



Thank you from Mercy Ships

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your recent gift of £97.61 to supply the work of the *Africa Mercy* for her current medical mission to Togo. It's hard to imagine the extent of healing this ship will bring and how many lives will be changed forever – real people, in real pain, shame, rejection, fear and hopelessness.

I think of the story of Matta Bonnia, a lovely young woman, who was born with a fibrous growth around her right eye and on the eyelid. Her school years were difficult because the growth expanded, blocking vision in her eye. The endless, cruel verbal abuse from her classmates eventually caused her to leave school.

But volunteer surgeons on board the *Africa Mercy* repaired her eye...for free! Matta was delighted with the result: "I liked what I saw in the mirror after surgery. I'm happy about it", she said with a sparkling grin. In fact, she liked her experience on the hospital ship so much that she plans to complete her education and become a nurse. Maybe someday in the future, she will be a nurse in a ward on the *Africa Mercy*.

Thanks to you, people who faced a future of hopelessness and despair can now look forward to a better tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Judy Polkinhorn (Mrs)
Executive Director

Parish of the Icknield Way Villages



Sunday 5 February

The Third Sunday Before Lent

"...You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven..."

Matthew 5: 14-16

Faith Sharing

9am Little Chishill

A BCP Holy Communion Service

Readings: 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23 Luke 5: 17-26

10.40am Chrishall Methodist Church

Youth Service

Readings: Matthew 28: 16-20 Matthew 5: 14-16

Next Week – Big Issue

9am Heydon

A BCP Holy Communion Service

Readings: 1 Timothy 6: 3-10 Matthew 6: 19-24

10.40am Great Chishill

A family Holy Communion service with crèche and Sunday Clubs. (*Children for Sunday Clubs to be taken to the Rectory at 10.35am please*).

Readings: 1 Timothy 6: 3-10 Matthew 6: 19-24

Events this week

Monday 6 February

9.10am Morning prayer in the church office
8pm PCC Meeting

Tuesday 7 Feb

1.15pm Great Chishill Bible Study Group, 53 Heydon Road, Great Chishill
8pm Elmdon DCC Meeting at 2 Elm Court

Wednesday 8 February

10.45 – 11.45am Church Mice (for pre-schoolers) at Chrishall Methodist Hall
8pm Wednesday Evening Fellowship at Bury Cottage, Elmdon 1 *Thessalonians 2:17 3:5*

Thursday 9 February

7.45pm Firm Foundations, Mill House, Wenden Lofts – *Revelation Unwrapped by John Richardson*
8pm Whatsit Allabout – ‘Living Distinctively’ – at 8 Colts Croft, Great Chishill

Notices

The Strethall Lectures

The Strethall Lectures start again in February and will take place in the Friends Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden at 8pm.

Friday 10 February – Frances Spalding ‘*Sacred or Superstitious? John Piper and the making of sacred spaces*’

Friday 17 February – Shawn Kholucy on *C R Ashbee*

Friday 24 February – Claire Nicholson ‘*Virginia Woolf in Cambridgeshire*’

Tickets are £6 (series ticket £20) from the Tourist Information Centre or by post from The Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, SG8 8QL. Please mark the envelope ‘LECTURES’ and include your cheque/SAE.

“Mind the Gap” - Lent Course 2012

Fitting in with Bishop Stephen’s focus and the priorities agreed for our Parish at our awayday, this year’s Lent Course focuses on Evangelism. It will help us to understand that we don’t need to be some sort of “super-Christian” to share our faith - God works through ordinary Christians and our everyday contacts. We will learn that there are many different ways of explaining the Gospel – it’s not a “one size fits all”. Above all, the course will be fun and informative.

We would like to encourage as many of our Church family to come along as possible, and it would be great if our Bible study groups could halt their regular meetings and make this their priority during Lent, enabling us to learn and grow together as a fellowship.

As we will need to order a course handbook for each participant, please let Erica know if you are planning to attend by Thursday 16 February.

The course starts on **Tuesday 21 February**, 7.45-9.30pm in Chrishall Methodist Church. For more details contact Jonathan on 836962 or jonathan.lowe@icknieldwayparish.com

Guest Event: "Is this life really all there is? Or could there be more?"

Please invite friends and family members to come with you to explore the evidence for and significance of the resurrection of Jesus with the help of our guest speaker scholar Frederik Mulder. There will be a short talk after breakfast followed by plenty of opportunity for questions.

To be held at Chrishall Methodist Church on **Saturday 17 March**, 8.30am. Tickets are £3 available from the church office on 837272

2012 Choral Season at Holy Trinity, Chrishall Saturday 17 March at 8pm: **Royston Choral Society** perform ‘A Celebration of Spring’

Friday 27 April at 8pm: **Village Voices** perform ‘A Cornucopia of English Choral Works’

Sunday 27 May at 3.30 pm: **The Cann Twins** perform with two pianos - including pieces by Gershwin, Bizet and a world premiere by Alex Cowdell -supported by **Village Voices**

Fundraising Auction – Diary Date

Chrishall Church will be holding a fundraising auction on **Friday 4 May** at Chrishall Grange by kind invitation of Simon Thorley. Please add this date to your diary. More details to follow.

Transforming Presence

Please see the attached link showing Bishop Stephen outlining the strategic priorities for the future. This will form the basis of discussions at every level of the diocese as we seek to discern what sort of church God is calling us to become.

<http://www.transformingpresence.org.uk/video.html>