martin Lewis' recommendation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G81HbSXfwk0>



ABBEYGATE CONCERT BAND


Christmas Concert

Wednesday 14th December 2022

2.00 - 4.00 pm

**St Stephen's Church
Canterbury Road CO2 7RY**

**Free entry (retiring collection)
Refreshments and Raffle**



Come as you are

Inclusive, open, heartfelt worship
with Holy Communion & a shared
meal.

Next Meetings:

Sunday 13th November | 7pm

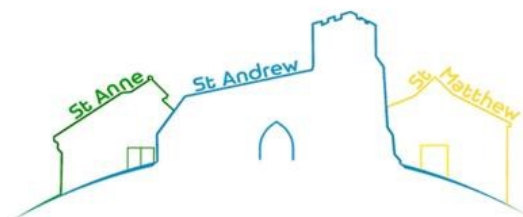
Sunday 11th December | 7pm

Sunday 8th January | 7pm

**St. Anne's Church, Compton Road
Colchester, CO4 0BQ**

andyanneandmatt.org.uk

opentable.lgbt





FAIRTRADE

Thank you so much for your support during November



There will be no stall during December, but we plan to restart again in the New Year.

Please speak to one of us if you require anymore information

Beryl and Alison

Used Candles

We have a selection of used Church candles in the office. If you could make use of some of these please speak to Andrew



Carol Singing Friday 16th December 2022

Please can you save this date and join us in carol singing around our local roads, bringing some Christmas joy to our community.

Last year we were also invited to the Odd One Out pub and had some lovely soup afterwards.

We collected for Beacon house and nearly raised £200 for this great cause.

No experience necessary just some warm gloves. We normally meet around 6pm.

I will confirm all details next month but at this stage if you can save the date and join me that would be brilliant.

Many thanks

Chris Liddamore



**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON AT
CHURCH AND AROUND THE
LOCAL AREA**

**Watch our Facebook pages for all sorts
of information about what is going
and as well as the "Events" page on
our web site.**





coffee with cops



Your chance to get to know your Local Community Policing Team over a coffee. Ask questions, voice concerns – tell us how we can help you.

Location:

St Stephens Church, Canterbury Road, Colchester, CO2 7RY

Date / Time:

Wednesday 7th December 2022 12pm - 1pm



It's YOUR Newsletter

Please don't forget, if you have stories or items that they would like to contribute to future Newsletters please contact me at: office@ststephens-colchaser.org.uk .

Andrew Topple



Rainbow Tots

WEDNESDAYS

@St Stephens Church Centre

1.15pm start

£1.50 per child (+50p per sibling)

**Snack Time for Tots
Coffee & Tea for Adults**

**Fun Play Sessions with Rhyme
Time Included**




St Stephen's
CHURCH CENTRE

be
belong
encounter
grow



Little Lambs

parent and pre-school group



Last session
this term -
18th July.

Starting
again 5th
September

Mondays in term time 9.30-11am

Everyone welcome

£1.50 per family

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40 v.11



Contact:
Carolyn
07748795926



Baby & Toddler Group

Coffee morning

**Mondays 9 – 11 am
(term time)**

**Toys, singing,
fun and refreshments**



Contact us at: wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com /
Facebook message / 07847 846292

A free **Community Café**
in conjunction with
Colchester Foodbank
at
St Margaret's Church Hall

Stansted Road, Colchester, CO2 8RA
Every Friday from 11:00am to 1:00pm

The café will offer free refreshments and everyone is welcome. We will also have different community groups and charities from week to week providing support and care to the local community. So come along for a chat and a cuppa.

Every Friday

the following partners will be available this week



 **mind** Mid and North East Essex

Contact Information

St Stephen's Church Centre, Canterbury Road, Colchester CO2 7RY

Rector: Rev Lorraine Badger-Watts

Curate: Rev Dan Cant

Administrator: Andrew Topple

The Church Office is open on:

Tuesday 12 noon - 3 pm

Wednesday 12 noon - 3 pm

Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Tel: 01206 869091

Email: office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Website: www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Facebook: [St Stephen's Church Members -Colchester](#)

Church Wardens: John Clifton and Martin Kerins

For Centre bookings contact: Andrew Topple in the Church Office

For **urgent** prayer requests (Prayer Tree) contact Andrew in the office or Rev Lorraine

The January newsletter should be available by Sunday 1 January. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Wednesday 28 December to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk