

CHRISTMAS FAIR

IS FAST APPROACHING

We desperately need bottles, toys, jewellery and gifts for the Christmas Fair which will be on Saturday 10th December from 10-1 in the Lourdes Hall. Lucy Hansen wants to make a special appeal for items for her Red & White Stall. All of these items can be left in the church porch or handed in to the Parish office, and nearer the time, we will need cakes and plants. This year, proceeds will be divided between parish funds and the St Albans Credit Union's Warm Homes Fund to help local people get into rented accommodation.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 27th November, 6.30pm here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Choirs from many of our churches in Harpenden are joining to bring in the Advent Season. Come join in a special service of song and reflection. Bring a friend. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday 8th December
7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes
An hour of Christmas cheer featuring: the choir of Our Lady of Lourdes, the church's very own orchestra, the Bella Mamas choir and the children from St Dominic School Choir! Followed by refreshments in the Undercroft.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Any remaining envelopes uncollected from last week have now been removed to the Parish Office, from where they may be collected.

WESTMINSTER YEARBOOK

For 2017 is now available in the shop.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards after Mass last weekend, raising more than £150 for the building fund. Cards are still available in the shop at the back of the church, or ring Teresa on 766403.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

The SVP (St. Vincent de Paul Society) will, as last year, shortly be putting up a charity Christmas tree supporting 3 local charities: WOMENS' REFUGE, LIFE and FOOD BANK. We have listed the items the charities are most in need of on the back of the gift tags decorating the tree. Anyone wishing to support these worthy causes please take a tag and attach it to the item(s) purchased and place in the relevant box under the tree. Any queries please contact Carlo or Silvia Antonioli tel: 622215. Thank you.

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD (Mark 1:9)

On the four Mondays of Advent, there will be a Reflection in the Convent Meeting Room, 18 Kirkdale Road, 2-3pm. You are welcome, even if you can only make one of the meetings.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education. CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass.

WALK IN THE PARK

Join fellow parishioners on a walk in Rothamsted Park to enjoy the last of the glorious Autumn colour! Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 7th December for an hour's walk and then a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee!

DIOCESAN ACCOUNTS

We have just one copy of the Diocesan Accounts. If you would like to see them you can borrow the copy from the parish office. Alternatively you can view them online at www.rcdow.org.uk

NEWMAN TALK

Talking and Listening Together, the Story of the Church's Ecumenical Journey. This should be a fascinating talk to be given by Rev Canon John O'Toole, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark and National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary to the Department for Dialogue and Unity at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will take place this Sun 27th Nov at St Bartholomew's Parish Hall, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans, AL1 2PE, at 8pm. Contact Janet Evers if you need a lift or more information 01582 621960.

THE PASSAGE

Please support the work of The Passage, working with Homeless People. Double your Donation, Double your impact. Donate through The Big Give website between 12 noon on Tues 29th Nov and 12 noon on Fri 2nd Dec and every £1 can be worth up to £2. With Gift Aid it can be worth £2.25. The rules have changed this year so our initial matched funding from Big Give is ring fenced purely for The Passage. There is no limit on the amount we can raise but after we have

used our ring fenced funds the level of contribution from Big Give on additional contributions will be related to the amounts left over from those charities that do not fully utilise their pots and will not be shown at the point when your donation is made.

<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/thepassage2016>

DWG DONATION FOR VEHICLE

The Developing World Group has donated £2000 towards the cost of a vehicle (Toyota Prado) which Fr David Kolo Masaba can use to travel round his large rural parish in Gulu, Uganda. A visiting DWG member (Dennis Cooper) has attested to Fr David's need for it to carry out his huge workload, including taking people to hospital on rugged roads. The remaining funding has been provided by other UK donors as the local Diocese lacks the necessary funds. We will report on its usage including with photos, on the church website, as already done for the previous five DWG projects in 2016.

LIFT THE SPIRITS!

Lighten a dark evening and lift the spirits with a DWG - Majestic Wine Tutored Tasting on Sat 4th February, 7.30pm, Lourdes Hall. £20. Please contact Julia Roche on 01582 760295 juliaandnigel@gmail.com.

BLESSING & ENTHRONEMENT of OUR LADY of WALSINGHAM

Thurs 8th Dec at Westminster Cathedral. Come and be part of this historic evening when Our Lady of Walsingham will be given a place of honour in the Cathedral. 4pm Prayers & Holy Rosary, 5pm Vespers, 5.30 Mass. 7pm Finish. antonia@walsingham.org.uk for info.