Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church

CHURC NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2016

Do All Faiths Lead to GOD?

I am inclined to say ***'yes, but'*** rather than ***'no, but'*** – however, the ***'but'*** is vital either way. The question is not about co-operation between religious communities and their leaders, which is surely a given, a necessity for so many reasons. There are still too few opportunities, however, for real spiritual exchange, those occasions when I cannot deny that the God whom I am trying to trust through Jesus is present within someone of another faith tradition.

It is over 50 years since I first engaged theologically with non-Christians. My gain then, as it has been for many, was to appreciate my own faith more deeply, and indeed to change as a believer. Rowan Williams rightly says we should ask of such an other: 'What can you see from there?' He also comments: 'God does not depend on our winning the doctrinal argument.'

When it comes to recognising or respecting other faiths I am attracted to the affirmation of Norman Pittenger: 'Jesus defines but does not confine the Logos of God.' ***So we are not denying the uniqueness of Christ when we recognise his Spirit in other faiths.*** Our own personal faith may change and evolve in encounters with non-Christians – thank God! – especially when we are confident enough in our own core belief. After all, fundamentalism is, contrary to appearances, too often the bolthole of those who lack confidence in a living God. …

Rev Peter Brain

retired convenor of the URC-Methodist interfaith group

and former moderator of the NW Synod

Reprinted from October 'REFORM'

the URC's monthly journal

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Again, this month we pray for all friends and families and members of our congregation who are currently unwell, depressed or anxious. We think especially of Geof Thompson, Jean Murkin, Barbara and Tommy Danson and Bronwen Cameron.

We are very grateful to Hilary Jackson for her many visits to Swann Lane to lead our worship. Hilary has been a good friend and is now off to live in sunny Yorkshire where she and Godfrey will be within striking distance of one of their sons whose family is about to increase by two—new twins, boys, to be born very soon. We wish Godfrey and Hilary much happiness in their new life and their new Church.

As well as Hilary, we had visits from Rev Peter Sharp and Robert Williams along with our own Bernie Stevens, taking our services during October. It was also very good to see Alan back amongst us now he is much better from his attack of shingles.

On behalf of the Leprosy Mission, thanks go to all the people who give their monetary gifts regularly. The list of subscribers is going down as our congregation reduces so if anybody feels like giving, just a few pounds regularly, please see Mavis Davies. Collections take place in April and October. 'Every little helps' to fight leprosy.

On 23 OCT we bade farewell to Louise who has been the pastorate Outreach Worker for the past 3 years. Since May £406 has been raised from Film Nights and £419 from Soup & Sweet. We wish her every success and happiness in her move back to Birmingham, thank her for what she has done at Cheadle Hulme and hope that it won't be too long before we see her again.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning when a total of £186.63 was raised.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Wed 14 DEC - Christmas Lunch 12~2 pm: tickets will shortly be available

The News Team

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Several members were missing at our October meeting at Muriel Prestbury's home. She had a recording of Brian Johnston's (cricket commentator) memorial service for us to listen to but, as we were few in number and one member had to leave early, it was decided to leave this to a future meeting. We therefore just had early refreshments with plenty of conversation.

Muriel was thanked for hosting the meeting and we will next meet at Mavis Davies' home on 2 NOV.

Vivienne Wilson

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Breakfast Before
ON 13 NOV

[every 2nd Sunday]

Menu includes:
Cereal, toast, tea, coffee,
Bacon baps, pancakes or croissant

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LADIES CIRCLE

A dozen or so ladies met on 13 OCT at Joyce Salloway's home. Joyce had organised a picture quiz and a great deal of laughter was had trying to recognise famous people. As always, she provided a wonderful selection of food for refreshments. Thank you Joyce for such a lovely evening.

The November meeting of the Ladies Circle will take place in Church on 17 NOV at 8 pm. It will be an evening of table games to which the Ladies Circle members hope that anyone and everyone interested in a fun evening is invited.

Vera Lees

Thank you to the donors for their recent contribution towards CHURC News.

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WEDNESDAY 9 NOV

Soup, Sweet & Meet

12 noon~2 pm

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ALL

I am sad to be writing this, but as the Community Outreach Worker for Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall URC, my time here has come to an end.

The three years I have been here have flown by, and yet I feel so at home and welcomed into the Church that it's like I've been here for much longer. I am so thankful for the warm welcome and support that I have received in those three years.

For those who don't know, I will be moving away to Birmingham Women's Hospital as a Health Care Science Assistant in their Cytogenetics department – something that is rather different to what I've been doing at Cheadle Hulme URC!

I have really appreciated my time here and believe that the experience and skills I have gained in this role have put me in a good place when it comes to the world of work and a new chapter. I have seen my confidence and people skills grow and am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to be a part of this Church.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me along the way; for the advice and volunteering of time and resources.

I wish everyone at Cheadle Hulme URC all the best for the future, and I will continue to pray for the Church and an exciting vision for the future. I hope to see you all again when I come and visit.

Best wishes, **Louise Everett**

JOINT COMMUNION @ BRAMHALL
6 NOV 10.30 am

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The DEC newsletter will be available on Sunday 27 NOV. You could help to raise funds for our Church charities by inserting a single, personalised greeting instead of sending lots of individual cards. Just put your greeting along with a donation into an envelope marked "Christmas Greetings" and hand to either Alison or myself please by **Sunday 20 NOV.**

Bernie Stevens

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7 pm
Sat 26 NOV
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CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
SAT 3 DEC
10 am—12 noon
Christmas 'Bring & Buy' stall
Traidcraft and a Raffle
Children welcome
All proceeds in aid of
the 4 Church charities

TOYS NEEDED

PLEASE NOTE The annual Toy Service is Sun 27 NOV and needs lots of Good as new items to re-distribute via The Dandelion Community (URC), Wythenshawe.

Bernie

ALEPPO

CHURCHES DEMAND ACTION: The United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church in Wales, the Church of Scotland, Quakers in Britain and the Methodist Church have released a statement calling upon the Syrian and Russian governments and other forces to stop their bombardment of Aleppo.

The humanitarian crisis in eastern Aleppo has become a tragedy. United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has stated that in the two weeks following the collapse of the ceasefire, 376 people have been killed, one third of whom were children, and a further 1266 were wounded. The international humanitarian organisation Medicines Sans Frontieres said recently that there have been 23 recorded attacks on Aleppo's eight hospitals since the end of July. Seeking medical care has become a danger in itself.

The statement below has been signed by leaders from the six churches representing more than one million people in the UK.

The destruction of Aleppo must stop.

We are appalled by the attacks on civilians by the Syrian Government, Russian and other forces. Life is a gift of God. The targeting and killing of civilians can never be passed off merely as a consequence of war. Aerial strikes on homes, hospitals and aid convoys are never acceptable, under any circumstances.

The responsibility for such attacks lies first and foremost with those who have carried them out. But the frequency of such attacks in Syria also underlines a failure on the part of the international community to uphold long-established principles concerning the immunity of civilians in conflict. Member states of the United Nations should seek to hold to account the parties responsible for indiscriminate attacks on men, women, children, hospitals, humanitarian and rescue workers, which could be construed as war crimes.

The world cries out for an end to the death and destruction in Syria that daily adds to the largest flight of refugees since the Second World War. We join with our brothers and sisters of other churches and other faiths in praying for the people of Syria. We claim no simple solution to a complex political reality but offer the simple message of our faith: that every life is valued by God and that the slaughter must end now.

The signatories to the statement are...
The General Secretary of the United Reformed Church – the Revd John Proctor.
The General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain – the Revd Lynn Green.
The President of the Methodist Church – the Revd Dr Roger Walton.
The Moderator for the Church of Scotland – the Right Revd Dr Russell Bar.
Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain – Paul Parker
The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon – the Right Revd John Davies. (1)

A briefing from the Joint Public Issues Team on Syria is available here: http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/countries-of-concern/

URC website

REMEMBRANCE – THE SOMME

Remembrance Day this year will have a special significance. Almost exactly a century after the Battle of the Somme finally came to its in-conclusive end (18th November) we shall once again be remembering all those who have lost their lives in war, or had their lives blighted by its consequences.

The unbelievable slaughter of the Somme – more than a million men were killed or wounded – made it perhaps the bloodiest

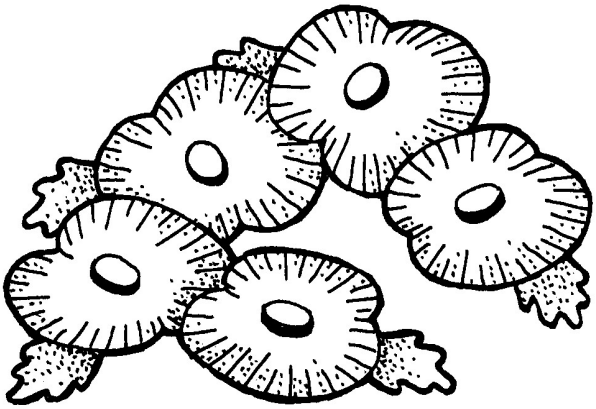
battle of human history. The incessant bombardment of heavy artillery, the suicidal waves of attack by unprotected soldiers, the introduction, a few months from its close, of the first tanks in battle all contributed to the vast number of casualties, but so did the pointless efforts of both sides to break what was in fact a five month stalemate. **This was a battle nobody won but a million men lost.**

This year we shall once again make our prayers for peace and our reflective remembrance against a back-drop of a world that is stubbornly inclined to think that problems can be solved by fighting over them. In the Middle East and in parts of Africa there are still too many who believe that guns and bombs can solve things, when all the evidence of history is that they can't.

Today, a hundred years after the Battle of the Somme, historians still can't decide what the Great War was actually about. And the arrival of the Second World War in 1939 tells us that whatever anyone thought it was, five years of sickening killing had not settled it.

'We will remember them', we say. Surely the finest remembrance would be a world without violence. It still seems a long way off.

David Winter
Parish Pump

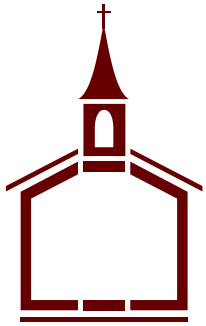


SCARE IT

A man had the courage - but not always the skills - to tackle any home-repair project. For example, his garage was littered with the pieces of a lawn mower he had tried to fix. One day his wife found him in the living room, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "I can't get this thing to cooperate!" he exclaimed. His wife replied, "Why don't you just drag it out to the garage and show it what happened to the lawn mower?"

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on:



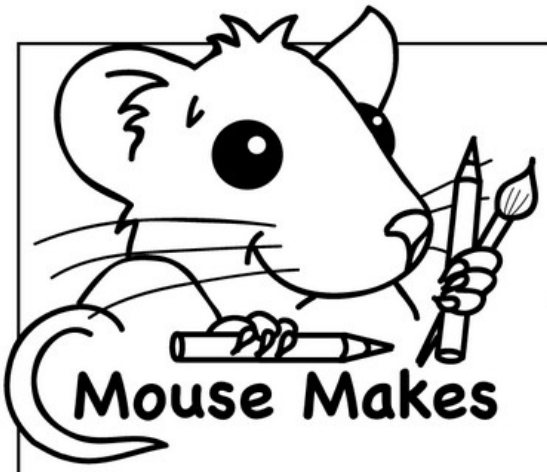
6 November Emmanuel (CofE) The minister, Anthony Barnshaw and the fellowship as they encourage each other and serve God in the community.

13 November St Andrew's (CofE) The wardens, lay readers and PCC as they lead the fellowship during the inter-regnum period. For wisdom to know who to appoint as vicar to St Andrew's.

20 November Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme 23rd November-Meeting to Praise and Worship together and to support and encourage each other .

27 November St Ann's (RC) Support for the Alpha course on Monday evenings-for everyone leading and praying together. For young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The fellowship will be a praying church, supporting those in need and encouraging each other to serve God in the community.

PRAYER AND PRAISE
WED 23 NOV
Emmanuel Church
7 pm

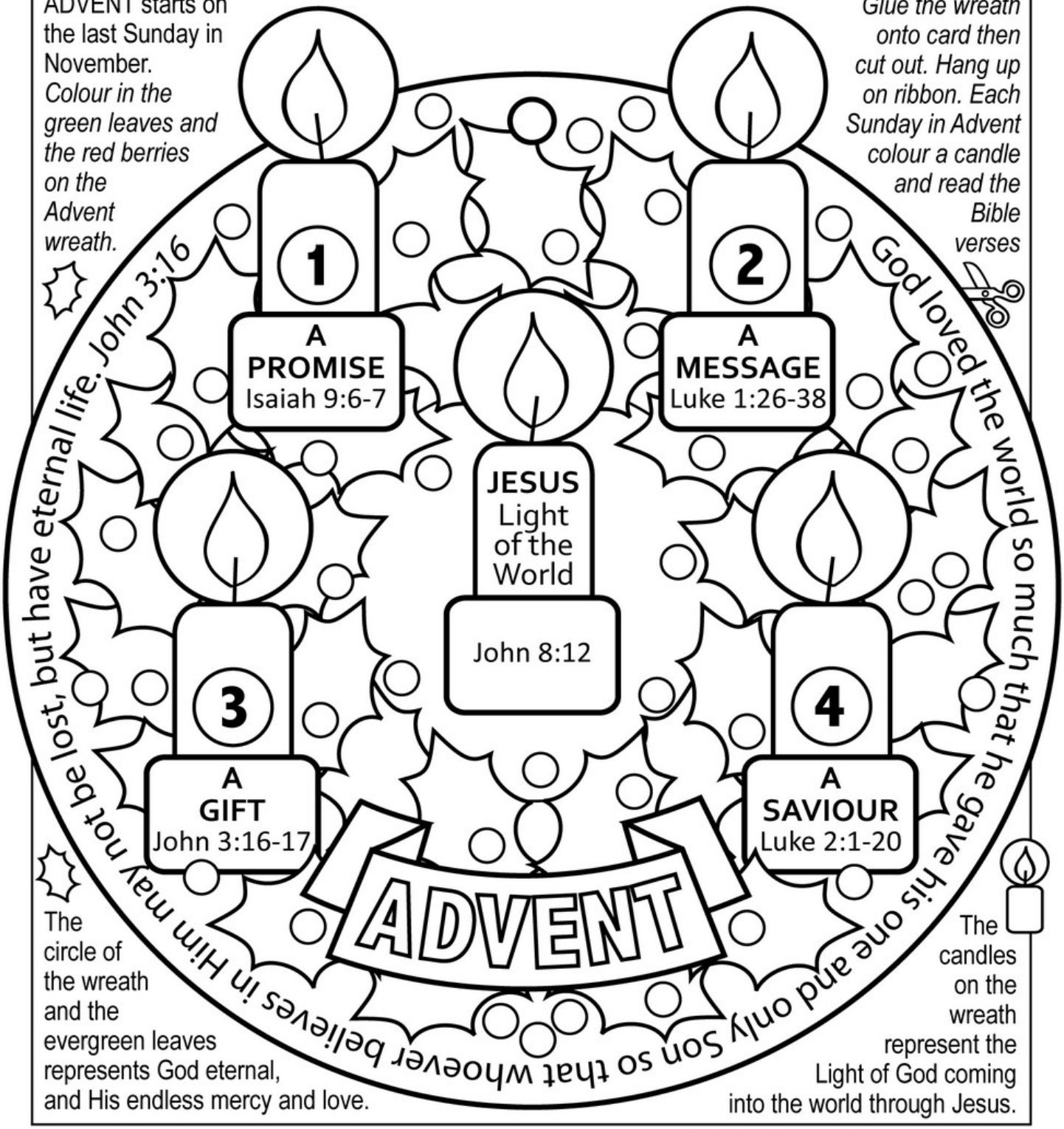


Jesus is coming, ADVENT is here!

Advent is the time we celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who is God's Son and our Saviour. In Advent we remember
God's promise to the world,
God's message to Mary,
God's gift to us and
God's promise come true in Jesus.

ADVENT starts on the last Sunday in November. *Colour in the green leaves and the red berries on the Advent wreath.*

Glue the wreath onto card then cut out. Hang up on ribbon. Each Sunday in Advent colour a candle and read the Bible verses



The circle of the wreath and the evergreen leaves represents God eternal, and His endless mercy and love.

The candles on the wreath represent the Light of God coming into the world through Jesus.

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SERVICE DETAILS & DUTIES

Readers: Please double-check your bible references upon arrival at church.

Elders and Readers: If you cannot do a duty, **please arrange your own swap**, notify Glyn Elsden **and** mark it up on the **master copy** on the foyer notice board.

On arrival, always check notice board for last minute changes.

	6 NOV	**13 NOV**	**20 NOV**	**27 NOV**	**4 DEC**
Service	Morning Worship/ Communion	Remembrance Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
Time	**9.30** & **10.30** am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	**JOINT SERVICES AT BRAMHALL including COMMUNION**	Rev'd Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev'd Alan Poolton	Bernie Stevens & Heather Frankish
Reader		V Wilson	V Lees	H Elsden	B Platt
Duty Elder		S Smith	H Frankish	B Stevens	G Elsden
Door Duty		V Wilson	D Green	H Elsden	B Platt
Flowers		Poppies	M Wightman	P Grieve	J Dickson
Coffee		B & A Stevens	V Wilson / M Wightman	A & S Altree	V Elliott / M Hardie
Notes	**JOINT SERVICE**	**Breakfast Before HOLY COMMUNION**		**ADVENT SUNDAY** **TOY SERVICE**	**CHRISTINGLE**

CHURCH REGISTERS

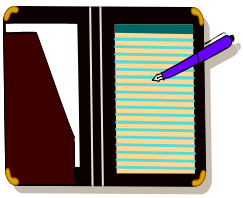
none

Someone out there must be very good at Scrabble!

Presbyterian = Best in prayer
Astronomer = Moon starer
Desperation = A rope ends it
The eyes = They see
George Bush = He bugs Gore
The Morse Code = Here come dots
Dormitory = Dirty room
Slot machines = Cash lost in me
Animosity = Is no amity
Election results = Lies; Let's recount
Snooze alarms! = Alas! No more Z's
A decimal point = I'm a dot in place
The earthquakes = That queer shake
Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one

CALENDAR

.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better.....



NOVEMBER

Tues 01	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ church	8 pm	Badminton Club
Wed 02	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Mavis Davies' home		
Thu 03			7.30 pm	Elders' meeting ~ Church
Fri 04	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 05	10.00 am	**COFFEE** MORNING in aid of Church charities		
Sun06				
Mon 07			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 08	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm	Badminton Club
Wed 09	12 noon-2pm	Soup and Sweet ~ Church		
Thu 10	8.00 pm	Worship Group ~ Manse		
Fri 11	10.00 am	**REMEMBRANCE** DAY EVENT	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 12				
Sun13	2.30 pm	**COFFEE**, CAKE AND QUIZ		
Mon 14			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 15	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ church	8 pm	Badminton Club
Wed 16				
Thu 17			8.00 pm	Ladies Circle ~ Church
Fri 18	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat 19				
Sun20	11.45 am	Management ~church		
Mon 21			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 22	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ church	8 pm	Badminton Club
Wed 23				
Thu 24				
Fri 25	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat 26	7.00 pm	**Film** Night		
Mon 28			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 29	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ church	8 pm	Badminton Club
Wed 30				

DECEMBER

Thu 01				
Fri 02	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat 03	10.00 am	CHRISTMAS **COFFEE** MORNING including stalls		

Copy for **DEC 2016** ***CHURC NEWS*** should be in the editors' hands by **13 NOV 2016**

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