



*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**CHRIST CHURCH - PORT SUNLIGHT**

Founded 1904

Telephone: 0151 645 3870

# The Magazine

Issue No. 73: December 2015 & January 2016

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Free – please take one

## Christmas Issue

**Our Mission is  
to offer our best  
to God through  
Worship, Fellowship  
and Care for the  
Community**

## Sunday Services

**Family Worship**

**10.30am**

**Afternoon Worship**

**3pm**

[ccpsurc.info](http://ccpsurc.info)

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to the Christmas issue of *The Magazine*, from Christ Church Port Sunlight.

*The Magazine* is produced six times a year by volunteers and is available free of charge at the back of church.

It is also available in large print and in colour on our website:  
[ccpsurc.info](http://ccpsurc.info)

Many thanks for all contributions and assistance in producing this edition.

We hope you enjoy reading *The Magazine*.

We hope you feel part of this beautiful church.

Cover shows:  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph from the Christ Church Port Sunlight nativity.

## THE FIRST WORD

This will probably be the last “First Word” I write for the Christ Church Magazine as your Transitional Minister. So I want to use this opportunity to thank you for the way you have responded to my ministry among you and made me feel welcome. I have enjoyed working with you, and I want to thank you for the positive way you responded to the challenges with which you were presented through the report I wrote. I especially want to thank the members of the Baptism Task Group who, I think, are doing some really excellent work. I found working with that group really stimulating and I have valued their friendship. I wish you all well on the next stage of your journey.

Some of you will have seen the pictures depicting the nativity coming to us from Christians in Africa. One that I find particularly thought provoking is one from Uganda, portraying the flight to Egypt. We see a woman with a baby tied across her back walking beside a man who is carrying a box on his head, containing all the belongings they are able to carry. It represents Mary and Joseph’s flight to Egypt, with the infant Christ, after they had been made aware by an angel of Herod’s plan to kill the child. The painting also reflects the treatment of the Ugandan Christians under the regime of Idi Amin. Many were forced to flee their homes. Under his murderous regime thousands of people were arrested, beaten, imprisoned without trial and killed.

As I reflect on this painting it makes me aware not only that Jesus Himself was a refugee, but also that He is one with those who are refugees today. Never has there been a time when that was more topical than in our own time. On our TV screens we are witnessing thousands of people who have been forced to leave their homes because of war and persecution, or simply because life is so miserable that they will risk everything to try and find a new life for themselves and their families. We are witnessing before our eyes an Exodus even greater than the one we read about in the Bible.

In the New Testament, we find many titles given to Jesus – Emmanuel, Son of God, and Prince of Peace. One of these names is “Son of Man.” Many people take this to be an expression of His humanity. But if you look carefully at the occasions when the title “Son of Man” is used it is in passages that relate to the last days. For example ***“Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the***

**clouds with great power and glory.”** (Mark 13:26.) The “Son of Man” is a title associated with the things of the end. They are part of what scholars call eschatological teaching (“**eschatos**” being the Greek word for last)

I was reminded of this when a few weeks ago I was reading the passage in Matthew 25, when the people of the earth are brought before the King on His throne. He will say to those who have won His favour **“I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.”** And they are perplexed. They ask **“When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?”** The King replies, **“I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!”**

What struck me as I was reading the chapter was the words which Jesus begins this passage of teaching. **“When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne.”** The things pertaining to the end are happening among us now. The migration we are seeing on our TV screens is not only an Exodus of Biblical proportions, it is also our Judgment Day. How will we respond to Jesus travelling incognito among the refugees? He has been a refugee before. He is at one with the refugees trying to find a home and a new start in Europe. He is travelling among them. Will He say to us **“I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me”?** Or will we be included among those who neglected the weak and the vulnerable and in doing so closed their doors to the Son of Man when He came to them.

At Christmas, we celebrate Christ entering our world as the child of Bethlehem. We know that He wasn't born into wealth or status. There weren't twinkling fairy lights and brightly wrapped presents piled high around the manger. Rather He came to us among the poor and those who were rejected. We remember **“There was no room for them in the inn.”** Travelling among

the refugees, as He did in the Bible story, will He find a welcome among us? Will we be calling for the refugees to be given a home? Or will we be among those who shout, “**Send them back where they came from! They’re not our problem! We haven’t room here!**”

How will we respond to the Child of Bethlehem this Christmas?  
How will we welcome the Son of Man when He comes to us?

*Gwynfor Evans*

## **NEW MINISTER UPDATE**

The Revd. Ian Smith (in photo below) has preached with a view to becoming the minister at Christ Church. The Church meeting on the 29th November voted unanimously in support of a motion stating God has called Ian to be our minister. Ian has subsequently restated his belief that he has been called to be our minister. What now follows is a discussion on the 'terms of settlement' which is a form of employment contract. Given Ian will not have a Manse and be on a 80% scoping, this will be different from previous ministers, but the Elders hope that an induction service will occur on a Saturday in January 2016.



*Arnie Waters*

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

I have been asked by some regular attenders why it is that only church members are allowed to vote at church meetings. The choice of a new minister may have seemed more important than other votes taken in Church

meetings. Such a decision is clearly relevant to all that attend and contribute towards the church. It may well be that there are non-members who are more frequent attenders at church and more generous givers in terms of time, talents and money than some members. The URC rules that prevent them from voting can seem unfair.

To answer this point, I am not aware of anyone who has been denied the right to become a member. If you are uncertain of what this involves then please ask an Elder. It is a public statement of faith in Christ and acceptance that with that, you are part of the body of the Church. Christianity is about caring for a community and serving others as a means to find individual salvation. Whilst I do not doubt how we live our lives is more important to God than whether we are on a list of members, if you attend services at Christ Church but feel you do not want to be a full member, it is important to understand what prevents this. The URC is not seeking to divide people, but by its structure it empowers the members to have great responsibility. The URC does not make its decisions by the great and the good and force these on its members, but instead it expects every member to pray and try to discern the will of God.

The URC rules are set out to ensure good practice and to stop any one meeting being flooded by people who do not have the will of God as their primary interest. Church meetings have to tackle difficult subjects, next year we may have to decide for example on our stance on same sex marriage. On such an issue there is a risk one group, with a particular view, may seek to influence the vote. The rules are there for a good reason and those that choose to be disenfranchised have to accept this. If you care about the next minister then you should think and pray on why you do not want to be a member.

*Arnie Waters*

## **VACANCY**

The vacancy period does serve to make a church reflect on what it does well and what it does badly. We have been blessed with many different people being willing to give of their time to lead worship. Those faced with the

prospect of having to lead a service for the first time begin to appreciate better the work that goes into preparing a service. We have as a church looked at the baptisms and weddings we conduct and we have clearer ideas how we want to promote our faith through these services. This is work done during vacancy that we pray will bear fruit in the years to come and will hopefully prepare the ground for a new minister.

One area that the Elders have struggled with is Pastoral care during vacancy. No one likes to feel spied on or checked up on, but no-one wants to be ignored or forgotten. We have a God that knows us personally and knows our problems and our weaknesses, but we have a church that does not. There is no facial recognition camera over the door to the church, there is no register to see who has been or not been to church. We have many people who come to Christ Church not every Sunday, but when they choose or are able. It is easy for someone to not attend for a week or two and feel that they have not been missed and therefore they are not cared about. There are pastoral groups for members, but, as already stated, this is to ignore those who attend and are not members. God surely cares equally for us all. This is an area we need to improve and suggestions are welcome.

There is a tenuous parallel between Advent and a Vacancy period. Both are times of reflection and preparation. I risk repeating my view that the secularisation of Christmas has brought it so far forward, that Advent is now often swamped in a sea of adverts and parties. The notions of a Lent like period of quiet abstinence and anticipation does not sit well with the needs of the retailers to hit sales targets. To object to this is to fight against a fast flowing stream and to appear a miserable Scrooge, but such periods of reflection are common to many religions and perhaps the fact that we have lost this discipline does not help people to see Christians as different. The good news of Christmas is so infectious that we rightly want to share it with everyone. I hope and pray that we celebrate the right things in Christmas and spare a thought for those children still being born into poverty, hunger and fear.

*Arnie Waters*

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Whilst Easter celebrates the victory over death that makes the life of Jesus have such power, for most people, be they regular attenders or occasional visitors to church, Christmas is the primary focus of the Christian calendar.

The cynic will state Christmas' popularity is because of its association with material indulgence and commercial opportunities this provides. This is to ignore the wonderful narrative of the simple birth, whether you want to dress it up in tinsel and archangels or to see it as child born in the poverty and dirt of a stable to worried and tired parents with the countless parallels to many people's lives today: the message of Christmas still speaks to us.

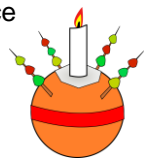
With the familiarity and joy of the story there is also the wonderful music that adds to the celebration. We hope that this year Christ Church will provide services that can bring joy, peace and hope to people, be they young or old.

As in previous years there will be a **Memorial service** in Advent. Times of celebration are also times when loved ones are missed more keenly. This is always a moving service and brings some comfort to those who grieve for family and friends.



There will be a **Toy Service** to collect toys to ensure all children in Wirral have something to open on Christmas morning. Donations will be sent to the Charles Thompson Mission.

On Christmas Eve there is a **Christingle Service**. This service celebrates the light of Christ coming into the world. We perhaps do not need the long December nights to remind us how dark our world can be and how relevant this light still is.



The theme of light is continued with the 11:30pm **Candlelight Service** which is being led by the Mersey Synod moderator. The bells will again ring in Christmas Day.

On Christmas morning there is a 10:30am service where Christ's birth is celebrated again.



Full details of all our services can be found on the back page of *The Magazine*.

*Arnie Waters*



## **LIFE IN A CARE HOME (PART 2)**

I have always looked forward to a new day and so it was with much pleasure that I came across the following poem. I hope readers will share my pleasure. Susan Coolidge, the author of 'What Katy Did' wrote this lovely poem.

*Jean Pinder*

### **New every morning**

*Every day is a fresh beginning  
Listen my soul to the glad refrain  
And, spite of old sorrows  
And older sinning,  
Troubles forecasted  
And possible pain  
Take heart with the day and begin again.*

Susan Coolidge 1905

## ADVENT

*Listen, O people, hear the Word of the Lord  
As He spoke to the prophets of old -  
To Isaiah, He promised a sign for the world -  
The birth of a Saviour foretold.  
'For a virgin will bring forth a Son  
Who will come with His people to dwell -  
And lead them in righteousness, show them God's love  
And His name shall be "Immanuel".  
Yes, a child will be born, a Son will be given  
Whose government will never cease -  
Called Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God  
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.  
He will be the long-expected One,  
Redeemer, the Ancient of Days  
God incarnate, the Word made flesh  
To Him will be worship and praise.  
Yet, this child will be born not to splendour or wealth  
Not to power in Jerusalem -  
But as Micah foretold, the Ruler will come  
From the least-noted town – Bethlehem!  
Now as we journey toward Bethlehem  
We'll hear the story unfold –  
Let us ponder the mystery and strengthen our faith  
And believe what the angels have told –  
That Jesus was born to bring us Salvation –  
King of kings in a stable –  
"One-star accommodation!"*

*Olive Burns*



## **WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS ADMINISTRATOR**

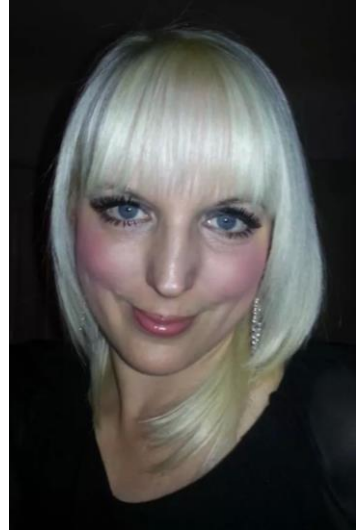
Hi, I'm Rachael Hardcastle. I live locally in Higher Bebington, and I am a Mum to two boys, Charlie (12) and Jack (7).

I have had many years' experience as a secretary, and I am pleased to have taken on the role as Weddings and Funerals Administrator at Christ Church Port Sunlight. I have previously worked at Wirral Grammar School for Boys, Burton Manor Adult Residential College, Wirral Council (Social Services), Deloittes Accountants (previously known as Deloitte and Touche) and UML (Unilever).

My Mum (Joan Bath), and I have attended Christ Church over the past few years, but more frequently in the past couple of months.

In 1996 I was married at Christ Church by Revd Malcolm Shapland, and both my children were baptised here, so it is now lovely to be part of Christ Church, in addition to working here!

In my spare time, I like to be involved in zumba at the Village Hotel, and I also like local history, vintage fairs, classic cars and the theatre.



*Rachael*

## **FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Having recently prepared all the Free Will Offering (FWO) envelopes for next year, I am concerned that our number of contributors to giving by this method is dwindling. Sadly some of our friends have passed away or have moved away. A few members of our congregation who, although no longer able to attend worship, still continue to give several times a year through their FWO envelopes, for which we are most grateful.

Our weekly offerings, as you must realise, contribute greatly to the upkeep and running of our church thus allowing it to remain open that we may enjoy the privilege of regular worship there. If you are not a participant of our FWO envelope scheme then I urge that you might give some favourable consideration to using this method of donating your weekly offerings in future. This method of giving not only encourages regular payments but also if you are a tax payer then your offerings can be gift aided, thus increasing their value to the church by 25% at no extra personal cost.

I will shortly be sending in our claim to HMRC for Gift Aid, last year this amounted to in excess of £8,000, which provides a significant boost to church funds.

Please consider making your offerings through this scheme. If you have any questions or would like more information please see me any Sunday in church or call me at home on 0151-334 6027. Thank you.

*Carole Austin*

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**  
**Christ Church Community Centre**  
**Higher Bebington**

If you, your family, your neighbour or anyone you know locally would welcome some extra company on Christmas Day, we'd love you to join us. Transport can be arranged and vegetarian food is available.

Please contact Rev Mike or Sarah on 0151 609 0943 or 0151 608 4429  
Email: [mgloach@gmail.com](mailto:mgloach@gmail.com)

*Carol Wright*



## CHURCH MANSE – UPDATE

In response to the article in the Oct/Nov edition of *The Magazine* about the church manses and who lived in them I can say for certain that Rev. Alexander Douglass and his wife Hilda lived in **7 The Wiend, Bebington** with their daughter Alison. I was a Sunday School teacher for a number of years and attended many meetings at their home on a Friday evening when Hilda would guide a group of us through the forthcoming teachings for Sunday mornings. At that time it was called Sunday School rather than Junior Church. My mother, Doris Jones, used to play the piano for the Beginners Dept. This would be late 1960's / early 70's. Rev. & Mrs Douglass eventually moved down to Gravesend in Kent to live.

*Heather Shaw*



Heather and Mike Shaw, with Revd Alexander Douglass,  
on their wedding day: 6<sup>th</sup> June 1970

**CHRISTMAS CHARITY CONCERT**  
in aid of  
**CLAIRE HOUSE and KIND**

**CHRIST CHURCH, PORT SUNLIGHT**  
**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**FEATURING**

**TOM SPENCE**

THE LOCAL LAD WITH THE WONDERFUL VOICE

**SILVER TONES**

SINGING GROUP

**TIM WALKER**

PIANIST

**DAVE NICHOLAS**

THE PHILHARMONIC THEATRE ORGANIST

**FRENCH, WILLIAMS & FRIENDS**

Commencing 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £7.50 - *Including Refreshments*

Available from Port Sunlight Museum or

Enquiries: 0151 334 4588



**SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE  
AND CORNISH CREAM TEAS FELLOWSHIP**

**UPDATE**

The 2015 fundraising programme came to an action-packed conclusion with a flourish during October, with three events in twenty seven days. The results from these were as follows:

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

BACON OR SAUSAGE BAPS WITH A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE **£267.65**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October

HARVEST SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT BY THE FOUR ORIGINALS **£221**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

BEETLE DRIVE WITH SUPPER AND RAFFLE **£198**

**OCTOBER TOTAL £686.25**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November there was also a Charity Concert organised by June Berry which produced a magnificent contribution to church funds of £744.20, and this against the competition of the British Legion Remembrance Concert which was broadcast on the same evening. A truly wonderful result and our thanks as a church go to June and her supporters for a job well done.

When these amounts and the £850 takings from the August Cream Teas are added to the total reported in the August/September issue of *The Magazine*, we see a fundraising total for the year of **£5,783.74** which just beats the total raised in 2014 by £14. Whilst this is not as much as we would have hoped for it is nevertheless holding our fundraising firm and our grateful thanks as a church must go to everyone involved in the hard work which is needed to achieve these results.

In no time at all it seems, we will be planning the programme for 2016 and will welcome any newcomers to the fundraising team, and fresh ideas for

fundraising events. So as I regularly say.... **come along to our meetings and bring your ideas with you, we have a lovely church which needs funds to keep it going, don't be shy come along and enjoy the fellowship and friendships. Look out for the dates in the New Year.**

In the meantime on behalf of the *Social and Fundraising Committee and The Cornish Cream Tea Fellowship* I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Blessed, Peaceful New Year.

With Christian love to you all,

*Ken Howell*  
*Joint convenor.*

## **THOMAS YEOMANS**

Thomas Yeomans has recently decided to hang up his shoes as organist of Christ Church so that he can have some more free time and family time at the weekends. Tom has been at Christ Church for nearly ten years serving the post tirelessly, playing for the Sunday services, funerals, weddings and other special services that occur throughout the year. Tom has brought a professionalism to the organ bench, being an exceptionally talented player both of organ pieces and service music. Of particular note is the way he brings out the full meaning of hymns by playing not only the music but the words as well. He has always chosen voluntaries to fit the mood of the day, being suitably reflective for the penitential times or displaying a sizzling panache on festive occasions.

Tom is also a gifted improviser and creates music out of thin air when the need arises. If you didn't know, you would think that the music had been written specifically for the occasion or that moment in the service. Being an organ builder and pipe voicer – he is in tune with the instrument itself and is able to make the organ truly sing throughout all of its dynamic range and tonal palette. Tom has also been known to sing, sometimes providing a Bass part from the organ bench when the choir sings unaccompanied.



In 2008 the URC Musicians' Guild held its annual Celebration Day in our church. URC organists and choirmasters from all over the UK attended. Part of the day for the singers was the learning of some new church music which was then performed at the service at the end of the day. Tom provided the organ accompaniment for the training and for the service. The training was run by David Poulter, then Director of Music Chester and now at Liverpool Cathedral. Tom's performance was described as 'worthy of a cathedral organist'.

We are sorry to see him go and we will miss him and his contribution to the worship. We do hope that he will still come back and see us sometimes and fill in on occasion so we can once more enjoy his playing.

*Jonathan Bowden*

## **FABRIC REPORT**

Since the last report, featured in issue 70 of *The Magazine*, not an awful lot has happened other than the annual and bi-annual routine maintenance, which in many respects is good news in that nothing major has developed to cause concern.

The Central Heating Gas Boilers were recently serviced by RH Services (Irby) Ltd. who previously serviced them last year. Following the servicing a gas tightness test was successfully carried out and a Gas Safety Certificate will be forwarded in due course.

During the year a new 'advanced' gas meter was fitted to replace the old 'standard' meter as recommended by British Gas, at no cost to the church. The benefits of an advanced meter means that it supplies automated readings (no more sending of meter readings) saving time and giving accurate bills.

In accordance with the bi-annual pre-planned preventative maintenance programme the rainwater catchments which include all gutters, hoppers, downpipes and drains were cleared/cleaned of any debris prior to the drains

being finally washed and disinfected. To help prevent the future blocking of drains additional plastic filters have been fitted to all perimeter grids.

Two inspection chamber manhole covers (each designed to support 10 tonnes weight) have been fitted to replace those damaged adjacent to the circular flower bed on the south side of the church. The old covers had probably suffered accidental damage from PSVT gardeners vehicles.

During the summer months the drain for the outside cold water tap had become blocked and 'Clearways' was asked to investigate the blockage. By using drain cameras and jet washing equipment partial blockage was removed but the cameras identified substantial tree roots present in the drain chamber. As a result further monitoring of the efficiency of this drain will need to be taken.

'Good News!' The suspected subterranean water leak has at last been identified, located and repaired. Following the repair of the main cold water supply stop valve, fitted in the Boiler House annexe, United Utilities agreed to investigate with a view to repair the leak at no cost to the church covered under their 'Private Leak Repair Scheme' which includes free conditional repairs to the likes of churches such as Christ Church.

From the quinquennial church survey report and following a meeting of four church members, certain items in the report have been highlighted which require further in-house inspection with a view of possibly undertaking some of the remedial work ourselves. If this be the case a working party will need to be gathered in order to spread the load, as it were. Anyone who feels they can help in some way and are willing to volunteer please contact me on 334 6027.

The Choir Vestry lavatory (toilet) WC overflow has been re-designed so that it will eventually drain to an outside drain. The drilling of a suitable route through the building wall has yet to be completed. In the meantime, in the unlikely event of overflow, a stop cock has been fitted to the WC cold water supply pipe within the lavatory room.

*Ted Austin*

## AUTUMN CHARITY CONCERT SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

The *Wistaston Singers*, a mixed voice choir from near Crewe with their musical director Phil Horton, gave us a wonderful selection of music which included two pieces for audience participation. One was *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag* sung by Chris White and *A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square* both played on the organ by Phil.

The wonderful tenor voice of Nick Hardy held us all spellbound, accompanied by Alan Derrick on keyboard. He sang a selection from *The Student Prince*; *Drinking Song*, *Golden Days*, *Deep in my Heart Dear*, *Beloved*, and *Serenade*.

To bring the first half to a close Silver Tones with accompanist Paul Goulden sang *Nun's Chorus* from Johann Strauss' operetta, *You Belong To Me*, *Out of My Dreams* and *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine* for which they received a wonderful ovation.

After refreshments the second half started off with Nick singing *The Way You Look Tonight* and *The Lark In the Clear Air*. Then Alan gave us a wonderful rendition of *Tenderley* on keyboard. Once again Nick singing *Torna a Surriento* brought shouts of "encore, encore" from the audience.

*Silver Tones* then sang *Poppa Piccolina*, *I Dreamed a Dream*, *Westering Home* and finally *Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen* for which they had the audience joining in and once again received a wonderful ovation.

The *Wistaston Singers* were given a fantastic reception when they performed six items ranging from *You'll Never Walk Alone*, a tribute to *Queen* and everyone joining in with *Jerusalem* and once again we were entertained by Chris White on banjo, this time singing *Lancashire Toreador* in Formby style.

After thanks had been given a truly wonderful evening finished with Phil playing the organ and everyone joining in singing *Cwm Rhondda*.

My sincere and grateful thanks go to all the fantastic artists who performed so well, to all those who helped to set up and clear away and all the other jobs which needed doing: Ron, Jan, Silver Tones, Alfie and Carl and Sue who did a great job on the door and to everyone who supported the concert.

A magnificent sum of £750 was raised on behalf of our Church Appeal Fund.  
*June Berry*

## THE FRIENDSHIP TREE

The Friendship Tree has been placed at the back of church for anyone to wish their friends in church all the best for Christmas and the New Year in a very effective way. Small cards are provided so that greetings can be written and placed on the tree for all to see.

The idea for the tree came about because members of the congregation would write Christmas cards to their friends and leave them on the table at the back of church. Many of these cards were never picked up by the person they were intended for and in January they would be thrown away. This was deemed to be such a waste and a shame.

Pauline Clynch and Barbara Taylor donated the Friendship Tree in memory of their beloved husbands.



If they so desire, people can make a donation which will go to the Wirral Churches Ark Project who have always been very grateful for what we have donated at Christmas time. They can then help some of the homeless to enjoy a little of what we take for granted. I think a saying by Winston Churchill says it all:

***We make a living by what we get,  
But we make a life by what we give.***

Don and I would like to thank you all for your support in the past and we wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

*Carol Wright*

## ADULT BAPTISM

Baptism is a very important service in the URC. It marks the joining of a Christian fellowship. The URC believes that the help and support of a wider church is important to support people through their Christian life. It is far more than an excuse to wet the baby's head. Clearly those who want to bring their

children up in the knowledge and love of Jesus are very welcome to attend worship and have their children baptised; but there is no age limit. Jesus was clearly a man when he was baptised in the Jordan River. Therefore if there are adults who have never been baptised, this is not something to be embarrassed about. If you wish to be baptised at Christ Church or learn more about this then you are most welcome to ask the Elders.

*Arnie Waters*

## CALL FOR PRAYERS

Dear All,

Phase two of our call for prayers for the 2017 Prayer Handbook has just opened – and we want your prayers!

The second round of entries closes on 15 January 2016, and we are hoping that prayer writers of all ages, all traditions and all nationalities will submit prayers for possible inclusion.

Please read [the guidelines](#) for full information, including the specific lectionary readings for which the editors are seeking prayers – and if applicable, please spread the word, help our search and send this round your networks.

More info here: <http://www.urch.org.uk/latest-news/1833-seeking-more-prayers>

Many thanks!

**Gill Nichol**

**Head of communications | The United Reformed Church**

86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

020 7691 9865 | 07769 201978

[gill.nichol@urch.org.uk](mailto:gill.nichol@urch.org.uk) | [www.urch.org.uk](http://www.urch.org.uk)

## CARERS' MEETING

The Carers' Meeting is held at 12 noon every third Tuesday in the month at Christ Church Community Centre, Kings Road, Higher Bebington. A sandwich lunch is provided free of charge. If you are a Carer then do come and join us – you will be made very welcome.

*Carol Wright*

*Carers contact, Christ Church Port Sunlight*

## THE MAGAZINE BY POST

If you would like to receive a copy of *The Magazine* regularly by post, please send:

- your **name, address, postcode** and a **contact phone number or email address**
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addressed to 'Magazine Subscriptions' and hand in to a Church Elder or Steward.

**OR**

Put the correct amount of cash (or cheque) in a sealed envelope,

## WEDDINGS

Please uphold in prayer the following couples, as they begin their married lives together:

### October

Helen Webb and Marc Morrell

Leanne Hindry and Shane Barter

Rebecca Lawson and Adam Robinson

Heather Siddall and Gordon Lewis

### November

Claire McEwan and Stephen Heath



## BAPTISMS

The following children were baptized recently at Christ Church. We remember the parents, god-parents and the children themselves in our prayers.

### October

Theodore George Stephens  
Margerison

Ivy Hope Abbott

Oscar John Alfred MacKay

Theo James Rooney

Isabelle Amy Preston

Abigail Nancy McLeod

### November

Parker William Sidwell

Stanley Maxwell Humphreys

Charlie John Anderson

Bear Gaywood

## FUNERALS AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

In our prayers we give thanks for these folk and remember their loved ones in their grief that they may know the peace of God.

### October

Barbara HOLLOWAY	aged 68
Marjorie HANSON	aged 77
Grace Estelle WILLIAMS	aged 91
Emily MITCHELL	aged 70
William LUNGLEY	aged 86
Joy Estelle PRITCHARD	aged 78

### November

No funerals or interments of ashes





## MEETING TIMES OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS

The **Bellringers'** practice is held every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Bell Tower.

The **Handbell Ringers'** practice is held every Tuesday at 7.15pm in Church.

**Boys' Brigade** meets in the BB Headquarters (BB HQ) in Bath Street.

- **Company Section** meets every Friday at 6.15pm
- **Anchor Boys** meet every Thursday at 6pm
- **Junior Section** meets every Wednesday at 6.15pm

The **Choir** practises every Thursday at 6.30pm in Church.

The **Elders** meet every 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the BB HQ

**Men's Fellowship** meets every Wednesday at 2pm in the Church Hall

**Open House** meets every Wednesday, 7-9pm in the Church Hall



### **Sunday Worship Club**

On Sunday morning as part of our Family Worship there is Sunday Worship Club for children from the age of 3 upwards and young people up to the age of 18.

There is also a crèche for babies and toddlers.

**All are welcome**

**Contact: Samantha Hawkes - [hawkington@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hawkington@tiscali.co.uk)**

<b>CONTACTS</b>	<b>* = Serving Elder</b>
<b>Christ Church URC</b> Church Drive, Port Sunlight, Wirral, CH62 5EF	
<b>Minister</b>	Vacant
<b>Transitional Minister</b>	Gwynfor Evans
Baptismal Secretary	Sue Frowe
Bereavement Pastoral Care Assistant and Funeral Coordinator	*Maureen Jones
Boys' Brigade Captain / Hall Lettings / Housekeeper	*Val Hall
Carers' contact	Carol Wright
Choirmaster	Jonathan Bowden
Church Secretary	*Arnie Waters
Church Treasurer	*John Lindsay
Fabric Committee Convenor	Vacant
Flowers / Church Bookings	June Berry
Magazine editor	Jan Burrell / Rosie Potter <a href="mailto:magazine@ccpsurc.info">magazine@ccpsurc.info</a>
Men's Fellowship Leader	David Peacock
Organist	Vacant
Pulpit Supply / Elders' Rota	Vacant
Readers' Rota	Barbara Thomason
Serving Elder	*Shelly Hayes
Serving Elder	*Brian Jones
Serving Elder	*Lisa Scott
Serving Elder	*Val Young
Social and Fundraising Convenor	Ken Howell
Stewards' Rota	*Ted Austin
Sunday Worship Club Leader	*Samantha Hawkes

<b>CONTACTS continued</b>	
Synod Representative	Vacant
Tower Captain(Bellringers) /Church Webmaster	Peter Humphreys
Weddings and Funerals Administrator	Rachael Hardcastle <a href="mailto:rachaelhardcastle@yahoo.co.uk">rachaelhardcastle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Weekly Bulletin Editor	*Jim Tesseyman <a href="mailto:bulletin@ccpsurc.info">bulletin@ccpsurc.info</a>

**Editorial Team: Jan Burrell and Rosie Potter**

Items for the next issue should be handed in as soon as possible, and  
**NO LATER THAN Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January.**

Articles, letters, requests etc. may be emailed to [magazine@ccpsurc.info](mailto:magazine@ccpsurc.info)  
or handed in to a church elder.

*The Magazine* is also available, in colour, on our website at  
<http://www.ccpsurc.info/>

We regret that we cannot include adverts or any promotional material for  
events not associated with Christ Church Port Sunlight.

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## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

<b>December 2015 Services</b>				
Friday	4	10:00 am	Revd Ian Smith	Friday Communion Service
Sunday	6	10:30 am	Revd Ian Smith	Morning Service
	6	3:00 pm	John Lindsay	Afternoon Service
Sunday	13	10:30 am	Mark Williams	Morning Toy Service
	13	3:00 pm	Mark Williams	Memorial Service
Sunday	20	10:30 am	Revd Gwynfor Evans	Morning Service
	20	3:00 pm	Revd Anne Bedford	Afternoon Communion Service
Thursday	24	6:00 pm	Mrs Sam Hawkes	Christingle Service
	24	11:30 pm	Revd Jacky Embrey	Candlelight Service
Friday	25	10:30 am	Mr Mark Williams	Christmas Day
Sunday	27	10:30 am	Revd Richard Hambly	Morning Service
<b>January 2016 Services</b>				
Sunday	3	10:30 am	Revd Richard Hambly	Morning Communion Service
	3	3:00 pm	Dr Robert Pettigrew	Afternoon Service
Friday	8	10:00 am	Revd Ian Smith	Friday Communion Service
Sunday	10	10:30 am	Revd Susan Flynn	Morning Service
	10	3:00 pm	Revd Richard Landon	Afternoon Service
Sunday	17	10:30 am	Elders	Morning Service
	17	2:00 pm	Revd Anne Bedford	Baptism
	17	3:00 pm	Revd Anne Bedford	Afternoon Service
Sunday	24	10:30 am	Paul Franklin	Morning Service
	24	3:00 pm	Revd Christine Davies	Afternoon Service
Sunday	31	10:30 am	Elders	Morning Service
	31	3:00 pm	Elders	Afternoon Service

### THE LAST WORD – Luke 2:6-7

*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*