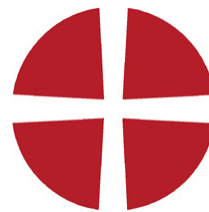


Upminster  
Methodist Church



Newsletter  
October 2017

# About the Methodist Church



The Methodist Church is one of the largest Christian churches serving Great Britain, with nearly 209,000 members and regular contact with 800,000 people.

It has 4,812 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 80 million.

Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as ***Our Calling:***

**To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love**

**To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care**

**To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice**

**To make more followers of Jesus Christ**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

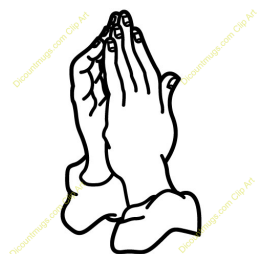
We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.



# Contemplative Worship

## Upminster Methodist Church

Are you seeking to explore your spirituality and an alternative way to worship?

At Upminster Methodist church Revd. Jason Vinyard will be leading Christian Contemplative Worship on the third Sunday evening of each month from 6.30pm

This is a forty five minute Contemplative Service, with tea, coffee or hot chocolate served afterwards, for those wanting to stay and reflect



If you are interested and would like to find out more please have a look at the website [www.upminstermethodistchurch.org](http://www.upminstermethodistchurch.org) or contact Revd. Jason Vinyard by phone 01708 223568 or by email [revjcvinyard@gmail.com](mailto:revjcvinyard@gmail.com)



“They swarmed around me like bees.”

I had my first taste of beekeeping last month.  
I learned so much in such a short amount of time.

Standing by one of the beehives, I was taken by the sound of around 25,000 bees working together as one. As Tim, the bee-man, lifted each section from the hive we were working on, the sound of buzzing, in complete and harmonic unison, grew louder and louder. I thought the hive was going to take off!

Tim explained that there are bees for working in the nursery, bees for guarding the entrance to the hive, worker bees and bees to keep the queen - well you know – and then, of course, there's the Queen bee. The whole mood of the hive depends on the Queen's mood! In summer there could be 50,000 bees in each hive. My word, I thought, one lady, has so much power!

In last month's letter, I referred to the story about a river and a droplet in that river. You may recall this phrase; "***Let go, let go, and follow the flow, let go and follow the flow***".

I wrote about our life and identity being part of the whole. On my beekeeping day, I was struck by the way the hive works in unison. The bees have a purpose; if you like a 'mission'.

How does this reflect our way of being Church?

We are a Connexional Church. We do not exist on our own, we are part of something much larger; we share a purpose, a 'mission'.

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As a Circuit in this Connexion, we are searching for new ways of being connected together. We await to see if we have a new Presbyter joining the staff team and from September 2018 we are planning to work together as a cluster within the Circuit. Almost like beehives, each one independent, yet working together, as part of a much larger 'mission'.

We aim to move together, each church working within its context and community, yet forming a larger cluster, united in a Circuit, and held Connexionally as ONE. Like a beehive, each one of us has a purpose, a role, a 'mission'. We join together our hopes, our plans, our common purpose, our imagination. What a powerful force we can be in each community if we all focus and work together.

In her opening address at this year's Methodist Conference, the Revd Lorraine N Mellor urged us all – the people called Methodist – to be risk takers in our 'mission'.

Gareth Powell, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, calls us to put 'the work of God' back on our Church Council agendas.

The Methodist Conference was asked to consider that each Church Council be called upon to create a 'Growth Plan' and, if we find we have no appetite for that, then to create an 'End of life plan'. Exciting or what!?

In the highs of summer, a single beehive can give a home to 50,000 bees. During the winter months, this can be as little as 500 bees. But, even then, they have a common purpose, a 'mission'. To enable the Queen to survive so that they will grow again.

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Sometimes our doubts and fears about its future can 'Swarm around us like bees', as the Psalmist wrote of our enemies (Psalm 118 v 2). But let us gather around the gospel, the peace and assurance of Christ, and let us move forward – together as one in 'mission'. But let us not carry the mood of only one! May we heal where we need healing; rejoice where we witness life; lament where we need to grieve; listen to each other, dare to dream of something much greater, and grow together.

Jason



Dear friends of Upminster Methodist Church.

I would like to thank you for the get well card, the flowers, and the good wishes, since I came home from the hospital.

Much appreciated.

Many thanks.

Linda Milton



## **FAMILY NEWS**

Congratulations to Elizabeth and Alfie Thompson on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Ann Rose on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017, a sister to Freya and grand daughter to Gill and Michael



Congratulations to Viola and Bramwell Evans on their Platinum – 70<sup>th</sup> – wedding anniversary on 20<sup>th</sup> September. (Viola and Bramwell are the parents of Judith, and have been Member of Rainham Methodist Church for all of that time and even more!)

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## **DOREEN AND PETER JONAS**

Both Doreen and Peter are now in Darlington, and it is good to know that the 'move' went off so well.

They started attending our church when Doreen joined the Wesley Players, and we can all remember her excellent acting skills, whether for dramas, comedies or pantomines.

Over the years, Peter took on many roles in church life on various occasions – Steward, Property Steward, Newsletter printer, etc., always ably assisted by Doreen, and both keen members of the Wesley Guild. A few years ago, we had several 'days out' as a Church family, set in Belhus Park, and with Peter's knowledge of model railways, we were able to enjoy 'having a ride' on a model train (probably meant for the children, but with quite a few 'oldies' able to squeeze in as well!) Once Gateway came into being, they attended regularly, greatly enjoying the fellowship they had among friends.

Unfortunately, in later life Doreen's health began to fail, and she moved into a care home in Darlington, near the family, where she had settled well. Peter is now in their daughter's home in Darlington, and he and the family are very near to Doreen's home, which makes it very easy for visits.

He now attends then Anglican Church which is just at the end of the road, and says he feels very welcome there. They have lunches on occasions, and needless to say, Peter enjoys these – we can remember how much he liked our Friday lunches!

It was a great pleasure to know Doreen and Peter here, and we send our very best wishes to all the Jonas family for their life in Darlington...

## CHRISTIAN AID AND SOUTH SUDAN

Recently I was fortunate to attend an evening at Christian Aid's headquarters behind Waterloo Station, where a panel of speakers described their experiences of working with Christian Aid and its local partners in South Sudan - the world's newest country but sadly one which has been torn apart by a brutal civil war for the last few years.

This has resulted in the internal displacement of over 3 million people, who consequently now face hunger and hardship. We learnt about the situation and the charity's response, essentially supporting local organisations, sometimes, but not exclusively, church-based.

In addition to relieving the immediate dire situation in which many people find themselves, Christian Aid looks to the longer term - working to enable management of future risk, with preparedness, disaster risk reduction, advocacy and development an increasingly significant part of their approach.

The discussion ended with a Youtube clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3-dwZFpm4E>) from 81 year old Bishop Paride Taban of South Sudan, with his 28 word prayer for peace, which he recites each day whilst doing his morning exercises:

***'Love; joy; peace; patience; compassion; kindness; sympathy; truthfulness; gentleness; self-control; humility; poverty; forgiveness; mercy; trust; friendship; unity; purity; faith; hope; I love you; I miss you; thank you; I forgive you; we forget; together; I am wrong; I am sorry'.***

He believes that these words if recited by everybody, and combined with understanding, discernment and vision, especially amongst the country's leaders, would result in peace. This certainly gave me something to think about.

## **SHOE BOXES**

I am collecting goods as usual for the Shoeboxes so if on your travels you see odds and ends which are suitable for children aged 2 – 16 years please think of the little ones who receive nothing except our gifts

Please remember, no liquids and no war related toys.

Thank you

Jill Avis



## **HOLIDAY CLUB REVIEWS – Under 5's week**

My 2 year old, Joshua, and I attended the toddler holiday club organised by UMC between the 7th and 11th August 2017.

Prior to attending the club, we were not aware of any activities for under-5s run by UMC. Without the usual structure afforded by clubs and playgroups, the 6 week summer holidays are always a bit of a struggle for a stay at home parent with a young, super active toddler. Parks, soft play and museums all tend to be overrun with older children! When we saw a leaflet for the UMC holiday club, we jumped at the opportunity.

Joshua thoroughly enjoyed the stories, toys, crafting and the daily snacks provided (in particular, the bananas and delicious homemade banana loaf!) He still loves playing with all his craft creations and his holiday club craft bag.

We also found all the ladies to be really friendly. As newcomers, it was really nice and reassuring to be welcomed so warmly. Joshua loved the attention he got from Elena!! Well done and thanks to Sarah and team for such a brilliant week of fun! We hope to be back in the near future. God bless.

### **Joyce & Joshua**

Lovely few mornings spent with my 3 yr old at the holiday club. Great combination of story play craft and songs. I think the biscuit decorating was her favourite bit. Great idea to use a Disney story to help understand a Bible story.

### **Sue and Lottie**

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### **HOLIDAY CLUB REVIEWS - 5-11 year old Holiday Club**

Me and my brother went to Disney themed Summer Holiday Club, we loved it. On the first day we picked coloured teams, each team had leaders who helped us all week and were very kind and made the week lots of fun. I was in Blue team and in the team I had boys and girls all different ages. Throughout the week I made lots of new friends and saw old friends. All through the week we earned points for doing good work, being helpful or kind, wearing something in our team colours and telling good jokes to everyone. Yellow team won Boo!

Each day we made different crafts, my favourite was a lion clip which now holds all my little notes together, my brothers favourite was a mobile showing pictures of the Jonas story which he has hung in his bedroom. We were told great stories, sang songs both me and my brother loved singing "Our god is a great God".

We played games and it was great fun, we had drinks and snacks and on our last day we all dressed up as Disney characters and our mums joined us for a picnic lunch and we got to show off all our handmade things and did some dancing and singing. Me and my brother thought it was amazing and look forward to doing again next year.

**Daisy aged 9 and Jack aged 5**

## **HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

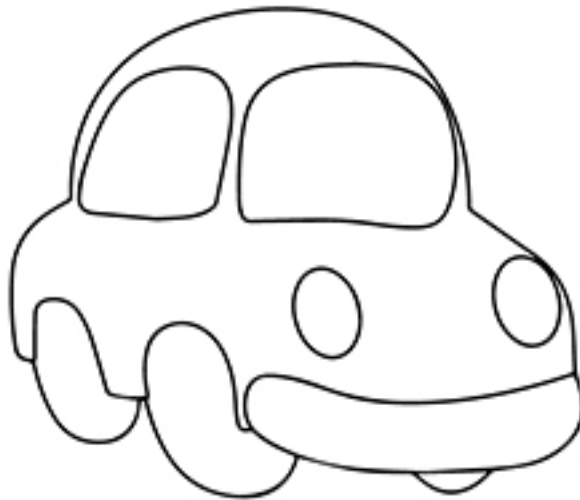
On Friday 24 November 12 young people and 4 adults will be heading to the national Methodist Youth weekend 3Generate in Southport.

We are travelling on the district coach but need to get to Edmonton by 4.30pm on the Friday afternoon.

If anyone would be able to help us out by driving some of us there we would be extremely grateful.

We plan to leave Upminster at 3pm.

Please speak to Caroline, Yvette or Jason if you can help.  
Thank you.



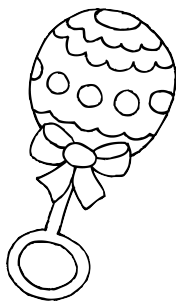
## **SARAH – MATERNITY LEAVE**

Please note that Sarah will be on maternity leave from 1st October 2017 until February 2018.

Whilst we look forward to seeing Sarah, Trevor, Jenson and the new baby in Church, please remember that she will be attending as part of the congregation and not in her working capacity.

Any work related questions should be referred to Jason, Caroline, Judith Hall, Peter Hobbs or Chris Wheeler, thank you.

With our best wishes to Sarah and Trevor for the safe arrival of the new baby, we look forward to meeting him/her.





## **UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH WAR** **MEMORIAL**

November is the month of Remembrance and a time in particular when the people of this country especially remember those who have died during the wars.

At the back of the church, between the two big windows, is our War Memorial recording the names of five young men who were associated in some way with this church who we will be remembering when we place our wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

The present church was, of course, only built in 1923 but because Methodism had a presence in Upminster from at least 1910, it is possible that some Upminster Methodists may have been killed during the course of the First World War.

If this was the case then their names will most probably have been recorded on the village war memorial that is down by the side of the Parish Church. Therefore, our church war memorial records has only the names of those young men who were attached in some way to this church, and who were killed, with one exception, while serving in one capacity, or another, in the defence of this country in the Second World War, during the period 1939 to 1945.

cont'd...

None of the people whose names are recorded on the Memorial have relatives who were members, or were attached to the church in 1995, fifty years after the end of the Second World War. It was then that the older members of the church, at that time, as well as others, were asked for any details that they knew about the people on the list in order that we should all be able to appreciate them as people and not just names.

The following information was compiled from those sources.

***Peter J Ellis:***

Peter, who lived in Eversleigh Gardens, was a member of the scout troop attached to the church when he was killed, at the age of 16, in a road accident in 1938 while cycling home, one dark night, along the Southend Arterial Road. This was from an ARP post where he had been assisting with the issue of gas masks. As it was during the “Munich Crisis” and he was engaged in civil defence work at the time his death was counted as being “on active service” although it took place before the outbreak of hostilities.

***Derek Goss:***

Derek, who lived in Deyncourt Gardens, was a member of the Young People’s Fellowship, the youth club and of the Regnel League as well as being a former member of the scout troop. He served in the R.A.F. from 1941 – 1944 and died in Canada while involved in aircrew training.

***Austin Hughes:***

Unfortunately, we were not able to find out much about Austin, and it is only known that he was a former member of the Young Peoples Fellowship and the youth club before he was killed in action while serving with the R.A.F.

### ***Donald McDonald:***

Donald, who was killed while serving with the armed forces, does not appear to have been attached to the church himself. His mother, and his aunt, Mrs. Tillinghurst, were, however, active members of the church "Woman's Own" Fellowship, while his brother Ken was a member of the Young People's Fellowship as well as the youth club, and later became a well-known opera singer.

### ***John Rees:***

John was a personable and attractive young man; a member of a prominent Methodist family in Lincoln. He came to Essex to work at the Brentwood branch of the Midland Bank but spent most of his weekends here in Upminster where he stayed with the Warnes family in Champion Road and sang in the Church Choir. He served in the Royal Navy and was lost at sea in November 1941 when the battleship HMS Barham was sunk by a torpedo.

***"At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we will remember them"***

(First compiled by Keith Dutton in 1995)

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL 2017**

On Sunday October 8th, we celebrate our Harvest Festival, on the theme of 'Food around the World'.

As mentioned in the September newsletter, we invite you to donate gifts of food as a token of our thankfulness for all we have been given.

Fresh fruit and vegetables will be sent on to St Francis Hospice, with non-perishable foods going to the Whitechapel Mission.

For the foods most needed currently, please refer to their website at <https://whitechapel.org.uk> - however, all dried, preserved and canned foods are welcomed.

Our service will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch to which all are invited. Further details will be found in the weekly notices.



## **COUNTRYFILE RAMBLE**

For the last few years BBC Countryfile have encouraged groups to organise rambles and raise money for Children in Need.

We thought it would be great for Upminster Methodist Church to take part, enjoying a walk together in our local countryside and raising money for this worthy cause.

The walk is on Sunday 15th October. We'll meet at church at 1.45pm to leave at 2pm and will walk to a local country park or nature reserve. The choice will depend on how muddy it may be but we can promise there will be somewhere to get a cup of tea and cake before we walk back. The total walk will be in the region of 4 - 5 miles.

Those walking are asked to contribute a donation if possible (all amounts will be gratefully accepted) and there will be an opportunity for others to donate after morning service on the 15th if they wish.

In order that we have an idea how many are coming (so we can tip off the cake shop!) please can you let me know if you'd like to join us.

Peter Caton  
07770 851362  
peter.caton@adhtechnical.com



## **METHODIST HOMES**

On behalf of Methodist Homes I would like to thank every body who supported Methodist Homes this year.

The pew collection in June raised the sum of £241, and Bob Avis completing the Brentwood Half Marathon raised the sum of £355 in sponsorships.

Nearly all these monies were Gift Aided and will result in a further £150 for the charity. Methodist continues to be one of the leaders in providing accommodation and help for the elderly, particularly those suffering from dementia.

Copies of Heart and Sole - the MHA magazine are at the rear of the church giving information about the charity and how it spends the money donated to it.

Once again thank you so much for supporting this worthy cause.

Frank Baker – Romford Circuit MHA Representative



# **FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 7th October**

There will be a Family Quiz Night to raise money for the Building Fund on 7th October, so please put the date in your diary, so that you can come and have some fun!!!

Tickets are now available and cost £6 so please see me or ring me on 01708 224891 to get your tickets.

Peter Hobbs



## **“HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY DAME VERA”**

A musical celebration featuring the songs of Dame Vera Lynn, the Andrew Sisters and other war-time favourites, as well as classics from Musical Theatre and Popular Music over the last century.

We are delighted that Joanna Marie Skillett is, once again, bringing friends to our Church for this concert to help with our building funds, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm and tickets can be obtained from Ray Hare (Tel. 01708 223218) at £15 each.

Joanna`s concerts always sell out quickly so don`t delay in supporting this fund-raising event.





## **PRESENTATION OF JMA AWARDS**

During the morning service of Sunday 22nd October the young people who have collected in the past year will be presented with their certificates.

I do hope everyone will be there to thank them and their families for supporting JMA.

If there is anyone who would like to become a collector or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jenny Smy  
JMA Co-ordinator.



# **CHRISTMAS MINI MARKET**

**Saturday 2nd December 2017**

So with holidays over our next focus is Christmas!

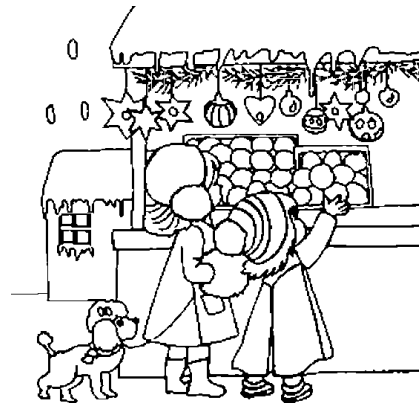
It has become a tradition that on the first Saturday of the Christmas Tree Festival we hold a mini market with craft stalls, charity stalls and refreshments.

As we did last year we hope to raise money towards our Church Building Fund, so as well as the usual stalls we are also looking for church organisations or families/friends to run stalls primarily to raise money for our own Church. Suggestions are tombola, games, selling crafts etc, think of all those fetes you've been to and I am sure you can be creative!!

You can still get involved, please speak to Caroline.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Kinder 07941431091



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2017

## **2nd December - 10th December**

2017 will be the seventh year we have organised a Christmas Tree festival in the church and hopefully it will be as successful.

During the week, we welcome many visitors and friends to the church and it provides a lovely introduction to the Christmas season for all ages.

The theme this year is “All Creatures Great and Small ” and we will be inviting local schools and groups from the church and community to decorate trees for this event using this idea. What will the decorators come up with – such a wonderful opportunity to be creative!

The Festival opens on **Saturday 2nd December at 10am**  
Refreshments will be available all day and there will be a Christmas market In the church halls from 10.00am - 2.30pm.  
Caroline Kinder is arranging this event.

The opening times for the festival are: **Saturdays 10am - 5pm, Sundays 2pm - 5pm and Weekdays 2pm - 6pm**

Please spread the word and tell your friends and family about the event. We welcome visits from community groups during the week to see the trees, so if you are connected with a group who would like an outing around Christmas, please consider the festival.

Entrance is free: donations to our chosen charities and the Building fund.

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**cont'd...**

At the September All Age Worship Service, Keith Nichols asked for volunteers to help prepare for the Christmas Tree Festival.

We are very grateful to all those who responded and will be extremely glad for any further offers of help.

Any enquiries to:

Judith Hall (228317), Gill Hare (223218) Keith Nichols (859470) or email: [Upminstertreefest@outlook.com](mailto:Upminstertreefest@outlook.com)



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **COME FLY 4**

Circuit event at Collier Row, Saturday 28th October,  
9.30am – 12.30pm

### **FAMILY COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Committee is Tuesday, 10th  
October at 8 pm - in the Scout Den.

### **BECONTREE BRASS BAND**

The Becontree Brass Band will be returning to perform  
'FESTIVE BRASS' on Sunday 17th December at 2pm.  
Tickets will be £10 and proceeds going towards the building  
fund. For further information please speak to  
Carole & David Jenkins on 01708 500134



**Newsletter** – *The next newsletter will be the November issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15<sup>th</sup> October .*

*The newsletter email address is*  
**[upminster.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:upminster.newsletter@gmail.com)**

***If you would like to receive the monthly Newsletter by email please place your request via the email address above.***

*The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, minister or officers of the church.*

**Weekly Notices** - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to **[upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com)** or pass to Allyson Hill

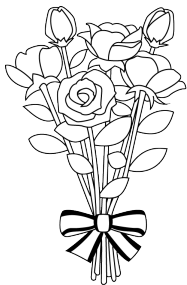
***If you would like the weekly Notice sheet emailed please email Allyson Hill***

## **METHODIST BLOG**

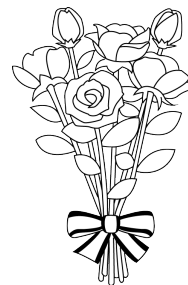
If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at **[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)** and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

You may find other articles of interest too on a weekly/ monthly basis.





## **FLOWER ROTA**



Very many thanks to both providers and arrangers:

	<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Arranged by</u></b>
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	Sheila Toon
8 <sup>th</sup> (Harvest)	George Tickner	The Flower Ladies
15 <sup>th</sup>	Carol & Brian Webb	Judith Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Edmundson	June Dutton
29 <sup>th</sup>	Allyson & David Hill	Jenny Smy

We shall be decorating the Church from 9.30a.m on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October for the Harvest Festival, if anyone would like to join us.

You will be most welcome.

# Upminster Methodist Church Weekly Activities

If you have a date or activity you wish to add, please let the editor know at [upminster.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:upminster.newsletter@gmail.com)



## **Holy Communion**

Wednesday 10.00am – 11.00am



## **Gateway** Tea, coffee and chat

Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon



## **Choir and Band Practice**

Fridays and Saturdays as announced  
7.30pm



## **Adult Badminton**

Thursdays 8pm – 9.30pm

All abilities welcome



## **Wesley Players**

Mondays 8.00pm



## **Patchwork Group**

Mondays 1pm





## **Tots and Co**

Tuesdays in term time  
9.30am – 11.30am

## **Uniformed Groups**

Mondays	6.15pm	Brownies
	7.15pm	Guides and Rangers
Wednesdays	6.30pm	Cub Scouts
Thursdays	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts
Fridays	7.30pm	Scouts



## **Sunday Worship**

### **Dates for October**

#### **Date**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	10.00am	Mrs Debbie Freeman
	6.30pm	Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age Worship, Parade and Harvest Festival
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Mrs Joan Pugsley
	6.30pm	Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative Worship
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am	Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Mr Gordon Wallace



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"