



Christ Church  
Alsager with St. Luke's  
Oakhanger



Rev Toby May  
Vicar

# The Magazine

October 2011

[www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk)

## All ready for Christmas?

Christmas puddings, mince pies and stollen bites have been on the supermarket shelves for weeks... so it must be October!

Maybe you're really pleased -it means you can start getting ready for Christmas nice and early and have everything prepared. On the other hand, maybe you're one of those for whom Christmas might as well be a decade away - come mid-December you'll be checking the closing times of shops on Christmas Eve -or the latest guaranteed delivery dates for online shopping.

Whether you actually do it or not, if you wrote a list now of all the preparations you will be making for Christmas, what would be on it? And which cause you the biggest headache?

Maybe you will be faced with shopping problems... the annual question of what to buy for Uncle Alfred - why are blokes always the most difficult to find presents for?

Or perhaps your issues are logistical... how do you coordinate the movement of relatives between houses to ensure the right people in the same place at the right time? National Railway timetable makers have it easy by comparison!



Your biggest challenges could be with family politics... negotiating with relatives whose turn it is to visit who or which TV channel to watch can make the UN's job in Afghanistan seem a doddle!

Or what about finances? Trying to keep everyone happy with the presents they expect whilst keeping a tight reign on spending. Perhaps you could offer a few tips to the Chancellor!

Getting ready for Christmas never seems to be easy. But how about this for a different kind of list...

- 1: Worship Fully
- 2: Spend Less
- 3: Give More
- 4: Love All

This is the suggestion of a movement called 'Advent Conspiracy'. It may seem rather unconventional, but how would our Christmas preparations be different if we adopted these priorities?

What if we returned Christ to the start of Christ-mas -planning our time around worshipping him, rather than vice versa?

What if we decided to spend less money on presents -not so that we give less, but in ways that we give more -maybe in time or effort or in the thought or creativity that goes into our gifts?

What if we took the opportunity to think not only about giving to friends and relatives who we expect to receive back from -but also to give in ways that benefit others in our community or overseas?

What if we focussed on showing real love for God and to others, rather than just doing things out of duty or guilt?

All of this may seem irrelevant in October, but we can easily jump onto the Christmas conveyor belt without a thought. It's only when the January credit card bill arrives that we sometimes re-assess... or panic!

This month we'll be looking at the alternative 'to do' list outlined above in the light of the Christmas story. As we do, we'll have the opportunity to re-think our Christmas preparations together, hopefully just in time for a more fulfilling and...

*Happier Christmas!*

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## WHATS ON at CHRIST CHURCH, ALSAGER

For CHILDREN	For YOUTH
Regular weekly events	Regular weekly events
Age 4 11 KIDS For GOD in hall Sundays 11am Babies+Preschool SEE and KNOW in church	Years 7 9 PRO TEENS Sundays 11am
Age 0 5 CHERUBS Parent +Toddlers Mondays 1.30pm 3pm	Years 7 9 P2 (After School Fun) Tuesdays 3..30pm 5pm
Years 4,5 ,6 FUSION After School Club Mondays 3.30pm 4.30pm	Years 7 11 REVIVE ( Youth Club) Fridays 7.30pm 9.30pm
Easter Detectives and other children's special events as advertised	Years 10 13 YOUTH GROWTH GROUP Tuesdays 8pm 10pm
Year 6 About Life and Faith (ALF) Sundays Summer term	
Contact Children's Worker, Hannah Martin for more info about any children's events. <a href="mailto:christchurchfamilies@hotmail.co.uk">christchurchfamilies@hotmail.co.uk</a> 872291, www.christchurchalsager.co.uk	Contact our Youth worker, Jonathan Masters for more info about any Youth Events <a href="mailto:christchurchoyouth@hotmail.co.uk">christchurchoyouth@hotmail.co.uk</a> 872291 or www.christchurchalsager.co.uk
For ADULTS	
Regular weekly events SUNDAY SERVICES 9am Formal , 10.15 Coffee and Doughnuts 11am Informal	SOCIAL EVENTS as advertised for all ages  BANK CORNER PUB QUIZ 18 Thurs fortnightly Contact Jonathan Masters/ Hannah Martin
GROWTH GROUPS Fortnightly For: Friendship, Bible study, Prayer, Socials Contact Toby May to join one 6 groups either Tue/Wed/ Thurs eve or Wed afternoon	PARENTING COURSES Annually Become a better parent! Regular Courses Parents 0 - Daytime with Creche Parenting Teenagers evening
SPACE Tues am 9.30 11.15am Contact Helen May	MENS LUNCH Monthly: 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday 12.30pm Contact Steve Bloor
ALPHA Regular Courses to explore faith Wed evenings 7.30 9.30pm/Mon lunchtime Contact Helen May /church office for next course info	CRAFT GROUP Tues 1pm 3pm Card making, Flower arranging etc Contact Dilys Daniels, Joan Wilkes
WALKING GROUP Local Walks as advertised Sat am and other Contact Andrea/ Geoff Chatterley CRAFT GROUP Tues 1pm 3pm Card making, Flower arranging etc Contact Dilys Daniels, Joan Wilkes	BOWLING GROUP Tues 1.30pm 3.30pm Indoor Carpet Bowls: Contact Harry Hackett  TRIPS OUT with lifts arranged as advertised Contact Kath Morris
PRAYER WORKS Sun 6.30pm As advertised. Prayer Times for whole church PRAYER MINISTRY All 11am Sunday Services, some 9am	COFFEE and COMMUNION MONTHLY 3rd Thursday 10.30am 12noon Service and Social Contact Adrienne Whitby for lifts/ more info

## Whats On:

**Murder Mystery Evening-  
New Date - 12 November**

# Murder Mystery

## The reunion

**7.30 pm**

**Saturday 12th November**

**Christ Church Hall**

**35 Church Road, Alsager, ST7 2HS**

Food will be served whilst you partake in the mystery  
Tickets are free but places are limited  
Please bring your own drink

For more information or to  
book tickets contact  
Christ Church office on  
01270 872291 or email  
[christchurchoffice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christchurchoffice@hotmail.co.uk)



## Dates for your Diary

### Newcomers Lunch

Sunday 6th November after the 11am service. If you are new to Christ Church and would like to join us for lunch and get to know other people see Toby, Helen or Debbie to reserve your place.

### Prayer Day at Rudyard Lake

Saturday 8 October - 10am - 4 pm  
A day for the whole church to explore prayer. It will include talks on prayer, times for guided prayer, listening to God and personal reflection, in a beautiful location. Speak to Andrea Chatterley or Mark Edwards for more information, or Debbie in the office to book your place.

### Healing Ministry Weekend

with Bishop Graham Dow here at Christ Church March 2nd-4th 2012 .  
More details will follow next month.

### Memorial & Thanksgiving Service

6.30pm 13 November - see page 6.

### Christmas Party

10 December - details to follow!

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### Christ Church Walkers All welcome

1. September 17<sup>th</sup> - Shutlingsloe & Macclesfield Forest - 6 mile walk with lunch at nearby Pub.
2. October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 6 mile walk (4.5 optional depending on the weather) - lunch potentially at the Cheshire View.
3. November 26<sup>th</sup> - Flash - a 6 mile walk around England's highest village. Lunch at the Travellers Rest in Flash.
4. Post Christmas excesses walk -off - Possibly 27<sup>th</sup> December (date to be confirmed) 5.5 mile walk in the Manifold Valley.

We meet at 9.30am in the Church Car Park. Everyone welcome. Strong shoes or walking boots and a waterproof are recommended. Details will also appear on the Church notices and website.

*Geoff Chatterley*

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### Alpha course - places still available -

The Alpha course offers a popular, informal opportunity to explore the Christian faith and this autumn's group has started on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. There are still places available for anyone who would like to join us.



Please speak to Debbie in the Church Office (Tel: 872291) or speak to Toby or Helen if you would like to take part.

## ***From Cheshire to China***

### **Great Wall of China Sponsored Walk**

Beverley Steel and her daughter Eileen are walking a section of The Great Wall of China to raise money for Tearfund - a Christian relief and development agency.

If you'd like to sponsor them you can do so on-line at [www.justgiving.com/aileensteel](http://www.justgiving.com/aileensteel)



#### **Cheshire consultations**

Cheshire East are consulting residents on future plans for Alsager. If you are interested in the development of our town, then please complete the Place Shaping questionnaire at: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ldf)



*Youngsters enjoying Go Kart rides at a recent 'Fusion' event for local children.*

#### **Thank you!**

Thank you to all of you who give time and money to Christ Church and St Luke's. Thank you too to those who use your gifts and talents. It's a fantastic practical expression of our love for God and for our neighbours!

It enables us to do so much as a church, within our community and around the world. Over the next few weeks, we will be planning how to use our time, money and talents during 2012. With Hannah and Jonathan's courses coming to an end soon, we will especially be considering how we can use our time, money and

talents for the benefit of the children and young people of our church and community.

Do look out for more information and pray about how you could get involved!

***Toby May***



#### **Alsager Friends of Christie's**

*Dates for your diary*

##### **Table Top Sale in the Civic Centre**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September – 9am - 12 noon

##### **Street Collection in Alsager**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

##### **Early Bird Christmas Shop**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Bank Corner – from 7pm. Over 20 stalls selling jewellery, bags, clothing, jams and chutneys, gardening items. Entry £1 – pay on the door

##### **Colours of Christmas**

Flower Arranging for Christmas by Melanie Rowley of Flower Passion in Chapel Mews, Alsager.

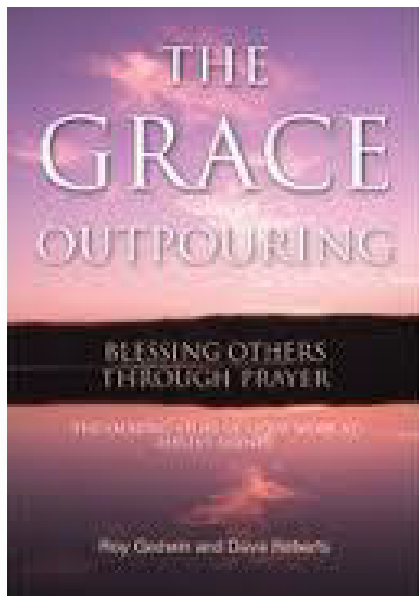
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – 7.30pm  
Refreshments available – tickets £5

##### **Coffee and Mince Pies**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Bank Corner  
9.30am - 1pm – tickets £2.50

We need more people to help us run our fund raising events – perhaps to collect tickets, or sell Christie branded merchandise, or to serve tea or coffee.

If you would like to help us contact 01270 874784 or 01270 873182, or come and see us at one of the above events.



# Read any good books lately?

## Book reviews

If you've read anything you've found particularly helpful or would like to recommend to others, why not write a short review for *The Magazine*?

This month, we have two reviews and recommendations ...

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Things new and old ...

### Celebration of Discipline

By Richard Foster (ISBN 0-340-25992-2)

First published in 1980 and still in print, Richard Foster's devotional handbook, *Celebration of Discipline* has become something of a contemporary classic, widely admired across the various Christian traditions. It's a lot less 'heavy' than it sounds - don't let the rather intimidating term 'discipline' put you off!

Writing from an American evangelical Quaker perspective, Richard Foster outlines what he calls the 'classic' spiritual disciplines and provides practical advice on their application today. The disciplines or practices are:

The 'Internal Disciplines' - *meditation, prayer, fasting and study*; the 'Outward Disciplines' such as *simplicity, solitude, submission and service*. A third section deals with 'Corporate Disciplines' that can be adopted by churches or fellowships, such as *confession, worship, guidance and celebration*. Foster brings a wise pastoral perspective along with scriptural examples and insights from the writings of mystics, contemplatives and spiritual guides from within the Quaker, the evangelical and charismatic and the more Catholic traditions. Subsequent editions have been updated but coming back to my original copy after many years, I found that much of it has stood the test of time. Foster writes in an encouraging and non-judgemental way with insight, common sense and gentle humour. It might not be the last word on these issues but it's certainly a good place to start for anyone wishing to explore a disciplined approach to a personal and corporate devotional life.

*Philip Williams*

### The Grace Outpouring

by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts  
(ISBN 978-1-84291-404-5)

I read this book over two days as I found it really hard to put down!

It's about God's amazing and far-reaching work through a Christian retreat in Pembrokeshire.

I'd recommend it on a number of levels: Firstly, for anyone wanting to explore the work of God the Holy Spirit further, this book is packed with marvellous examples of people's lives being changed after encountering God through His Holy Spirit. Secondly, it can really influence the way we approach prayer, introduce others to Jesus and interact with people generally. Thirdly, the book recommends a way to prepare for and conduct group prayers.

At just under 200 pages, the book is easy to read and contains enough biblical references to make sense of all that's going on at this amazing place on a hillside near Fishguard.

I'd be delighted to lend the book out.

*Janice Mills*



More details of the Ffald-y Brenin retreat centre can be found at: <http://www.ffald-y-brenin.org/>

**MON 31st OCT**

**Christ Church Hall 4:30-7pm**

# LIGHT NIGHT

An alternative to halloween party

An evening of fun & food for  
5-11 year olds. Parents also welcome.

Feel free to come dressed as superheroes as  
there will be a prize for the best superhero costume!  
(Please no halloween costumes)

Please reserve your place by ringing Christ Church  
office on 01270 872291 or email Hannah Martin  
at christchurchfamilies@hotmail.co.uk

## Thanksgiving & Memorial Service

Sunday 13 November 2011  
6.30pm Christ Church

All are invited to join bereaved families at this special service, not only those who have been bereaved during the last year, but also anyone who would like to remember and give thanks for a departed loved one.

It will be a quiet and reflective service, where we will remember by name all those who are wished to be mentioned. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in their memory and prayers will be offered for relatives and friends. Tea and coffee will be served in the church hall afterwards.

Please invite anyone you think may appreciate this special service.

*Adrienne Whitby*



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We are pleased to display adverts for local businesses and services. **Please note:** inclusion does not imply endorsement by the leaders or congregations at Christ Church Alsager and St Luke's Oakhanger.

**To advertise** contact Debbie on 872291.

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# Christ Church services

Teaching series: 'Advent Conspiracy -The cost of Christmas'

**Sunday 2 October: '... Worship Fully'**

*Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20. Mary and the shepherds*

9am Formal service

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 9 October: '... Spend less'**

*Matthew 6:19-34 - resisting consumerism and debt*

9am Holy Communion

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 16 October: '... Give more'**

*John 1:1-14. God gives Himself. Our response?*

9am Formal service

11am Informal communion service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 23 October: '... Love all'**

*Luke 4:16-21. Compassion for the poor at Christmas.*

9am Holy Communion

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 30 October:**

**New teaching series 'Trusting God more'**

*Joshua 1:1-11 The road to success*

9am Holy Communion

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 6 November: Spies surprise!**

*Joshua 2*

9am Formal service

11am Informal communion service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Coffee & Communion** (an informal communion with social time afterwards)

10.30am on third Thursday of each month in Church Hall and second Tuesday of each month at Dennis Round Court (except August) 10.30am. Call Adrienne Whitby on 875072.

*Drivers needed - please see Adrienne if you can help.*

## Oakhanger services

**All services 6.30pm at St Luke's Church, Taylor's Lane  
Joint Anglican/Methodist.**

Sunday 2 October Communion service with Michael Guy

Sunday 16 October Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Toby May

Sunday 23 October Songs of Praise with Michael Guy

**Harvest Supper**

7pm Friday October 21st in the Methodist Centre followed by an auction.

**Details of Oakhanger services:**

Bryan Davies 01270 872820

bryan.davies57@sky.com.

Michael Guy 01270 878226

mrg@dunnock.demon.co.uk



Christ Church  
Alsager with St. Luke's  
Oakhanger

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## All Welcome

Everyone is very welcome at our services. Our 9am service is more formal with traditional hymns and our 11am service has a more informal style with contemporary worship-songs.

We hope you find a warm welcome at both.

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## Thanksgiving and Memorial Service

Sunday 13 November

6.30pm - see page 6.

*All welcome*

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## CONTACTS

**Vicar:** Rev Toby May

Tel: 01270 873727

**Church Office**

35 Church Road, Alsager,  
Cheshire ST7 2HS

Debbie Preston

Tel: 01270 872291

(Mon-Fri 10am - 2pm)

Email: christchurchoffice@  
hotmail.co.uk

**Magazine editor:** Phil Williams

4 Derwent Close.

Tel: 882060

p.williams@waitrose.com

**Deadline for submissions for  
November 2011 Magazine:**

**Friday 28 October 2011**

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