

...a warm welcome to ebenezer...

Hello

Welcome to you if you are new to our church or visiting. Please make yourself at home. If you require help or information, please ask a member of our **Welcome Team**. If you need **prayer** after the service, please feel free to go to the **Prayer Den**. If you have with you **babies, children, young people or those of any age with special needs**, we have groups that cater for their needs – please listen for announcements.

In the event of a fire or emergency incident, please evacuate the building immediately, under the guidance of the Leadership Team.

TODAY

10.30am Morning Worship and Communion

Jesus with the Ladies

6.30pm Enrich

Encounter with Jesus The Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 1st December

10.30am Morning Worship

The First Sunday in Advent

6.30pm Entreat including Communion

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live. *1 Timothy 2:1-3 The Message*

Going Deeper into...

Encounter with Jesus – The Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12

A resource for individuals and groups

Focus on the Sermon:

What did God say to you through the sermon, and what caught your attention?

Questions:

- ⊕ Who are the characters in the passage, what are their motivations, fears and hopes?
- ⊕ What aspects of the passage catch your attention and why?
- ⊕ How does God show his guiding hand in this passage? Who sees God's hand and who doesn't?
- ⊕ What hopes are found in the passage for the child? What lies behind the threat to those hopes?
- ⊕ Who do you identify with in the passage and why?
- ⊕ Those who should have seen God's hand at work didn't, when and why do we lose sight of God's hand at work?

Share with each other something this passage has stirred in you and pray for each other.

Sunday Morning Communion

The date for the next Morning Communion in 2019 is:

15th December



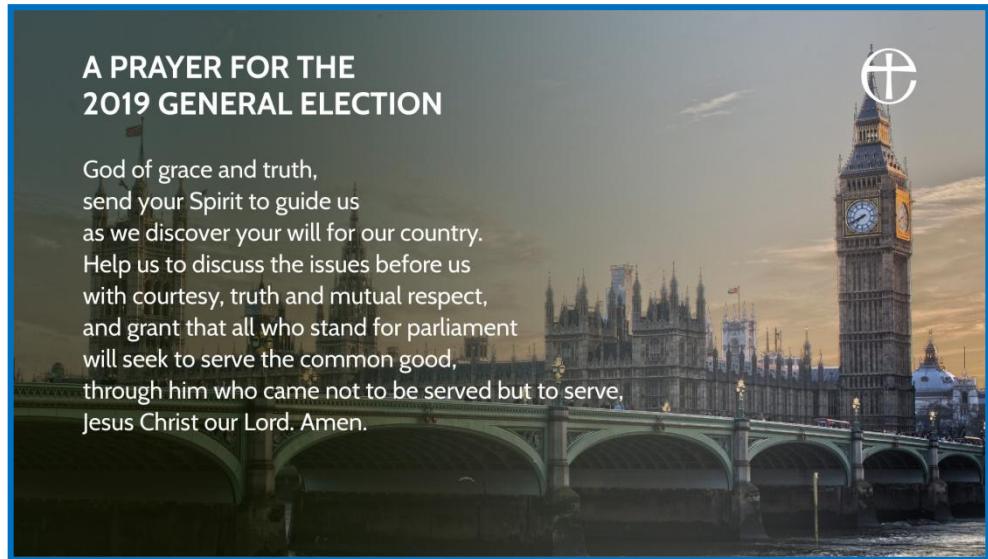
Thank you!!

John Payne says:

Dear friends, I want to thank you for your prayers when I spent five days in hospital. The Lord is so good: I had a number of opportunities to share something of His love with other people. I must say that for a good part of the time I felt carried by Him, and not anxious. Thank you so much for your support in Jesus.

Prayer for the General Election Thursday 12th December 2019

There are various websites that offer guides to praying for the Election. This prayer is from the Church of England.



God of grace and truth,
send your Spirit to guide us
as we discover your will for our country.
Help us to discuss the issues before us
with courtesy, truth and mutual respect,
and grant that all who stand for parliament
will seek to serve the common good,
through him who came not to be served but to serve,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Urgent Appeal

Church Christmas Tree

Urgent Appeal

Phil Gott asks:

Would you and your family/friends like to decorate the Church Christmas Tree?

Advent Sunday is on 1st December, so it would need to be done this week between Monday 25th November and Saturday 30th November.

For more information or to volunteer, please speak to me.
Thank you

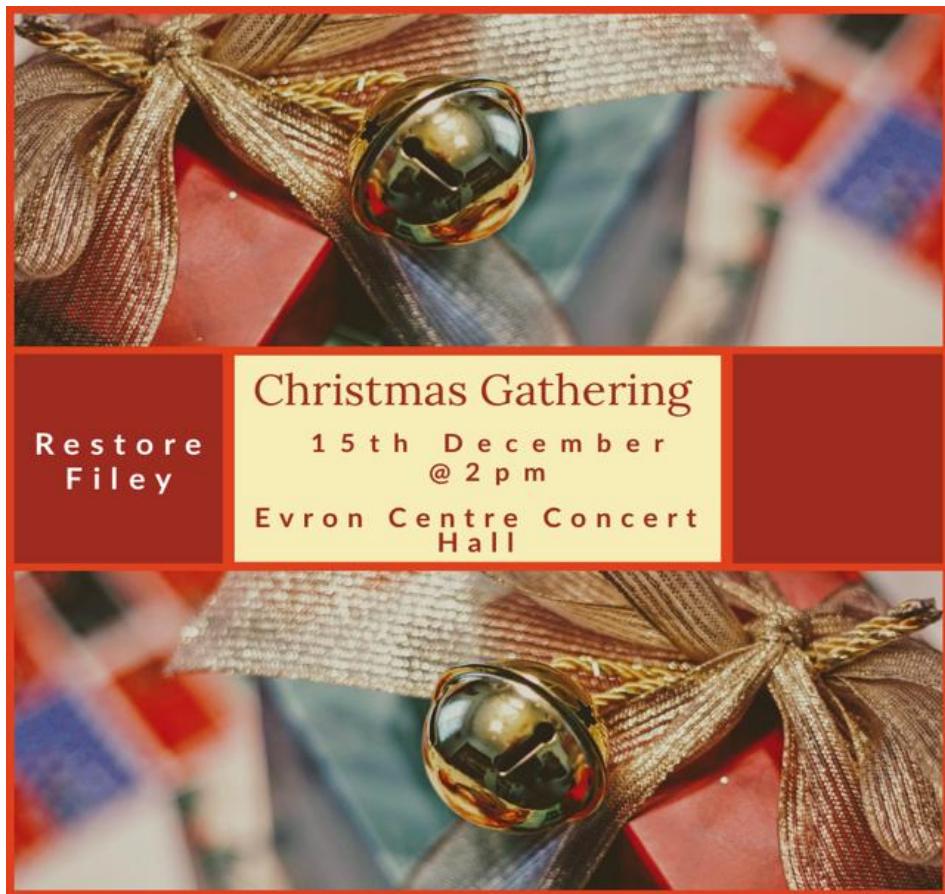


e•news Deadlines Joint Editions

Viv Games, e•news editor says:

There will be a joint edition of e•news on Sundays 1st and 8th December. Please ensure that items for dates between 1st and 14th December are sent to enews@rockofhelp.org.uk by **Wednesday 27th November**. Thank you.

There will be another joint edition of e•news on Sundays 22nd and 29th December. Please ensure that items for dates between 22nd December 2019 and 4th January 2020 are sent to enews@rockofhelp.org.uk by **Wednesday 18th December**. Thank you.



1000 Mile Walk

John Games says:

Ray Beadle and I have accomplished our aim of walking a total of 1000 miles in 2019. We completed the Cleveland Way at the start of Autumn, and through your sponsorship have raised a grand total of £750 towards the Kitchen Refurbishment Fund. Here are photos of some of the wonderful views we enjoyed on our walk.



Reflections on Retreating

Regional Minister the Rev. Mary Taylor recently spent time on retreat. Mary writes:

Shops and Facebook are counting down to Christmas. Christmas shopping is crowding the internet if not, as once upon a time, our high streets. All is busy, busy. On top of the normal rush, schools, churches and public buildings will also be squeezing hustings and polling booths in alongside the carol concerts and nativity plays that normally fill up their halls in the next few weeks. Where will we find the time?

Yet time is a curious gift. Many people have discovered that there is a spiritual reality in which time spent out of the rush enables us to work better, with more focus. The counter-intuitive discipline of slowing down and reflecting before we come to the business of work gives us fresh eyes, creative minds and renewed energy. This holds true of weighing up arguments and evidence before making significant decisions, whether that be at work or in a general election.

Sabbath rest and retreat are a bedrock of Christian spirituality. Sabbath is the gift of time-out weekly to rest and recreate, to connect with God and others; to build wholeness. Simply a walk or a family meal where everyone shares the work and the washing up lets us 'waste' time in love. Longer retreats give us the quiet and space to touch base with our inner health. Reading the Gospels, we know that Jesus took time alone to pray and be quiet with God, who he knew as Father. Sadly, it's easy to think we're too busy for Sabbath time. But we are spiritual beings having a human experience. Therefore, we need to attend to body, mind and spirit. Re-ordering our lives so that we work out of rest is not easy in anxious times but a mark of trust in God's provision of all the time we need.

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'. *Matthew 11:28 (NIVUK)*

Missions Update

The January February issue of BMS World News is available on the church website www.rockofhelp.org.uk

Rainbow Centre Christmas Appeal 2019



Rainbow Centre Christmas Appeal!

The Rainbow Centre is looking for Volunteers to help with wrapping of Christmas presents over the festive period.

We are also asking for donations for food parcels given out over the holidays. We try to make these as Christmassy as possible for those in need.

If you would like to donate presents and toys, we are sorry, but can we ask that these are new and not second hand and appropriate for ages 0-14.

As always the Rainbow Centre wishes to thank everyone who supports us each and every year to help those in need over the festive period.

Any queries please contact Trish 01723 500663



Hoodle Designs Christmas Cards for sale

Hannah Grassam says:

I've rekindled my design enterprise - 'Hoodle Designs' and have some Christmas cards to sell.

Christmas Cards are now available to order.

 **Designs 1 - 4** are £1 each or 5 for £4.50.

 **Design 5** is £1.10 each or 5 for £5.

To place an order please see me or contact me via:

hoodle@me.com or [facebook/Hoodle Designs](#)



A message from the vice chair of Churches Together in Scarborough

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Given all the references in the media concerning natural disasters, extinction of species and climate change and its effects upon our world I have been wondering what impact the church has had on these issues.

While we may or may not agree with some of the information that confronts us surely there is here a wakeup call, or at least an invitation for us to evaluate our relationship to God's creation.

This implies some questions:

- What contribution does our worldview and theology (positively or negatively) have towards these issues?
- How does our view of God, salvation, and our relationship with creation compare with how much God cares for it?
- Is the planet a means to an end or does it have sufficient value in its own right?
- Do we have a voice concerning these changes in the world?
- Do we have a voice in our community?
- If not why not?
- What changes can we make, economically, socially and spiritually to combat the greed and accumulative western lifestyle that poisons our atmosphere and drains the resources of the world faster than it can provide - at the expense of the poor?
- Are we part of the problem or the solution?
- Is an ecologically sustainable lifestyle an important issue as a Christian?
- If so what changes in our lifestyle need to take place?
- Also, could our relationship with our community be enhanced if we took these issues more seriously?
- From a divine perspective, could we make a unique contribution?
- How could all this be implemented?
- Are there tried and tested models we could follow that in this respect could enable us to connect with our communities with God's Love?

If you are also interested in these issues, I'm wondering if you would like to explore them with me. We could meet regularly, pray and see where God leads us! Just let me know and we could set up a social media group and arrange meetings.

Thanks

Bruce Clark (Vice Chair CTIS)

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