



## The Heart of the Community

I was listening to a preacher recently who asked a question that struck a chord with me. He asked, "If your church was to close down would people in your community miss you?" That is such a great question to ask. We do very occasionally get people who say that they didn't realise that we were still open. That is very unusual now, but is still worth hearing. However, I would hope that the answer to the preacher's question here would be, "Yes, the wider community would miss us."

Just in April there were good examples of people in the community being glad that we are here. There were the 60th Anniversary celebrations, which included the Fun Day for the wider community. There is the Light Café, Messy Toddlers, the Youth Club, helping people out of debt with CAP and just being a safe place where people genuinely feel welcomed. (That's not just me saying that, but what other people say.) And there was the recent Jobs and Money Fayre that we hosted at All Hallows. This was an event run by our local Council, but was hugely successful because of All Hallows. Those behind stalls were saying that this was the best event yet that they had been to, because of how they and the wider community were welcomed here.

A few years ago one of our councillors said to me that our church is "The Heart of the Community." I was so encouraged to hear that, but we mustn't just rest on that. Such acclaim has to be earned and has to be continually earned.

In Matthew's Gospel (5:14-16) we get these encouraging and challenging words from Jesus: "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 a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they might see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

So we are to serve our community with kindness and we are to show the love and light of Jesus clearly. But, we do not do this for ourselves or even the glory of the church. We do it for the glory of God and that others would come to praise Him.

May God help us to keep doing that,

*Paul*

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# 4 Small Money Changes to Make

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

Small, positive changes can collectively make a big difference to your life and that certainly applies when it comes to your finances. Try out these four tips and see how much money you save.

## **Create a budget**

If your aim is to save money, creating a budget is one of the most important first steps. It's a fantastic way to gain a clearer picture of your financial situation.

First, establish what you spend your money on and how much income you have coming in. This will help you see where you can cut out or cut back on small expenses to increase savings in the long run.

Visit [capuk.org/budgeting](http://capuk.org/budgeting) to get help creating your budget.

## **Always compare prices**

Since the cost of living started to rise, pretty much everything has gone up in price and it can feel almost impossible to find a bargain these days.

Things might not be cheap but there are often cheaper alternatives. We can sometimes go for a brand we've seen advertised because that exposure makes us trust it more than brands we haven't heard of. However, just because a company doesn't have a big advertising budget doesn't necessarily mean what they're selling won't do the job you need it to do.

Try cheaper alternatives, and if you like them, great, you've saved money! If you don't, you can always go back to a brand you prefer if you decide it's worth the extra cost.

## **Check out helpful websites**

Finding out what the cheapest option is can sometimes be a challenge but there are plenty of helpful websites to give you a good idea.

Try [moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com) for tips to help you save on a wide range of different things. Sign up to their weekly email newsletter to get the latest deals, guides and hacks directly from Martin Lewis and the MSE team.

## **Attend a free money course**

Free local money coaching and life skills courses can be super helpful to take your money management skills and financial confidence to the next level. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) runs these free courses in local communities for people of all faiths and none.

Visit [capuk.org/help](http://capuk.org/help) to find out more about the full range of help CAP offers in our local area.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.

## The Green Zone



Each month we highlight a practical thing that we can all do to look after the wider environment—'Creation Care' as somebody has called it.

There is a national initiative called 'No Mow May', where those with gardens are encouraged to either not mow their lawn at all or to leave a significant section of the lawn unmowed. Doing so means that some small flowers, such as daisies and dandelions, can grow and give bees the opportunity to find nectar.

The health of bees is so important to so much life on earth as they are responsible for so much pollination. Without bees much of our food could not exist. So, let's not mow our lawns in May.

## So, what is Church Army?

CA is a Mission-focused community of the Anglican Church, and we help to enable and resource the church and its members to share the gospel. Social Action is at the central to all CA does. By looking for the needs of an area first then working to meet them. And as we work with people, we can share the Gospel through both words and action. We want people to experience God's love and come to know him. Whoever, wherever they are in their lives.

We help resource people in church to speak about their faith, with tools like FAITH Pictures or FAITH Shared.

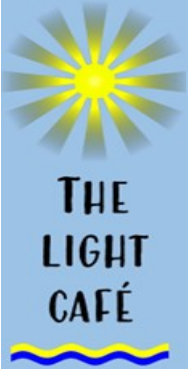
Each Tuesday morning (from 7<sup>th</sup> May at 8:30am from front of Church), I will be walking the local area to meet people, and just be. If you want to join in, come and have a chat with me.

God Bless

Phil



## The Light Cafe



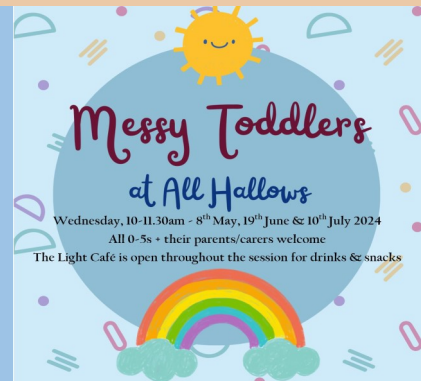
**The Light Café** is open 9am-1:30pm every Wednesday in term time.

We serve drinks, breakfast, lunch and homemade cakes—plus there's always someone for you to chat to if you'd like some company.

If it's not a Messy Toddlers week, there'll be play equipment out in the café for pre-schoolers. We also have a 'Pause for Thought' at 1:00.

Messy Toddlers takes place 10:00-11:30 on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July.

We'd love to welcome you in!



## 2 Opposing Forces Pulling Within Us

Throughout this year we have been looking at different shapes, which we have used to focus on some of the basics of what it means to be a Christian in Britain today. This month's picture is a semi-circle, a 2 sided shape. But to understand what comes next it is best to think of a pendulum hanging from the middle of the straight line. It swings from one side to the other depending on the forces that pull it.

This is a reminder to us of 2 forces that pull at us for our attention. The apostle Paul talks about the 'world' or the 'flesh'. The opposing force he talks of is the 'Spirit', and by that he doesn't mean our own spirit but the Holy Spirit.

The pull of the world or the flesh is the pull of things that we like, that we want, that we want to do. These things always have 'me' at the centre. Sometimes we do need to make good and wise decisions about our lives so that we can be healthy in body, mind and spirit. But this isn't about that. This is about us putting ourselves before the Kingdom of God. It is about ignoring Kingdom values because of that worldly thing or experience that we want.

The pull of the Spirit is the pull towards living like Jesus. It is a pull that causes us to live sacrificially, to love our neighbour as ourselves and most importantly to love God and his Kingdom even above our own lives.

This battle rages within each of us and we need God's help for the pendulum to swing the way of the Spirit and not the world.



# New or Visiting?

## First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

**Relax** - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

**We don't expect guests to give** - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

**We have a Loop System** - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

**Hang around afterwards** - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

**Prayer** - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

**Children & Youth** - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children and a group for high-school age young people. One of the Welcome Team can show you where these groups meet. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

## Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take:

### COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

Commit to follow Jesus today!

### RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST

It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

### DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

### JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

### BE PART OF THE MISSION

There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

## MAY 2024

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00-1:30 The Light Café  
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Communion Service

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:30 The Light Café  
10:00-11:30 Messy Toddlers  
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Communion Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:30 The Light Café  
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>—Pentecost Sunday

10:00 Family Service  
6:30 Evening Service

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers  
7:30 PCC

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:00-1:30 Light Café  
1:00-1:30 BCP Holy Communion  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Service and Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

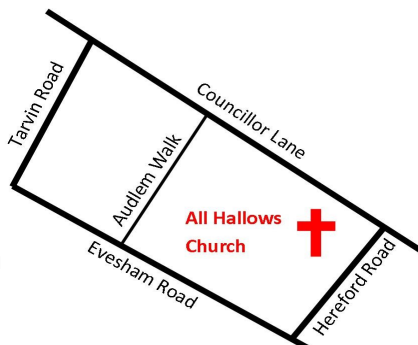
7:30 Social Night

As well as these events, Life Groups meet during the week—to join one of these small groups, speak to Paul C or Barbara.

## Contact Details

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If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.