



A warm welcome to  
**St. Mary's Uttoxeter & The Heath  
Mission Church**  
Part of the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes

**JANUARY 2020 NEWS AND NOTICES**

Whether you worship here often or not, we hope you find God's love throughout your time with us.

**[www.uttoxetercofe.org](http://www.uttoxetercofe.org) for all our weekly events and more.**

**WHAT'S ON.....**

**January**

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Living Faith Course begins – see fliers/website for info.	7.30 – 9pm @ St Peter's Alton
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Breakfast	8.30am @ Strawberry Farm (Charles D)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Session 2 of the Bible Course	9.30am & 6pm services – books available.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	PCC meeting in Elkes Room	7.30pm for PCC members. (Observers welcome!)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Places of Welcome re-starts weekly in church. Uttoxeter Filling Station – “The Authority and Power of Scripture” with Rev Brian Leathers	10am to 12 noon, for a chat, a drink and a smile! 7.30 – 9.30pm @ Stramshall Village Hall, ST14 5DL
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Session 3 of the Bible Course Prayers and Pub Discussion	9.30am service only. 6pm in church, 6.30 at “The Horse and Dove”
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	20:20 prayer for the country and for spiritual growth	Pray for 20 minutes at 20:20, or 8.20pm – see below
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Churches Together Service for Prayer for Christian Unity - “Unusual Kindness” (Malta & Gozo)	2pm at St Mary's RC Church, Balance St.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Session 4 of the Bible Course Session 3 of the Bible Course CAMEO LUNCH – with a Scottish theme!	9.30am service 6pm service 12.30pm – sign-up via clipboards with menu choices.
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Session 5 of the Bible Course Session 4 of the Bible Course	9.30am service 6pm service

Clergy - Rev Margaret Sherwin [mjsherwin@btinternet.com](mailto:mjsherwin@btinternet.com) 560234 / 07541993969  
Rev Chris Brown [revchrishbrown@icloud.com](mailto:revchrishbrown@icloud.com) 567492  
Rev Charles Dale [revcharles.dale@btinternet.com](mailto:revcharles.dale@btinternet.com) 500428 / 07720 709088

## CHRISTMAS – what did occur?

Do you know how many people came to the Crib and Christingle, the Midnight Communion and the Christmas Morning services?

In total, there were 109 children and 225 adults who heard the Good News of Jesus' birth and were encouraged to "Follow the Star". The children were all given a story book as a gift too, donated to the church.



The Christmas Fair raised £1212.81, the church was so full for the school nativities that grown-ups were in the balconies and the 1<sup>st</sup> Live Nativity was immensely well-supported despite mis-behaving megaphones and donkey (the sheep, Mary and the baby were fabulous though!).

And the Tree Festival just keeps on giving and growing. It's becoming a community-wide event, with new organisations making contact and wanting to join in next year. Some sessions were deserted, some were very busy, but a huge thank you to all who helped, with special mention to Nola.

The Café Christmas Lunch was fully booked and another success, and 9 of us shared a traditional lunch with crackers and nonstop chatter on Christmas Day.

The Social and Fund-raising Committee, the Café teams and the PCC all hope that everyone was able to serve and be served during December in some social way. If you have any ideas or offers to help our events to be more successfully, please to chat with anyone who is in an apron, a dog-collar, in the office or on a list – it probably means they will know something useful!

## Area Prayers for January 2020.

Please use these prayers as often as possible during each week of this month, to support each other in new beginnings.

### Week of January 5th

Please pray for the 1st meeting of the Area Team Council on Monday 6th. Pray for the Staff members, Margaret, Joe, John L, Lucy and Maggie, and for the 10 Lay Reps from each of our 10 PCCs. Pray also for Bas as the Area Treasurer and 11th lay rep, and for Lesley, in supporting the admin of the meetings. Pray that everyone will respond to the message of Epiphany, of gifts and of light.

### Week of January 12th

Please pray for the creation of the Area Finance Team, led by Bas, and for discernment for that team in managing the finances of the Area account.

### Week of January 19th

Please pray about the ongoing spiritual battles that challenge our clergy and readers, that they would be strong and confident in their ministry to us. Thank God for Margaret, Joe, Charles, Chris, John, Irene and Ann, and for Maggie and Lucy. And ask God to be preparing the right vicar to join our Team soon in the 4 Marchington area churches.

### Week of January 26th

Thank God for the Area Celebration Team, for their gifts of creativity, music, and discipleship to others. Pray that they are encouraged to plan services, social events and days to build up our sense of being an Area together.

## ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR.....

- ✠ **Those in our widest church family who need God's love and healing** – especially anyone living with dementia, and other long-term life-limiting conditions, their families and carers.
- ✠ **Our new MP, Kate Griffiths, for local and national governments** – for healing, unity and work that builds up community and family in every sense.
- ✠ **Everyone who has worked so hard for Christmas** in our church, and a special thank you to all who have helped out with stalls, catering, welcoming and stewarding at so many events.
- ✠ **For everyone who is feeling the loss of a special person** including the families & friends of Rose Beard, Mike Hayes, Basil Sutton, Frances Mellor, George Hunt, Joyce Haddrell and Teresa Phillips. Teresa was from Checkley, but recently a faithful member of our Wednesday congregation and her funeral will be on Friday Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at St Mary and All Saints, Checkley at 2pm.



### Monday 20th January 2020

Father, as we start Prayer 2020, we ask that this year we will carry your light into every place we go and share your good news with those we meet. May we walk and work in unity to reveal your love and goodness (John 8:12).

## A letter from one of the Area Staff Team.

Happy New Year! Another twelve months have rolled past, and it's a new year, and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our churches. Well, in the "management" of our mission, with the new Area Team Council meeting for the first time on January 6th. Look out for the challenges from Margaret as she invites us to look for our 20;20 vision, for ourselves, our churches, and our communities.

But what about something for each one of us to engage with 2020? Hope UK are encouraging us to pray for 20 minutes, on the 20th of each month, at 8.20pm (20;20!), and we have business cards available to help us all remember to do this too. I'm going to try and do this. Will you?

What will I pray for, in those 20 minutes? Where will I pray? How will I remember to set aside that time each and every month? Will I make some notes to remind me about my prayers?

However I manage to do it, I know that God will be listening and will be responding too. And I know that He will love me for trying, and for wanting to know more about His love and His ways in this life of mine. And at least I don't need to think of any more New Year's Resolutions now - that's already sorted!

Please do pray for all this new activity with the Team Council, using the Area prayers for January (which I have also written!) and be supportive, encouraging and interested as we learn to grow more together as an Area.

Always pleased to see you in person in the Area Office! Come and say hello.

*Lesley White*, Area Coordinator.



Everyday Faith is a Church of England discipleship campaign starting Sunday 12 January 2020 (Plough Sunday). There are 21 days of reflections and prayers to help you find and follow God in everyday life, made available through campaign emails, an app, social media, audio and a booklet from Church House Publishing. Search for "everyday faith", or visit [www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith](http://www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith)

Sheet compiled by Lesley White, notices, thoughts, prompts and ideas all welcome.

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