

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2024



### Calendar

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

##### All Saints

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang  
(followed by refreshments)  
12noon Holy Baptism

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

10am Holy Communion : All Soulside  
5pm Evening Prayer

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

10.30am-12noon Christmas Bazaar

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

##### Third Sunday before Advent Remembrance

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance  
(followed by refreshments)  
4pm Memorial Service

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

7.30pm Mothers Union: Christmas Crafts

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

10am Holy Communion  
2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with pre-school children, please come and join in the fun.  
5pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November

10am Pilgrim Bible Study Genesis 6.1-7.12 *A world in trouble*

#### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November

10am-12noon Mothers' Union Mince Pies and coffee in the Church Hall

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

##### Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang (followed by refreshments)

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

10am Holy Communion  
5pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

2pm Mustard Seed

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

##### Christ the King

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)  
6pm Evensong

#### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

10am Holy Communion  
5pm Evening Prayer  
7.45pm Parochial Church Council

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November

10am Pilgrim Group Genesis 7.13-8.22  
*A world reborn*

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Come and help make Christingles in the Church Hall from 10am

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

##### Advent Sunday

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)  
4pm Christingle (Activities in the hall from 3.30pm)

**MORNING PRAYER** will be said in church at 8.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (check weekly sheet for any changes). You can join us in person or on line. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>



**DISASTERS  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE**

**We are currently collecting for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.** The conflict in the Middle East has affected millions across the region. DEC charities have been delivering life-saving aid in Gaza despite extraordinary challenges. They are also scaling up their responses right now in Lebanon, and working in the West Bank, where many are experiencing violence and displacement. £30 could provide blankets for six people to keep them warm £50 could provide emergency food, for five families for one week £100 could provide emergency shelter for five families. The majority of funds from this appeal will be spent in Gaza and Lebanon, where millions of people are displaced and desperately need humanitarian support. Some of the funds will also be used to support people in the West Bank, where the recent escalation in violence has forced many more to flee their homes, and had a devastating economic impact.



**Buckets will be out in church during November. If you wish to give with your card please go online to: [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)**

## All Soulstide

A prayer by William Penn

"We give back to you, O God, those whom you gave to us. You did not lose them when you gave them to us, and we do not lose them by their return to you. Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die. So death is only an horizon, and an horizon is only the limit of our sight. Open our eyes to see more clearly, and draw us closer to you that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you. You have told us that you are preparing a place for us: prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are, we may also be always, O dear Lord of life and death."

**William Penn (1644-1718)**



# A time of REMEMBERING

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

10am All Souls Eucharist

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10am Parish Eucharist & Act of Remembrance

4pm Memorial service

*- an opportunity to remember loved ones and friends*

Through birth and death, in this world or in others, wherever thou leadest me it is thou, the same, the one companion of my endless life who ever linkest my heart with bonds of joy to the unfamiliar. When one knows thee, then alien there is none, then no door is shut. Oh, grant me my prayer that I may never lose the bliss of the touch of the One in the play of the many. Rabindranath Tagore



**A great celebration at St Paul's Cathedral** to mark 30 years of the priestly ministry of women in the Church of England. Many from the 1994 cohort (including our Jacqueline) attended a Eucharist presided over by the Bishop of London. The final blessing was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury.



**From the sermon by Canon Grace Thomas of Manchester**

What happened in 1994 was the culmination of a lot of work, faithful sacrifice, of undoing and redoing, but the rewards it reaped are very much still stretching into the present. My children see women, including their own mother, as priests because of the brave actions of so many over so many years. I regularly get asked for photographs with women who have come from places where there are no women priests, who have been daring to dream of the possibility. And, so, I stand in deep gratitude to those who paved the way. Because I am hugely humbled, when I listen to the stories, of quite what that journey was for many.

But, it is fair to say that we must remain alert to the call of Jesus to pay attention to those not in the room, so to speak. What is it that we lack today – or who is it that is still not being acknowledged and welcomed, who feel excluded, unsafe and hurt? Still, today, there are so many who do not see representations of themselves in the church.

The movement to ordain women as priests was a bold, faith-filled, movement that sought to undo and redo, to let go and grow. To listen to God's calling and respond, even at great cost. It's genuinely momentous and incredible. And the God who is always faithful has surely rewarded this bravery with a church that is far richer than it was before. It's a reminder of what can happen when we are brave enough to do the work of radical, costly transformation. I pray that, in God's strength, we faithfully continue to take seriously the call of Jesus to notice who is missing, to see what we lack, to do the work of undoing and redoing – because as rich a church as we are now, can you imagine what a church we could be? Amen.

Christ Church Echo Square

# Christmas Bazaar

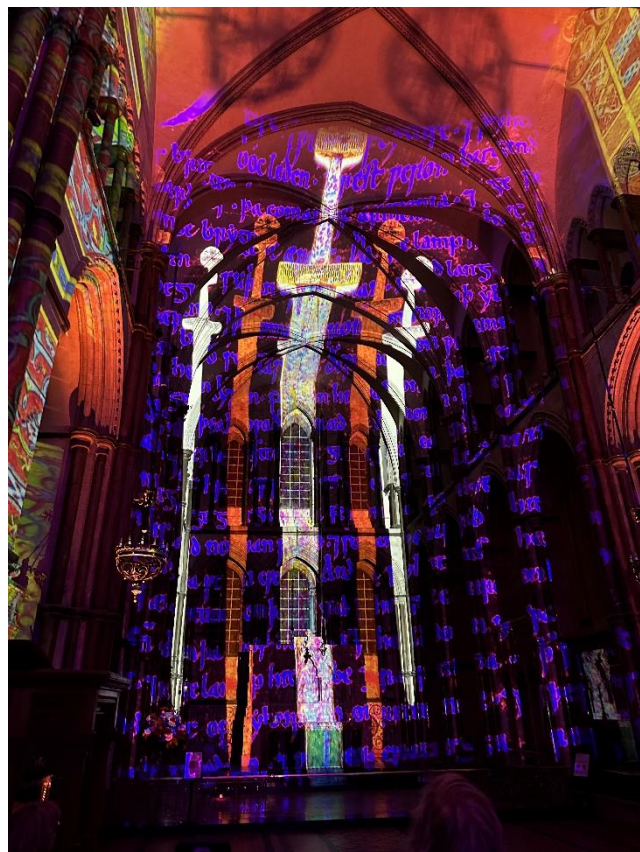
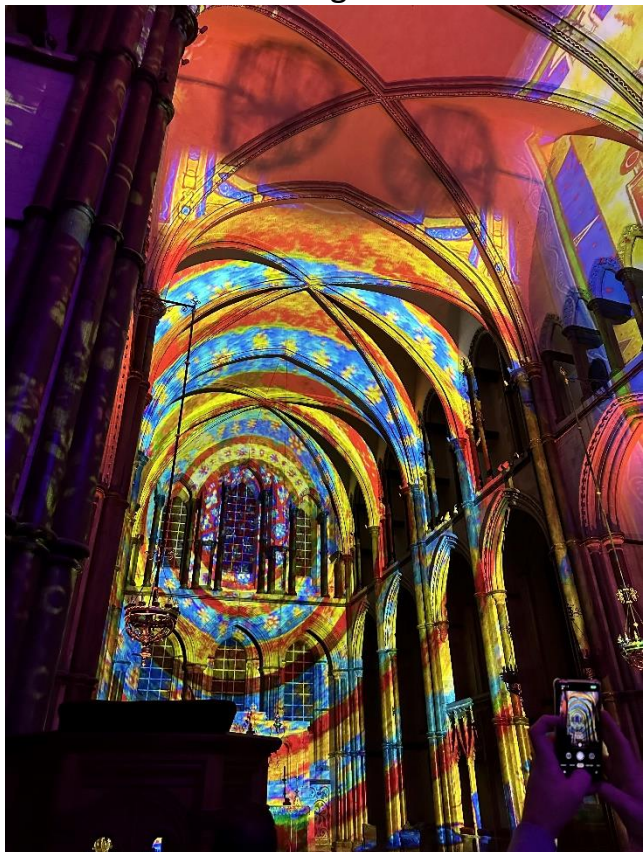
ENTRY £1  
CHILDREN  
FREE

Saturday 9th  
November 2024  
10.30am

Charity No: 1130741

## **Rochester Cathedral Scriptorium: The Illuminated Histories**

In October we were treated to a stunning display of light and colour in our cathedral that brought to life a rich tapestry of Anglo-Saxon artefacts and medieval manuscripts some associated with the cathedral. We saw dragons, knights, monks and Bible stories moving across the walls, disappearing through the arches and drawing our imaginations into the corners of the vaulting.....



## HARVEST HOME

This year we shared our Harvest Weekend with the Gravesend Flower Arrangers. Autumn colours greeted visitors with a variety of shapes and styles in displays. Some of the winning pieces were by members of our own congregation. On Sunday we were joined by our uniformed organisations and Semiquavers for a packed Harvest Eucharist, later we shared a harvest tea and service of Evensong.





**Join us for a Mince Pies and Coffee Morning –**

**Saturday 16th November 10.00 to 12 in the Church Hall.**

Help us raise funds for the charities we support with our Christmas Raffle. All are welcome.



If you would like to donate a new toy for the children of prisoners at Christmas we will be sending them in early December. A box can be found under the table in church. We are also asked for men's socks.



Many thanks for any help can give.

## Christmas Lunch

We shall be going to Bartella's for our 'Christmas' lunch on Tuesday 10th December.

You don't have to be a member of the Mothers' Union to join us. If you would like to come, there is a sign up sheet on our table. You pay on the day and lifts can be arranged. Any queries please speak with Jenny Shoemith.

## A NEW ARCHDEACON

The Bishop has announced the appointment of the new Archdeacon of Rochester who will be arriving early in the new year. The Revd Preb Sandra McCalla is to be the Archdeacon of Rochester.

Prior to her ordination in 2012, The Revd Preb Sandra McCalla was a practising barrister in the City of London for a number of years. After ordination she served her title in the Parish of Poplar and thereafter was the Vicar of St Leonard's Church, Heston, before taking up her post as Chaplain to the Bishop of London on 1st November 2021.



"I look forward to sharing mission and ministry with new friends and colleagues in my new role in the Diocese of Rochester. As I pray for you, I would ask for your prayers as I endeavour to support and serve local communities across the Diocese, implementing the Called Together priorities and sharing the love of Jesus."



## PRAYER CALENDAR

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly Those who are housebound or isolated	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Schools	The children in our church God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	Our emergency services	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	All who have served in war and conflict	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops The interim Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Those who help communicate God's message
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	The Children Society