

**WITHAM URC
CHURCH MAGAZINE
December 2020/ January 2021**

Our Vision: "To celebrate God and share the love of Jesus."

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Christmas and New Year greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Anyone who knows me at all will now how much I love Christmas. I love the whole thing; the snow, the tree, the roast meal, the family gathering and all the trimmings. Somehow Christmas seems to bring out the best in us, disagreements are forgotten as we come together to celebrate the most amazing act of love and self-giving in the history of the world; Jesus Christ the 'word' of God becoming human for us, 'Emmanuel' meaning that God is for ever with us. My favourite event over Christmas is our Candle lit Carol Service. Every year we come together to sing carols and retell the nativity story. It is sheer joy. Sure the carols are old fashioned and traditional, the readers don't always get up at the right time, and the guy conducting the service always manages to flunk his lines; yet the atmosphere of anticipation and excitement is electric. It is full of awe and wonder.

This year things will be very different. At the time of writing it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold large Church services; many of you will be rightly shielding and confining yourselves to your homes. Whether we can even meet up as families is in doubt. Our usual Christmas's are such community events that some are already saying that this year's celebration will be a washout. No, it can never be that! The Incarnation is just too important to give in to the naysayers.

With this in mind, the Church will be providing every family with an Advent gift; a candle and a daily devotional booklet. Our hope is that through this we can remain in fellowship with one another over Advent and into Christmas week. We hope you will all be able to light your candle daily and read a devotion. We are also providing children with Advent Calendars, and though I'm sure they will be interested in the daily Christian messages,

the chocolate may be more enticing! Why not arrange to telephone someone every day and share your reading? Christmas is a time of good will to all people, so let us take the opportunity to share our blessings around.

In the first week in December we are told the Government will end lockdown and advise us which band we will be in. At that time we will let you know what we can offer by way of Church worship over Christmas. Today, even as I write, the first vaccine has been announced and others will follow soon. Hallelujah!!! However, it is very unlikely that all the vulnerable will be vaccinated by Christmas, so I would encourage you to continue to watch our services on-line, by DVD or in written form. Please do let us know if you have any difficulty accessing any of these.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John ch 1 v 14.

The true message of Christmas is that God loved us enough to send his son into this world to live and die for us. His love reaches out to us all; we are loved, whoever we are, and wherever we are. The glory of God can reach us and transform our lives whatever our circumstances; we can experience it in our homes as well as our Church building. Yes, Christmas will be strange for us all this year, but my prayer is that the hope, joy and peace that our Saviour brings will still light up your Christmas wherever you spend it.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Mark

My Call to Ministry - Dave Cumbers

For those who may have missed my introduction video in October, my name is Dave Cumbers and I am a second year Ordinand, training at Westminster College in Cambridge As part of my training I am pleased to be spending some time with you at Witham URC. I am married to Catherine, my wife of 19 years, and we have 3 children, Joshua(15), Isaac(12), and Abigail (11).



My Family (L-R: Joshua, Me, Isaac, Catherine and Abigail)

My journey to this point in my walk with God has taken many turns as I am sure all our lives have. I first felt a call from God to serve him at the age of 12. I was at an open-air service and I heard an almost audible voice as we were worshipping, which said: ‘That will be you one day’. I assumed at the time that I would be playing a musical instrument, how wrong I was!

I renewed my baptismal vows at the age of 14 and committed my life to Jesus. Over the next few years I lead occasional services and joined in with

church life. The sense of calling never went away, but I guess I pushed it to the back of my mind.

I was 28 when I really felt God calling me again. I went to a vocations day and was probably the youngest person there by 20 years. I did not feel this was the right place for me but I prayed that if God wanted me to stay at the event, he needed to tell me. The organiser opened by reading a passage of Scripture which included these words: ‘the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am too young.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.’ (Jeremiah 1:7). I sat bolt upright! God now had my full attention.

I felt, at that time, a calling to become a lay preacher. I completed the TLS course and became an accredited lay preacher 11 years ago. Since then I have led worship regularly and also got involved with my sending churches AV system becoming the AV manager, leading the prayer ministry team, and homegroup leading. I also became an elder. Looking back now, I see that these were all stepping stones God was having me walk.

In October 2017, I felt God calling me again. I said to God, what more can you want me to do? I have a family, a full-time job and already serve in several areas in the church, I can’t take on any more. For the second time in my life I heard an almost audible voice from God, he said, ‘Give up your job and work for me. I want you to become a minister.’ My initial reaction was, ‘No way, I am not ready for that. I don’t have the skills, I am not good enough to do that.’ But God can be persistent. About a month later after praying about it, I approached my minister and he said some very wise words, he told me to investigate it, if it was from God doors would open. If it was not, doors would close. With his help, I started the application process. My church meeting was unanimous in putting me forward, I had my synod interview and again the decision was unanimous. Doors just weren’t being opened, they were being flung open.

In March 2019, I went to the assessment conference. It was a tough couple of days and I was exhausted by the end of the weekend. At that point, I thought the door would close and they would see what I felt deep down, that I was not good enough to do this role. The result can through and it was a yes. I almost fell off my seat.

I started Westminster in September 2019 and am progressing well in my studies. My marks have been good and I have managed to balance study and home life, though this has meant sacrifices for me and my family. My next assignments are due in December and early January, so I would be most appreciative of your prayers regarding these and I will keep you up to date regarding my progress.

I am looking forward to becoming part of the community at Witham URC though this will be virtually to start with as my wife has severe asthma. She was shielding and has now been instructed by the government to do as little outside as possible. We are staying at home most of the time, to protect her. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in those little boxes on a Zoom screen and working together with you.

Stay safe and God bless.

ANGEL PROJECT - Denise Vinton

All the knitting has been done and I have over 300 angels packed and ready to give away to the residents and visitors in Witham on Saturday 19 December between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer to be a distributor and spread some joy and hope to our community. Our town is our Frontline and this affords an opportunity to let others know that we care. I will let you know nearer the time where the venues are.

Telephone me on either 01376 515476/07971228305

From Great Totham URC - Janet Davies



Hello Friends at Witham URC.

Since November 1st, Great Totham URC has been joined with Witham URC with Mark as our Minister.

Of course we have not been able to see Mark, as we have been in Lockdown since then.

We look forward to future days when hopefully life is a little more normal and we can meet together again.

What good news that hopefully successful vaccines have been found, and promises of speedy injections are fulfilled. We thank God for this.

We look forward to Mark taking our Service and Communion on the 4th Sunday in the month, and when there is a 5th Sunday, perhaps some of our congregation joining with you for your service on the Sunday morning. (That's what we used to do when we were joined with Maldon.)

We at Totham are a very small congregation (only a possible maximum of ten, unless we manage any visitors). But we are a very loyal congregation and we usually have an average of seven or eight each week. We are lucky to have a regular organist, Jenny.

Our usual service is very traditional, using either 'Rejoice and Sing' or 'Mission Praise' and the 'Good News Bible'.

When life gets back to some normality, and Churches are open and we can mix together again, we invite you to come and join us for a service one Sunday, we'd love to welcome you. *

Each month I will include a list of Services so you can see what goes on at Totham. At the moment no other activities are taking place.

On behalf of all at Great Totham URC we wish everyone at Witham URC a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and hope that 2021 will bring hope love and joy to all our hearts.

With love from all at Great Totham URC.

Janet Davies
Secretary and Elder

* Jo and I can certainly vouch for that having attended a service lead by Sarah Wilson a few weeks ago.



Services at Great Totham URC for December 2020. and January 2021

Our Services begin at 1030 am

December

6th	Sarah Wilson	
13th	Trevor Andrews	(Kelvedon)
20th	Ernie Finch	(Kelvedon)
27th	No Service	

January 2021

3rd	TBA	
10th	Michael Topple	(Chappel)
17th	Trevor Andrews	(Kelvedon)
24th	Revd. Mark Ambrose	

May be a Churches Together Service for
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
At Wickham Bishops, St Bartholomew's Church

31st	We hope to come to Witham URC	
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Appeal on behalf of South Essex Wildlife Hospital - Julie Harris



Dear All,

Could I please ask, if you have any, if you would consider donating any used towels, tea towels or flannels, not duvets or anything with stuffing.

The SEWH are in urgent need of these items as they have several hundred sick or injured hedgehogs in their care. They would also be grateful for cat food, dry or wet.

Did you know hedgehogs first evolved around 15 million years ago

They need all the help they can get; if you could please spare any of these items I am sure SEWH would be grateful.

Please contact: julie127@btinternet.com

Thank you so much in advance.

God bless

May the true meaning of
Christmas shine bright
through these the very
strangest of times.

Dot Banks

Poem from next year's Friendship Book - Hilary Topham

When your days are filled with problems
And you don't know what to do,
Life turns up surprises
When you least expect it to.

A chance word from a stranger,
A letter from a friend,
A glowing sky at sunset -
God's blessings never end.

Then to your weary heart there comes
A tiny little spark
Of hope, to bring you shining through
And lift you from the dark.

Marian Cleworth

Something to think about - Keith Moscrop

C.S.Lewis “Mere Christianity”

‘Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.’

No Nativity this year because
the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban.
The shepherds have been furloughed.
The inn keeper has shut under
Tier 3 regulations and had a slump
in bookings.
Santa won't be working as he would
break the Rule of 6 with
Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen,
Donner and Blitzen.
As for Rudolph, with that red nose,
he should be isolating and
taking a test.

**Articles for February 2021
to be with Bob and Jo Stibbards
by 22nd January 2021
bjstibbards@gmail.com**

The Call to Unity and Thankfulness

November Newsletter from Christiana in Ukraine

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”(Colossians 3:16 ESV)



Colossians 3:16 is one of my favourite verses in the Bible. I love how it expresses the unity of believers coming together to worship God. I love how the responsibility of teaching and admonishing (giving loving correction) is not given only to one person. Everyone has their part to play in building up the church as a whole.



Nonetheless, lately I have grown to appreciate this verse even more. I have spent much of the past month studying Colossians, for the lecture I gave last week. I realised that many divisions existed in the society the New Testament was written into. In 1st century Greco-Roman society, the concept of equality did not exist. Men as the ‘paterfamilias’ or ‘dominus’ were the rulers of society and the household by law. Women,

children and slaves were treated as property because they were inferior. Divisions in society extended to physical divisions in the home. In Ancient Greek society, men and women did not even eat together or sleep in the same room! Even in the Jewish temple, literal walls divided people groups. The men had the closest access to the presence of God, while women had a separate court further back. Gentiles (non-jews) also had a separate court. And yet here Paul is...giving instructions to a divided society to worship...together. This is radical!

What is also useful to note is that the letter to the Colossians was sent at the same time as the letter to Philemon. This means that the letters were written to the same house church (Colossians 4:9, Philemon 10-16). In the letter to Philemon, Paul exhorts Philemon to receive back his runaway slave as an equal in Christ. This is in sharp contrast to the culture, for which the penalty for runaway slaves could be death. (Now re-read the book of Colossians!) How relevant are Paul's instructions for bondservants! Also, particularly Colossians 3:11(ESV) "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian (savage) slave, free; but Christ is all and is all." It is freedom in Christ that breaks down those dividing walls (see Ephesians 2:14) and unifies. Worship together is possible through the good news of Jesus Christ. All are equal before God all have done wrong and justly deserve death. Yet for all Christ freely gave His life, to take our punishment upon Himself by dying on the cross. And now all who believe have equal hope that this life is not the end, but they can look forward to eternity with God.

Because all who share in the hope of Jesus Christ become one family - it is painful when that family is separated. For many of us now - we cannot worship together in-person. England has now gone into a second lockdown, and the church has been online for many months this year. In Ukraine as winter hits, restrictions have also increased. Our church is limited in the number of people allowed to attend. More people are self-isolating. Yet during this time I have also experienced the incredible unity of the body of Christ. I have become closer with my roommates as we have spent more

time together. I have experienced the incredible support network of the missions community I am a part of and my church. I have had to self-isolate recently. I have been blessed by many messages of encouragement and chocolate left outside my door!



The desire for Bible study and togetherness has increased with weekly 'zoom' meetings. Now most of our ladies' Bible study group have created and led a study! Our 13 students from 8 different nations also have grown closer. They are united in their common purpose to 'dwell richly in the word of Christ.' (Colossians 3:16) . It was wonderful to listen to them preach sermons recently with depth and passion. They have only a few weeks until they graduate, having studied the whole Bible 5 times in 9 months. I have no doubt they will continue to teach, bless and build up the churches and communities they will go on to serve.



Other Praise points/'Thankfulness'

We were finally able to move into our new classroom! It has so much more space and provides a great working environment for the students. I am excited to see what God will do in the coming years as we continue to expand our missions centre.

Personal growth as a teacher and leader. God has taught me so much this year in every way! I have grown in confidence and ability with each lecture, and learnt to depend on Him even more.

Growth for our students. Half of our students plan to undertake our teacher training programme. They will go to give away the gift of what they have learned to teach others how to study the Bible for themselves. They will go to nations that have limited access to Bible training.

Prayer Points

-COVID-19- pray for continued health and protection for myself, Ukraine and the nations!

-Perseverance for our students- They graduate in less than a month now! Pray for new energy and drive to finish well

-Visas for our students and staff. Unfortunately a few of our staff and students have had visa complications. This is partly due to the confusion this pandemic had brought. Please pray for God's hand to move the authorities to grant visas to enable them to serve where He is calling them.

-Finances for our students. We have 4 students who have between them about £2,700 to raise for their school fees in only a few weeks to be able to graduate. Many of our students come from countries where the wages are low. It is not possible for them to earn all the money they need to come and study- so they come by faith in obedience to God. Pray for God's provision and wisdom as we help them to fundraise. If God puts it on your heart to help with this amount, please write to me.

-My furlough! I plan to fly home on 14th December and will be back for about 6 weeks. Please pray my flight goes ahead as planned, and for a restful time at home where I am also able to catch up with many of you. I will then return in February to begin preparing for our next Bible school!

(Colossians 3:16) All in all, I have 'thankfulness' in my heart for all God's goodness this year. I thank all who have partnered with the Bible Teaching ministry; prayerfully and financially. You share in the fruit of this year!

Though I am separated from you, I am with you in spirit ! We are unified by our common hope in Christ, made known through the transforming power of His Word.

I am praying that you would remain united in Christ. I pray that you would be 'true worshippers' and teachers in everything you do!

Thank you again for your faithfulness and support this year!
None of this is possible without you!

Спасибо большое!



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

The Darkling Thrush - By Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Eco Tips - Christine Barton

Avoid using single use disposable masks, gloves and wipes. Disposable masks, gloves and wipes contain plastics which pollute water and harms wildlife who eat them or become entangled in them. Some of these plastics can't be recycled, and waste centres can't separate the components, so most throwaway plastic masks put in household waste will end up in landfill or incinerators and there has also been a considerable increase in the numbers left as litter in streets. Moreover, disposable gloves do not provide any benefit in preventing the spread of the virus and could actually spread it more, it is better to just wash your hands and don't touch your face. Reusable fabric masks are perfectly adequate for general use and there are eco-friendly masks available made from second hand or recycled material or alternatively you could make your own. When washing your reusable mask- and you should do so after every use, it is ok to use a lower temperature to save on energy as it is the use of detergent which is important (there are also environmentally friendly detergents available).

Continue to use video conferencing. It is hard to compare the value in meeting in person to meeting over the internet; the joy of being able to see someone in person, being able to read each other's body language and even at some point sharing a handshake or a hug. For those who have been connecting with churches, workplaces, family and friends digitally, you might like to know that the current estimate of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emitted is 1- 6 grams per hour you spend in video calls. 5km (perhaps a return journey to church for some) in a petrol car emits on average 640 grams. That puts video conferencing at about 100 times more efficient. So, perhaps when we meet in person, are there times when a video call would be better to protect God's Creation?

Greening your home this Autumn. With 40% of UK emissions coming from households, our homes have an important part to play in meeting the UK's 2030 emissions reduction targets. As temperatures drop in an increasingly warming world, you can help to tackle climate change and reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.).

Homes are really important, and God calls us to play our part in giving nature a home too. Is your garden lacking a bird feeder ahead of the long winter months when it's particularly hard for wildlife to source food? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? How about installing a bird box or hedgehog highway? (Though in the latter case, do make sure the neighbours are happy for you to make a small tunnel/hole in your shared fence!).

Eat locally and seasonally During lockdown, particularly initially with fears of food shortages, it was very tempting to buy whatever was available during our limited supermarket shops. But when restrictions ease, it's more important than ever to support local initiatives and growers. Can you consider what locally grown foods you can add (back) to your diet/shopping list? It's worth remembering that produce grown locally is picked at the peak of its ripeness (versus being harvested too early in order to be shipped and distributed to your local supermarket). Produce at 'peak ripeness' will be full of flavour and taste better than the produce that has been imported and travelled thousands of miles. By buying locally grown food, you are helping to maintain green and/or open space in your community, and invest into the local economy. Taste for yourself the benefits of seasonal *and* local food!

Reducing waste at Christmas. Plan your festive gifts well - for your pocket and for the planet! Get creative with home-made crafts or food or invest in something that helps someone else enjoy nature. If you're really trying to cut back from shop-bought stuff, why not offer to do something nice for someone? Going further - agree to a 'No Unnecessary Presents Pact' or send your Christmas cards online rather than by post or have a communal church card. More waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, so why not cut down on food or decorations or try buying recycled/recyclable wrapping paper or crackers.

THE QUEUE

While waiting in a long queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors,' I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners



were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."



Christmas Cards to our friends in Witham United Reformed Church

Unfortunately, this year it will not be possible to operate the internal collection and distribution of Christmas cards between our church friends as in previous years.

If, instead of posting and sending Christmas cards to our Church family, you would like to make a donation to our supported charities for 2020 - Holdfast Supporters and Mercy Ships - who have not been able to hold any fund raising events this year, this can be done in the following ways. (The monies received will be divided equally between the two causes.)

If you already make payments to the church electronically please use the same main account details with the reference Christmas Cards. Please e-mail ianzhardie@googlemail.com if you need any further clarification or if the donation can be gift aided.

Alternatively if you do not have access to on line banking a cheque can be made out to Witham United Reformed Church. Please send it to Ian Hardie or contact him on 01376 512513 if you would like him to collect a cheque/ money.

The following people have notified us of making donations instead of sending cards. Apologies to others who may have paid directly into the bank that we do not know about at the time of printing the Magazine. If you would like others to know that you have made donation please contact Tony Deighton who will be pleased to include your name in the notices.

Dot Banks
Mary and David Goodwin
Wendy and Jim McWhirr
Hilary and Brian Topham

Julie Harris
Ian and Fenella Hardie
Christine and Bill Huggett
Bob and Jo Stibbards

A very strange year Bob Stibbards

I was not expecting that !

Looking back I think I must have been in denial at the start of the year, we booked a European holiday for June thinking that the virus was a long way away seemed under control and would not spread. Then on 15th March having played at the messy breakfast service and attending an evening communion service lead by Ian Hardie, I still did not really think I would be going to a meeting four days later to finalise the closing of the Centre, and by the weekend being in lockdown. I never imagined this happening at the start of the year and the impact it would have around the world and on our lives.

Cancellations



In addition to our holiday there have been quite a few other cancellations which sadly included the start of a world tour by me and Pete starting at the Village hall in Hatfield Peverel. Well you have got to start somewhere!.

Cut and polish!

The day before the second lockdown I thought I would see if I could get a trim and polish remembering how long the first lock down lasted. My hairdresser offered an appointment at 7.30 and thought that it was a tad early but then realised it was in the evening. You may wonder why I bothered, but last time in lockdown Jo ended up tidying my locks, but used a trimmer the wrong way round and in the process took a large chunk of hair out, I should have gone for a number one, but it did not matter as we hardly saw anybody!

Essential retailers

Bonkers, but in this lockdown wine merchants are classed as an essential retailer and must say I am not disappointed.

What day of the week is it?

At least when it comes to Fridays I know what day of the week it is, it is bin collection day in our area, a defining point of the week: I must get out more!

The American election process.

What is this all about and which goes on forever!

Worst on line purchases in lockdown

Where to begin but these are three of my favourites from my head buyer.

We dislike wearing masks, you can't hear any body and they can't hear us, so Jo bought some see through plastic ones which are useless as there are gaps everywhere are uncomfortable and look scary!

As for our cats, they are not of course spoilt, we purchased some cat beds which were described as suitable for a small dog or a cat but which are ridiculously small and have never been used, but I have found a potential use, see below, for them in cold weather.



The other treat was a cat water fountain from America. Cats apparently do not like to use small bowls as they get their whiskers wet, well our big ginger cat just walks through a water bowl in our kitchen and flicks water everywhere so we have a bowl outside.. This 'feature ' has been in our hall for about 2 months without ever being used but does have an intermit a nice blue light!



My new friend David

I have been continuing with my daily walks with a weekly target of 100,000 steps, about 45 miles: yes, I am addicted to this! I decided that as it gets dark early now to go out in the mornings and as a result I have meet David.

Bring typically British we just acknowledged one another at first but then one day we had a good conversation and have had several since. He was diagnosed with motor neurone disease 3 years and his wife died about 5 years ago. He was a very keen runner but now has to use a three wheeled wheelchair but goes out every day for several miles and found that he lives fairly close to us. He has such a positive outlook on life and to make the best of it. I found it humbling and inspiring.

Community Spirit

Our road apart from a cul de sac in which we live in is unmade and over time numerous pot holes appear it becomes very bumpy. So at the

weekend for couple of hours a gang of us, to include a couple of people from the top of our lane that I have never seen before, armed with wheelbarrows and shovels and various other bits of kit filled in the pot holes: it looked like Dads army but it felt surprisingly good!

The demise of sourdough bread

At predicted last month in the magazine our bread maker has made a successful return. After the sourdough demise I found the uncooked dough sets as hard as plaster so I have found a potential new use for it! From a highly reliable source I am told that cinnamon swirls are the trend this lockdown so we seriously need to up our game to come up with a new idea for the season perhaps a lentil Christmas cake ? Any other suggestions?

Is it the magazine or the newsletter?

When we took this role on 5 years ago we decided to rebrand and change the name from the Newsletter to the Magazine. Despite our best efforts it will always be known by some as the Newsletter but never mind. We can send out e-mails referring to the magazine and replies come back referring to the newsletter. Perhaps we should rebrand it again next year ??? !!!

Early morning on River Walk 5th November - Maria Anderson



Home Alone on Christmas Day

In Partnership with



Are you going to be alone at home on Christmas Day or know someone else who will be?

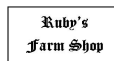
Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on social distancing, we are unable to host a gathering this year.

However, we are coming together to produce and deliver a Christmas Day meal at your own home to ensure that no one has to miss out.

We can only cater for those who have reached out to us, so if you are interested in reserving a lunch please get in touch with your address and contact information, and also let us know if you have any special dietary requirements or restrictions.

Please contact Susan on 07395 150669 or by emailing xmas@455.org.uk

The luncheon is kindly sponsored through the generosity of the following local organisations based in and around Witham:-



Witham Branch