

Sunday 14th January Readings: *Genesis 15, Matthew 14, Nehemiah 4, Acts 14*

8am	Holy Communion in St John's
10am	Morning Prayer in St John's (Exodus 19)
6.30pm	Evening Prayer in St John's (1 Corinthians 6:1-11)
8pm	Crossover meet at Kevin & Emily Dean's home
8pm	After 8s meet at Rob & Kathryn Payne's home

For more details about the daily Bible reading plan, including online readings, please visit our website

Prayer Diary – 7th January 2018

The Collect for today – Sunday after Epiphany:

O God, who revealed your only Son to the Gentiles by the leading of a star, mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life enjoy the splendour of your glorious Godhead, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please pray for...

the sick and the bereaved:

our mission partners: Helen Eccles (St Catherine's, Tranmere) and Robert Matati (Butere, Kenya).

those serving in the Armed Forces:

our local schools:

Hartford Primary School & Kids Count Nursery, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.

Hartford Church of England High School.

For Christian pupils to stand by and to support one another around school.

Notice Sheet for Sunday 7th January 2018

All services are in **St John's Church** unless stated otherwise.

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Eddowes Room

10am Morning Prayer – Exodus 18; *The Confession and Wisdom of Jethro*

6.30pm Holy Communion - Matthew 28:16-20; *Michael's New Year Message*

8pm Crossover meet at Kevin & Emily Dean's home

Preachers elsewhere today:

Phil at Emmanuel Church, Leftwich (6pm)

Michael Walters at St John's, Sandiway (6.30pm)

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is an informal 7-week course for anyone who would like to investigate Christianity, see what the Bible really says or ask any questions that they have. Our next Christianity Explored course starts on Thursday 11th January at 8pm in the Church Centre. Looking at Mark's gospel, the course explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him. Booking is not essential but is appreciated. For more information, please contact the Church Office or email ce@stjohnshartford.org.

Read the Bible in 2018

Have you always wanted to read through the whole Bible but never got round to it? Or are you resolved to find time to study a Bible passage every day? See the church website (www.stjohnshartford.org/faith) for suggested Bible reading plans, Bible Apps and podcasts, including the Daily Audio Bible podcast which will take you through the Bible in a single year. The notice sheet also has daily readings alongside each day on the diary page to help you follow a plan to read the Bible in a year, based on an original by the Rev. Robert Murray M'Cheyne. If you don't own a Bible to read, please ask any member of staff and we will make sure you get one.

Crossover – change of time and venue

Crossover will be meeting at Kevin & Emily Dean's house during January. They will start at the previous time of 8pm and finish at 9.30pm. All those in school years 10 - 13 are welcome.

Christmas Message from Alex Lucas

Dearest St John's – Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for your continuous support of my work at UCCF – you're all fantastic brothers and sisters in Christ. Sam and I truly appreciate it. Hope the Christmas season will be full of joy because of our wonderful Saviour. We miss you all! Much love, *Alex & Sam Lucas*.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Prayer meeting

Following the closure of the CAP Debt Centre at the end of September there will be a prayer meeting on Monday 8th January particularly to pray for the continuation of the debt help work of CAP in our area. We will also be praying about the work of CAP more widely. The meeting will be in Christ Church, starting at 8pm, and lasts for just one hour. All are welcome. *Danny Greaves*.

Can you help the Thursday Café?

Sarah Farmer is putting together the rota for this term so, if you would like to offer your services, please contact her as soon as possible. The Thursday Cafe is still in urgent need of more helpers, particularly to work in the kitchen, but also for setting up, working in the cafe and giving lifts to customers that wouldn't otherwise be able to attend.

Church Office phone number 01606 872255

Counselling services

Many of you may not be aware of the counselling services you can have access to, but Dee Rollinson (who used to be our in-house therapeutic counsellor) still acts as a counselling advisor, which can be useful if you want to chat something through as a one-off or discuss options regarding therapeutic counselling. We also have direct access to Chester Diocese's Counselling Service. This is a team of voluntary counsellors, all trained and supervised, who offer therapeutic counselling. To find out what they can offer please contact Jane Knight (01270 652034 or 07918 732806). Dee is happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more about their counselling options.

Easter Mission 2018

In the run up to Easter next year we will be holding a mission week from the 25th March to 2nd April, with the aim of reaching out with the good news of Jesus to the people of Hartford who don't yet believe and trust in him. It will be your mission! We'd love each group from within the church (Café, Housegroups, Tots and Tinies, Walking Groups, Ladies' Fellowship etc) to consider what kind of event or occasion they could put on to invite their non-Christian friends and family to. You may want to team up with another group - that's good too. The one requirement is that it would incorporate some sort of Christian message. It might be a meal with a message, a family fun afternoon, a cream tea, a youth night - be creative and think what might interest and attract the people you know. In January we'll be asking for your ideas so that we can begin planning and coordinating. Please start praying for people you might invite now; perhaps someone who comes to a Christmas service might also come to something like this. *Alec.*

Ladies' Walks

... will restart on Monday 15th January and then they will be fortnightly until Monday 26th March. They will meet, on each occasion, in the Church Centre car park at 9.45am. For more details, please contact Mary Shorter.

Men's Walks

... are taking a break for Christmas and New Year but will be restarting on Thursday 18th January. For more details, please contact Stephen Williams.

Ichthus Christian Books – new opening hours

From 1st January 2018, Pete and Sue at Ichthus Christian Books will become semi-retired. As a consequence the shop will only be open Thursday and Friday (10am-4pm), and Saturday (10am-2pm). They would like to thank people for their continued support and understanding.

North West Partnership Conference

On Friday 26th and Saturday 27th January, NWP is holding its annual conference at St Andrew's, Leyland and the theme is 'Confident – the battle to keep the Bible central'. The speakers are Denesh Divyanathan and Tim Ward, and each day costs £15. Please see flyers on the Welcome Desk or www.northwestpartnership.com for more details.

Harambee Mid Cheshire/Uganda Partnership

Following the considerable interest in the developing 'Harambee' Mid Cheshire/Uganda Partnership and particularly in the sponsorship of children at Nyakabungo Parents' Primary School, we have placed a supply of sponsorship forms and letters from children in the Church Extension for your information and prayerful consideration. Please feel free to take a copy of the form to inform your thinking. If you decide to provide sponsorship please ensure that you return the form directly to either of us so that we can collate the responses for onward transfer to 'Volunteer Uganda' which is the funding co-ordination partner in the UK and to whose Board of Trustees we have recently been appointed. *Helen & Martin Barber.*

Church Diary – 7th January 2018

Monday 8th January *Readings: Genesis 8, Matthew 8, Ezra 8, Acts 8*

Church Office closed today

12.30pm	Funeral in St John's (<i>Mike</i>)
8pm	St John's Committee meet in the Church Centre
8pm	CAP prayer meeting at Christ Church

Tuesday 9th January *Readings: Genesis 9-10, Matthew 9, Ezra 9, Acts 9*

9.30am-5pm	Church Office open in the Church Centre (Tuesday-Thursday)
10am	Jigsaw meet in the Church Centre
8pm	Sunday Services' Committee meet at The Vicarage

Wednesday 10th January *Readings: Genesis 11, Matthew 10, Ezra 10, Acts 10*

Phil at Hartford Church of England High School Christian Union (1-1.45pm)
Teresa leading a story & craft session at Sir Leslie Martin Nursery (2pm)

10am	Tots and Tinies meet in the Church Centre
10am	Staff meeting
2pm	Ladies' Fellowship meet in the Church Centre – Amy Field
8pm	Housegroups meet for Zephaniah Study 3

Thursday 11th January *Readings: Genesis 12, Matthew 11, Nehemiah 1, Acts 11*

Alec attending Curacy Training (all day)

11.45am	Thursday Café in the Church Centre
12pm	Funeral in St John's (<i>Mike</i>)
8pm	Christianity Explored course in the Church Centre

Friday 12th January *Readings: Genesis 13, Matthew 12, Nehemiah 2, Acts 12*

Mike's and Alec's day off

Ministry team taking Hartford Church of England High School Chapel Services (2.55pm)

10.30am-3pm	Church Office open in the Church Centre
7.30pm	Pathfinders meet in the Church Centre

Saturday 13th January *Readings: Genesis 14, Matthew 13, Nehemiah 3, Acts 13*

Hartford Church of England High School Governors' meeting (9.30am-12.30pm)

12pm	Koinonia Christmas Meal at Winnington Park Recreation Club
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