

IN TOUCH DIARY

December 2015

Wednesday 2nd – 8.00 pm – Wednesday Group Christmas Preparations, Cranleigh Methodist Church
Sunday 6th – 10:30 am – Rev. P Hulme with Holy Communion
Saturday 12th – 2.30 pm – Christmas Tea and Concert, Cranleigh Methodist Church
Sunday 13th – 10.30 am – Rev Claire Potter Gift Service
Sunday 13th – 6.30 pm – Rev Claire Potter Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th – 8.00 pm Wednesday Group Christmas Evening at Hilary's
Sunday 20th – 10.30 am – Rev Trehame – Carol Service
Sunday 20th – 6.30 pm – St Nicolas Church
Tuesday 22nd - 3pm - Musical Notes - Elmbridge Village
Thursday 24th – 11 pm – United Service St Nicolas Church
Friday 25th – 11.00 am – Rev Claire Potter
Friday 25th – 1.00 pm – Christmas Day Lunch, Cranleigh Baptist church
Sunday 27th – 10.30 am – Rev Claire Potter

January 2016

Sunday 3rd – 10.30 am – Janet Gardham
Wednesday 6th – 8.00 pm – Wednesday Group – Rev. Peter Hills at Helen's
Sunday 10th – 10.30 am – Rev Claire Potter Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Sunday 17th – 10.30 am – Rev Claire Hargreaves
Sunday 17th – 6.30 pm – Rev Claire Potter United Service
Wednesday 20th – 8.00 pm – Wednesday Group – “A Pink Evening” at Wendy's
Sunday 24th – 10.30 am – Lyn McKay
Sunday 24th 6.30 pm – Rev P Hills with Holy Communion
Sunday 31st – 10.30 am – Rev B Tabraham

February 2016

Wednesday 3rd – 8.00 pm – Wednesday Group – Mission Aviation Fellowship “Flying for Life” at Cranleigh Methodist Church
Sunday 7th – 10.30 am – James Clephane-Cameron
Sunday 14th – 10.30 am – Rev Claire Potter with Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th – 8.00 pm – Wednesday Group – Ian Smalley “Across the Atlantic Under Sail” at Helen's
Sunday 21st – 10.30 am – Jane O'Leary
Sunday 21st – 6.30 pm – Rev Claire Potter with Holy Communion
Sunday 28th – 10.30 am – Ken Mills
Sunday 28th – Occasional Sunday Lunch
Sunday 28th – 6.30 pm – Circuit Service at Woking



I N T O U C H



December 2015 - February 2016

C r a n l e i g h M e t h o d i s t C h u r c h

CRANLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

188 High Street Cranleigh GU6 8RL

Minister;	Reverend Claire Potter 01483 273227
Church Council Secretary;	Pam Newman-Horwell 01483 274148
Senior Steward;	Jane O'Leary 01483 351651
Lettings Secretary;	David Lipman 01483 278346
Key Holder and Property Chair;	Jane O'Leary 01483 276100

LETTER FROM CLAIRE

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Advent we are surrounded with reminders of the wonder of this season. We may groan a little when mince pies are on sale from October and when Christmas decorations adorn our streets from the middle of November. However it does mean that the whole of our communities are preparing in their own ways for this glorious season.

We are entering a journey that leads us to the coming of Christ, not with fanfares and glory but with vulnerability and humility. So he stands in solidarity with people who suffer, who are vulnerable, and who need other people. The refugee crisis has reached colossal proportions in recent months. People are existing in refugee camps across the Middle East while thousands of others are trekking across Europe to unknown futures, at the mercy of border guards, politicians, and unscrupulous

TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Come and join us at

Cranleigh Baptist Church
262 High Street, Cranleigh

Time 1-4 pm

Traditional Christmas lunch, carols
Queen's speech



This is a Cranleigh Community event supported by local volunteers, charities and businesses. Offers of help or donations are welcome.

If you would like to help us or join us please call Janet on
01483275371



Next issue will cover March, April & May so the cut off date for submissions for articles and adverts etc., will be around 31st January at the latest please.

Our contact details are as follows:

Jane O'Leary - Cranleigh Methodist Church,
c/o The Old Forge, Smithbrook Barns, Cranleigh, GU6 8LH
email; joleary@oaktax.com and telephone 01483 276100.

CHRISTIAN AID



Our committee have just taken advantage of the scheme whereby people who run Cranleigh

Market sometimes allow charities to run a stall free-of-charge. We duly set up ours on Thursday, November 5th (a wet and windy morning!) under a gazebo obtained by our secretary, Sheila Smith, and using fold-up decorators' tables for our display. We sold preserves (home-made of course), bric a brac, books, DVDs, small pottery items, jewellery, scarves and a few small games and toys.

Despite the inclement weather, we actually did quite well, raising to date about £80. (We still have some jars of jam and marmalade or chutney, which we hope people will buy in the church). Other items unsold will form the basis of a future sale.

I am very grateful to members of our committee, who generously gave up their time to help run the stall and provided goods to sell, and to everyone else who donated items so willingly. We hope to run such a stall again.

We are always looking for more members to join our committee and are very pleased that Pat Mottram has agreed to help when she can. Look out for further planned events after Christmas. These will include a Lent lunch on a Saturday after the coffee morning. This lunch, organised by Gill Leslie, proved successful last year.

Looking further ahead, we are seeking more house-to-house collectors for our major fund-raising week in May, but any other ideas to help this great cause would be very welcome!

A great thank you for what you have done so far!

Glenda Sewell

traffickers. Our faith confirms that in Christ, God knows what that experience feels like. Through living a human life, through suffering, dying and being raised from the dead, he enabled human life to be transformed. There is hope.

We must keep remembering that each refugee is a valuable and complex human being – someone's child or parent or sibling, someone with skills and gifts and characteristics, someone who can make a difference in this world. The churches are working out ways of responding, particularly when refugees arrive in our communities. We are building this into the work of the new community contacts group at Cranleigh Methodist Church, and we can all be involved through our prayers and through keeping ourselves informed.

Wishing you all well at this season of preparation and beyond.

Claire

LESSONS OF LIFE ON HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE



One night, at 11.30 pm, an older African American Woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home.

A Special note was attached.

It read:

“Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband’s bedside just before he passed away ...

God Bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving Others.”

Sincerely,

Mrs Nat King Cole

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Jointly with Cranleigh Camera Club, we hope to open the church for a week in the Spring, for an exhibition of photographs about Cranleigh and surrounding areas. The competition will be open to all. Watch this space for further details

EASYFUNDRAISING

Do you shop online? Would you like to raise money for the church at absolutely no cost to you? If so follow these instructions (once you have done it once, it will be easy).

- First go to easyfundraising.org.uk
- Register your name
- Then browse the retailers and make your purchase in the usual way. There are thousands of retailers who support this, including all the well-known ones. The retailer you shop with will know that you have come via the easyfundraising website.

- After you complete your purchase, the retailer will give you a cash reward that you can turn into a donation for your good cause. Cranleigh Methodist Church. Easyfundraising collect this and send it on to us at no extra cost to you.

Give it a go and see how easy it is. With Christmas coming up, we could gain ££££s for nothing!

If you have any queries, please speak to Stella.



PLEASE DON'T SWITCH OFF!

When I thought about this article/advert, I agonised on how to ‘pitch’ it for fear of offending or upsetting anyone. There is no easy way to say this - we NEED you to volunteer. We are always hearing a plea for volunteers to do Saturday morning coffee, Sunday coffee after the service, intercessory prayers, readings. Now we need more stewards and a Sunday Club helper.

Please think seriously if you can help- your commitment isn’t for life or for a long time or for any more than an hour or two some weeks. Saturday coffee is for a maximum of 3 hours on a Saturday morning once every 3 months(?), same really for Sunday coffee, a little time before the service and half an hour afterwards and once every 3 months. Intercessory prayers and or readings can be once every thirteen weeks. Doing the flowers can be once or twice a year. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for everyone.

However, yes the Sunday club helper will need to be committed to a regular time and as many Sundays as possible but still flexible. Stewarding is a very rewarding vocation, every 3-5 weeks, helping organise and get ready for the service or be on the door welcoming people and making sure the church is open and fit for purpose. You don’t have to be in church every week.

Please, prayerfully, think if you can offer to help out anywhere in the church as we are really in NEED. Please see Marion or the notice board to offer for Saturday coffee mornings, Hazel for Sunday coffee, Hilary for Sunday Club, Sue or the noticeboard for the flowers, to offer readings, please see Pat and for more details on stewarding and intercessory prayers me - Jane - PLEASE.





CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CRANLEIGH

You will have already heard about many events which have been publicised by individual churches affiliated to CTC, or supportive of the idea of Christian unity.

One is the Christmas Tree Festival, which is being organised by St Nicolas Church and which is hopefully to receive a contribution from our church! This should be a great spectacle in that beautiful old building.

The Baptist Church are this year organising the Christmas Day Lunch, particularly for people on their own at this time. They are asking for help from the rest of us. They particularly need drivers for guests without transport, people to help in the kitchen (washing-up etc), to decorate church and tables and particularly to befriend guests when they come. Please contact Janet, the Baptist Administrator, if you are able to help. She is usually in her office in the mornings.

The CTC Committee are manning a stall outside the Co-Op on Thursday, November 26th to distribute details of all the churches' events and services during Advent and Christmas. We are grateful that a leaflet is being prepared and printed by Rosemary Gooding and her husband, and Rosemary will be on hand to help organise and distribute leaflets from about 8am.

Finally, we are looking and planning ahead to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, when each church will be inviting other Cranleigh Christians to join them in services or prayers. The main United Service will be at our church on January 17th at 6.30pm, (at the beginning of the Week). Please book this date and consider joining with other denominations in their various services and prayers throughout the week.

Glenda Sewell

FUND RAISING FOR THE ALTERATIONS PROJECT

We have had one event each month since May, raising £1,400 to date. We hope that you have enjoyed taking part in the various activities that have been organised.

By the time you read this, the November Dance and Music concert will have taken place.

December looks like being busy as usual, so we are giving that month a miss, but we are planning more events in 2016.

January – talents – we will be looking for volunteers, who will be given £5 each to use and increase in any way they like, returning the £5 plus profit in February. So start thinking what you might be able to do – you all have many talents.

March – Auction of Promises

We will be asking for your 'promises' during February – could you offer to bake, garden, transport, sew, mend, entertain etc for someone else?

The list of promises will be published in early March and then you are all invited to the 'Auction' on Saturday 12th March at 6pm, which will include a fish and chip supper if you would like one. The only charge will be to cover the cost of the fish and chips and then it is up to you what you wish to bid for.

OCCASIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH

Following the success of the lunch after church in August, we have decided to do another one in February - on 28th February.



The main purpose of this is just to have lunch together and enjoy each others company. There will be no charge, but any donations to cover expenses would be gratefully received.

Please pop the date in your diary if you would like to join us.

THE 18TH CAMEL



There was a father who left 17 camels as an asset for his three sons. When the father passed away, his sons opened up the Will. The father's Will stated that the eldest son should get $\frac{1}{2}$ (half) of total camels while the middle son should be given $\frac{1}{3}$ rd (one third) and the youngest son should be given $\frac{1}{9}$ th (one ninth) of the total camels.

As it was not possible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other.

So, the three sons decided to go to a wise man.



The wise man read the Will patiently. The wise man, after giving it due thought, brought one camel of his own, and added the same to 17. That increased the total to 18 camels. Now he proceeded to carry out the deceased father's wishes. Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 camels. $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 camels. $\frac{1}{9}$ th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 camels. Now add this up: 9 plus 6 plus 2 is 17 and this leaves one camel, which the wise man took back. Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th camel i.e. the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th camel the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times. However, to each a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any!

ACTION FOR CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED CHILD REFUGEES HOW CAN WE HELP?

Action for Children (AfC) is working with Kent County Council to place child refugees, arriving from Calais without any other family members, into foster homes in Kent and London. In order to concentrate support and expertise, these children are all being placed in families in these two areas.

Traditionally, we, as a church, support Action for Children throughout December in a number of ways.

This year, please consider helping unaccompanied child refugees, as well as other children, in the following ways:

Gift Service, Dec 13th, – please donate gift tokens suitable for teenagers (eg Boots, WH Smith, M&S, itunes, etc) or cash, to give these children something for Christmas.

Rather than buy and send members of the congregation individual Christmas cards, sign the AfC greetings poster at the back of the church and place a donation in the box.

Support the Christmas Concerts on 12th and 22nd December, the proceeds from which will go to AfC, as will the offertory on Christmas Day.

The refugee problem is immense and this is a small way that we can help, through a charity associated with the Methodist Church.

Thank you all so very much for your continuing generosity.



17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

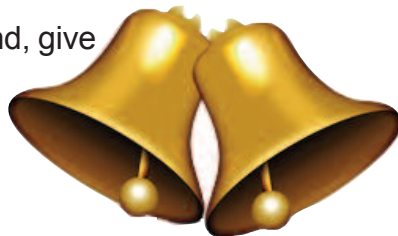
Lord thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it at all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talent in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen



MUSICAL NOTES

Christmas is often a busy season for musicians, and this year is no exception!



Cranleigh Choral Society, together with choirs from Cranleigh School, are presenting Britten's cantata 'St Nicolas' and other festive Christmas items, on Sunday November 29th, in Cranleigh School Speech Hall. Tickets cost £15 (£12 concessions) and can be obtained from Brian, Teresa, John (Potter) or me.

Our own church choir, with our usual willing helpers, are planning two Christmas concerts in December. The first, an informal one, is being planned as part of our Community Tea on Saturday, December 12th, when we hope both to entertain our guests and to invite them to join us in singing favourite items. There will be instrumental items as well and of course a good tea! We hope to present much of the same programme on Tuesday, December 22nd at Elmbridge Village, beginning at 3pm. We would be pleased to receive any donations to our usual Methodist charity 'Action for Children' which is still in great need of funds.

Our Carol Service, conducted by our own Rev. Brian Treharne, is at 10.30 on Sunday, 20th December, and will include many of your favourite carols as well as items from the choir. On the same day, at 6.30 in St Nicolas Church, some of us will be joining the choir for the Village Carol Service, always a much anticipated, popular event. Please do join us!

Glenda

WONERSH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Worship Services 11.00am every Sunday

Christmas Day Service at 9.15am start the day the right way -
A short but joyous Service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ led
by our Minister the Rev Phillip Jones.

“**Wonersh Churches together**” events in December

Thursday 17th December at 2.30pm A Seniors Christmas Carol
Service and tea at Wonersh URC . The Service will be led by
Rev Liz Tilley.

7.00pm Friday 18th December the Godalming Band will again be
leading your carol singing from the balcony of the Sports pavilion
(Opposite the URC) - if the weather is kind to us, otherwise we will use
the Memorial Hall. Bring the whole family, wear warm clothes and bring
a lantern. We will supply carol sheets and the festive refreshments.....

Our exchange or loan library (combined with our Thursday T @ 3 café.)
will be open from 3.00pm until 4.00pm on Thursdays and of course
Sunday mornings before and after our 11.00am Services, during the
Christmas period and throughout 2016. I don't need to remind you that
the library is free and T @ 3 is totally message free, unless of course
you need a friendly ear !

BOOKS-R-US ! If you are looking for a good cause to donate books to
then look no further ! ('Phone me if you need them picked up.)....

Meanwhile – We wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Chris Cozens Tel 01483 892579 / 07443399729

email candmcozens@tiscali.co.uk

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS AS WE AGE ...

The biggest lie I tell myself is ... “I don't need to write
that down, I'll remember it.”

At my age “Getting lucky” means walking into a room and
remembering what I came in there for.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met
yet!

I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs
work.

The kids text me “plz” which is shorter than please. I text back “no”
which is shorter than “yes”.

I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do that
second week.

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

Oops! Did I roll my eyes out loud?

CRANLEIGH FOOD BANK

Thank you for your continuing support for the
Food Bank and the people who use it. The Harvest Festival
donations from our church, other local churches and schools has meant
that we are very well stocked with many items at the moment.

However we do still require tinned meat and fish, tinned potatoes and
vegetables, tea, coffee and sugar, squash, tomato sauce, toilet paper
and toothpaste.

Any donations of the above items would be very gratefully received.

Thank you all.

Stella

