

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS

May the God of
HOPE fill you WITH all
JOY & PEACE

ROMANS 15 : 13

MAGAZINE

Dec 25/Jan 26

Free

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Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

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Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

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Charity Registration Number: 1127791



FREE CHURCH SERVICES St Albans Cathedral

This service is celebrated monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 11am with our Free Church Chaplain and other ministers.

For further information:

Contact: Rev Simon Carver

simoncarver@btinternet.com

More details in the magazine

December 25/January 26



DECEMBER SERVICES

December 14th	Scratch Nativity and Gift Giving Service
December 21st 10.30am	Megan Thompson 'Jesus God with us'
December 21st 6.30pm	Carol Service
December 25th 10am	Christmas Day Service Rev Mark Welch
December 28th	Chris Kerry





JANUARY SERVICES

January 4 th	Rev Mark Welch 'New Beginnings'
January 11 th	All Age Family Worship
January 18 th	Rev Mark Welch 'Light in the Darkness'
January 25 th	Rev Mark Welch 'Jesus Calling'





Dear Friends

With December, we enter the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing our hearts to celebrate Christmas. It is worth remembering that Jesus was a member of a despised minority. (His parents came from the northern hill country of Judea, so their religion was suspected as being impure, and they were regarded as country bumpkins by the metropolitan elite of Jerusalem.) We might also do well to reflect that he was born homeless in a borrowed stable, which was part of an inn, and then became what we would call a refugee and asylum seeker in Egypt because King Herod wanted to kill him.

No wonder that he grew up to teach that people who didn't feed the hungry or welcome the stranger would incur God's judgement.

"Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' **Matthew 25:41-43.**

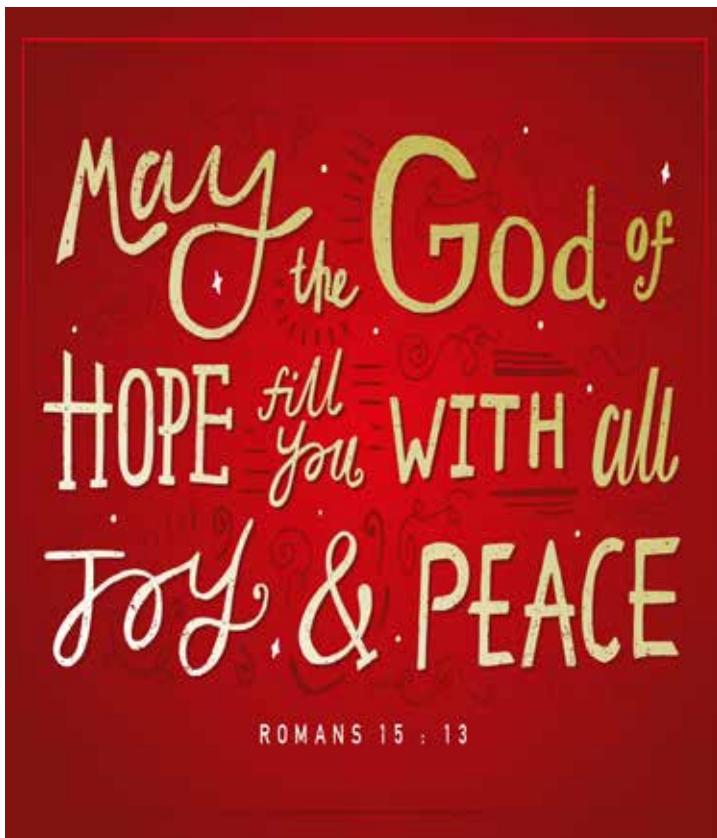
So faith collides with life in twenty-first century Britain and tells us in no uncertain way how we should behave towards the vulnerable among us.

Jesus did come to give us eternal life and, if we trust in him, we

can receive it, but the promise of that is conditional on trust that is expressed in practising a generous faith in this life that actively welcomes strangers, champions despised minorities, and turns away from nationalism and hate.

So, faith in Jesus encompasses having eternal life when we die, and the good news is that we can all have that, but the caveat is only if our values and our actions are increasingly in line with Jesus' teaching.

Mark



Dagnall Street Baptist Church
Prayer Diary
2025

December

Monday 1	Advent & What it means
Tuesday 2	A Troubled World
Wednesday 3	Understanding
Thursday 4	Support
Friday 5	The Homeless
Saturday 6	Prayer Time
Sunday 7	Candles & Prayers
Monday 8	Different kinds of Love
Tuesday 9	Kindness
Wednesday 10	Awareness of others
Thursday 11	Deacons & their Families
Friday 12	Our Musicians
Saturday 13	Who Let the Dads Out
Sunday 14	Nativity & Gift Day
Monday 15	Monday Games Club
Tuesday 16	Colin & the Scrabble Club
Wednesday 17	Linda & the Toddlers
Thursday 18	Mark, Sarah & Family
Friday 19	End of Term celebrations
Saturday 20	Carol Singing
Sunday 21	Students Home
Monday 22	Shift Workers over Christmas
Tuesday 23	Remembering Loved Ones
Wednesday 24	Anticipation
Thursday 25	The Greatest Gift
Friday 26	Christian Aid
Saturday 27	Family Time
Sunday 28	Looking Back
Monday 29	Memories
Tuesday 30	Time to Reassess
Wednesday 31	Looking Forward



Flo Mintern

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026

The Prayer List was started two years ago during the interegnum to help us pray together as a church.

I feel this format may have run its course, also I think it time for a fresh mind if it is to continue.

I hope that it has been helpful.

Blessings to you all.

Flo x



December 25/January 26

TEA, CHAT AND PRAYER



We are planning our Christmas get-together on

Tuesday, 9th December

2.30pm to 4pm.

At the home of

Jill and Alan Potter

**Please let me know if you will require transport
for this gathering or you need any further details.**

*Jill Potter
mobile no: 07779 797928*



**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



TODDLERS

**Wednesday mornings at 9.45 am
(Maximum limit of 30 Adults)
£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided**

**Meeting every Wednesday during term-time
in the Lower Hall
Entrance via the church car park**

**The last meeting for the Autumn Term will be on
WEDNESDAY, 10th DECEMBER
Reopens WEDNESDAY, 7th JANUARY**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes



I am sending this reminder to ask if a few more volunteers are able to help - thank you!

Santa's Sleigh collection for Centre 33 is on Thursday evening, 4th December - could you help with the collection?

Dear all

On Thursday 4th December the Round Table Santa's Sleigh float will again be in the Townsend area of St Albans collecting for Centre 33. The float starts at 6:30pm and finishes at or before 9pm. We have been invited to help the collection by providing 12 or more collectors (plus a Santa Claus) who walk the route collecting at doors and in the streets.

It is an enjoyable evening which many residents living on the route, especially the younger ones, look forward to. It is also a good evening walk to get your daily steps in!

In past years our evening's collection has raised a significant amount of money for Centre 33 and lots of publicity for us (including through the Round Table's online "sleigh tracker") and so is a important event in our calendar.

Would you be able to help collect? If you are interested please could you let me know in the next few days by emailing me at secretary@centre33.org.

Many thanks,

Andrew



PASTORAL TEAM

The members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Martin Taylor (07787 555730), Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051) and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are active members of the Pastoral Team.

The team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

Mark Welch



December 25/January 26

PASTORAL NEWS

There seems to have been quite a lot of articles written recently about waiting.....we all so often seem to be waiting for something.....it might be a treat, a hospital appointment, a holiday or just something special, but we are so often waiting. As many have said, waiting isn't easy. It must be very difficult for children anticipating Christmas these days as on the High Street and on the TV, adverts for Christmas seem to get earlier each year. At least for some of us older ones, Christmas used to start in December.

However you feel, as Christians we are awaiting the celebration of God sending his Son into the world as our Saviour. We can rejoice any time for His wonderful gift. The run up to Christmas has several special days to celebrate as we do in Dagnall Street and the Cross Street Café. We can all remember these in our prayers.

We do think especially of people waiting for hospital appointments which have been cancelled and those facing operations. Others have ongoing problems and need our prayers and loving help.

Please pray for:

Olly Branch and family, Tom and Velma and family, Krisztina Shreiner, Linda Williams, Jenny Johnson, Val Urban, Veronica Willians and others known personally to us. Other people who cannot now get to church include, John Peters, Bill and Elizabeth Allen and our friends who are now in Care Homes.

Please remember all the special events our church will be hosting as Christmas approaches including Cross Street and its staff. Mark and the deacons have much to do at this time even more than normally.

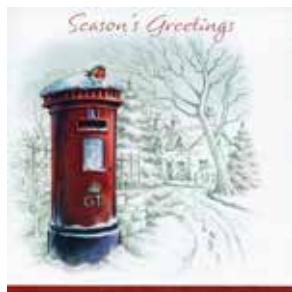
We ask God to give us true awareness of the Christmas message and hope we shall all be celebrating the New Year together after the festivities are over.

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.

Marjorie Jones





Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Post Box will be available in the Upper Link on Sundays 7th and 14th December. This is for cards for regular worshippers only.

Cards will be available for collection from the Church Vestibule from Thursday 18th December and given out on Sunday December 21st.

Donations in lieu of postage please, will go to Christian Aid.

The Postal Team



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

There are no birthdays this month but I am sure that there are people in our church congregation who do have a birthday this month. Why don't you join the BMS Birthday Scheme?

But we must remember the most important birth this month which is Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manager because there was no place for them in the inn.'

Luke 2: 7

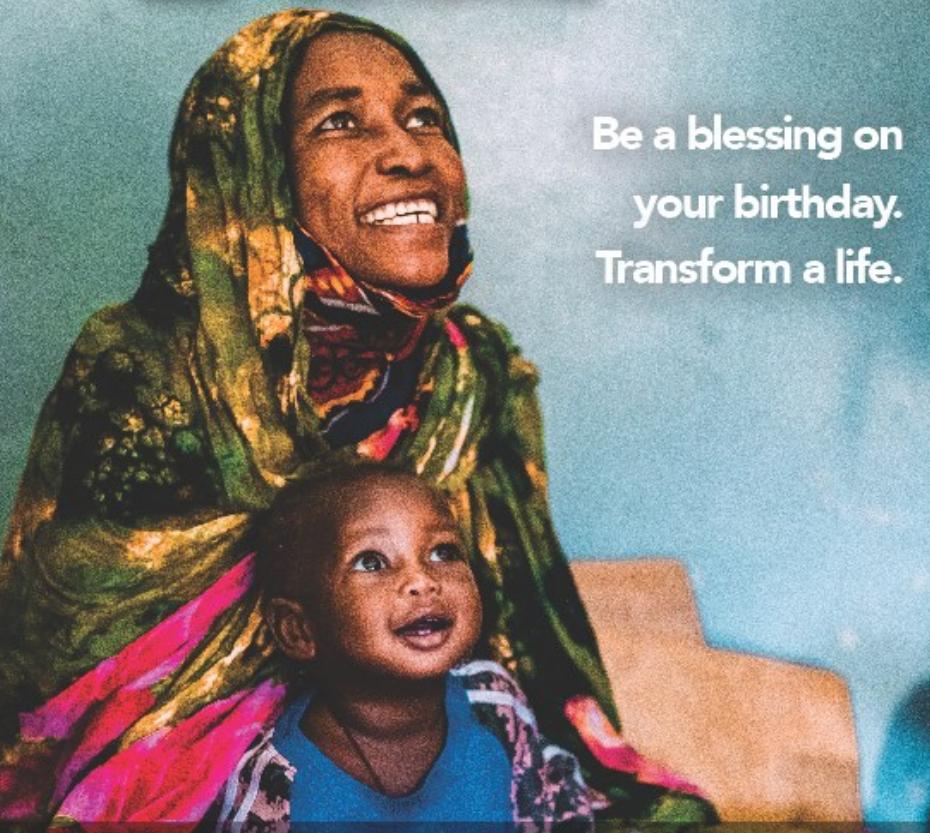
Linda Williams





Birthday Scheme

Be a blessing on
your birthday.
Transform a life.



Join your church's Birthday Scheme today to change lives with BMS World Mission. Go to www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday to find out how your birthday can make a difference.

Your Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator is:

LINDA WILLIAMS

Photo: Each year, gifts to the Birthday Scheme save lives at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad.

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity number 1174364 and a company limited by guarantee number 10849659.



**3rd—Ruth Seckerson
10th—Barbara Penn**

We also remember Brian Branch, who died in June 2025, and his family

**Lord of ice and evergreens, just as nature continues its work beneath a blanket of snow, work your way beneath the surfaces of our lives.
Refining fire, protect those who face the cold without shelter, and deliver us from winter storms.
Help us to spread the warmth of your love to all we encounter.**

Amen

From Prayers for Ordinary Moments, Our Daily Bread Ministries

Happy Birthday to all those born in the New Year.

Linda Williams

December 25/January 26

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP

**Come and join us on
Sunday, 11th January
10.30 am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities
Do just come along, we would love to see you**

**There are activities, crafts and games for
children at all our
services**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

Christmas Walk 2025

Tuesday, 30th December

This year's walk will be around Panshanger Park on Tuesday 30th December.

We will meet in the NEW car park (Panshanger Lane, SG14 2TS) at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. The parking charge is £2.50 for 1-4 hours, payable by card, and there are basic toilets.

There is the option of a 4 or a 1½ mile walk, both of which will include some mud and puddles if it has been raining.

Afterwards we will have a pub lunch at The Attimore Hall (about 5 minutes' drive away at Ridgeway, AL7 2AD) starting at 13:00.

We look forward to seeing you for the walk, the lunch or for both. If you are joining us for lunch, please let us know for booking numbers.

For further information, speak to ***Colin or Sue Owen***.

PS. If you want to see long-horned cattle, wild pigs, deer and a phoenix, join us on the walk.

December 25/January 26





THE ALPHA COURSE

Week One	13th January	Is there more to life than this?
Week Two	20th January	Who is Jesus?
Week Three	27th January	Why did Jesus die?
Week Four	3rd February	How can we have faith?
Week Five	10th February	Why and how do I pray?
HALF TERM BREAK	17th February	
Week Six	24th February	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Week Seven	3rd March	Why and how should I tell others?
MARK ON RESIDENTIAL	10th March	
SATURDAY ALPHA DAY	14th March	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Spirit?
Week Eight	17th March	How can I resist evil?
Week Nine	24th March	Does God heal today?
Week Ten	31st March	What about the Church
SATURDAY ALPHA DAY	4th April	Why and how does God Guide us?



Family Nativity & Gift Service

Sunday 14th December

10.30am

This year will be the 11th consecutive year we have collected children's gifts for the St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge, (SAHWR). Last year you very generously donated nearly 200 'wonderful' presents which the refuge was not only delighted to receive, but were very appreciative of the generosity of everyone who contributed. It is a very valuable and tangible way of supporting a significant need in our local community.

This year's arrangements will be similar to last year:-

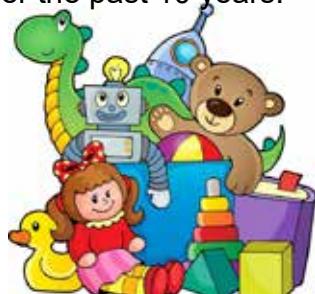
Firstly, the Refuge would prefer presents not to be gift wrapped, as although a number of them are given on behalf of Santa, others are passed directly to the respective parent, who can arrange the gift wrapping to make the gift more personal.

Secondly, if you are unable to attend on 14th December but would like to contribute, a Gift Donation Box will be left in the lower link for contributions to be made in advance, from Monday 1st December. For those of you who would like your contribution to be collected, please get in touch with me.

However you plan to shop this Christmas, please consider including an extra item or two on your festive toy shopping list, for the children of SAHWR. We will be inviting representatives from the refuge to our Gift Service on 14th December where all your gifts will be on display. It would be wonderful if we were to make their visit as meaningful and worthwhile as it has been over the past 10 years.

Happy toy-shopping!

Chris Penn



Christmas appeal



Help support your food bank this Christmas

In the three weeks leading up to Christmas, the food bank will provide over 1,100 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your local community.

Donate money



Scan the QR code to donate. You will help us get food to local families in crisis, cover the costs of distributing food, and develop sustainable community projects that tackle the root causes of hunger.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Cooking sauces

Coffee

Milk (UHT)

Cereals

Fruit juice (long-life)

Tinned pudding

Jam

Tea bags

www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

01727 613019



info@stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk



[@StAlbansDistrictFB](#)



[@st_a_and_dist_foodbank](#)

FOODBANK

Can you add one extra thing to your weekly shop?

There is even more need for food bank donations in the St Albans area. All DSBC food donations are now sent to the St Albans and District Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust Charity whose depot is in Redbourn, who also collect from the Foodbank baskets placed in many of the local supermarkets and the Town Hall and the Verulamium museums.

You can now access the shopping list needs on a free app called 'Bank the food', however, it seems that the most urgent needs are:

LONG LIFE JUICE

LONG LIFE MILK

MULTI SURFACE CLEANER

LUNCH BOX SNACKS

TINNED CUSTARD

TUNNED FRUIT

TINNED MEAT

If you want to see the full list but cannot get the app speak to me.

If we just add one item to our shopping list we can bring it with us on a Sunday and I can ensure it is taken to a collection point.

Many thanks

Diane



The Honey Bee

Adult

About 21 days after the egg is laid, the pupa becomes an adult bee. It chews the lid off its cell and climbs out.



drone bee



worker bee



queen bee

A busy adult worker bee can live for up to 6 weeks in the summer. Honey bees can potentially survive through a winter as long as they have enough food and can keep warm, although all the drones and many of the worker bees will die. The remaining bees will cluster together, keeping the queen safe until the days warm up again.

The Queen Bee

A new queen bee will take over from the old queen when she dies, or look for a new hive of her own. A queen bee can live for up to 4 years! When you see a swarm of bees, it is usually a queen and her workers looking for a new nest, or hive.



Activity
Village

The Honey Bee - Making Honey

To produce 450g (1lb) of honey, bees have to fly about 88,500 km (55,000 miles)!

A foraging honey bee may visit up to 100 flowers per trip. Honey bees have to work very hard. Each honey bee will produce only about 0.5g (one twelfth of a teaspoon) of honey before it dies! Imagine how much work went into the teaspoon of honey you put on your toast in the morning!

Bees collect sweet nectar from flowers, usually travelling less than 6km (4 miles) around their hive. The nectar is combined with an enzyme in the bee's mouth. When the bee returns to the hive, the nectar is passed from bee to bee, further mixing with more enzyme, until it becomes "honey" and is dropped into the wax cells of the honeycomb.

The mixture is a bit liquid, so the bees flap their wings over it to reduce the water content. When it is ready, the bees cap the cells with more wax.

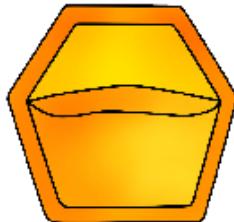
If the honey isn't stolen - perhaps by a beekeeper - it will be used as winter food for the colony.



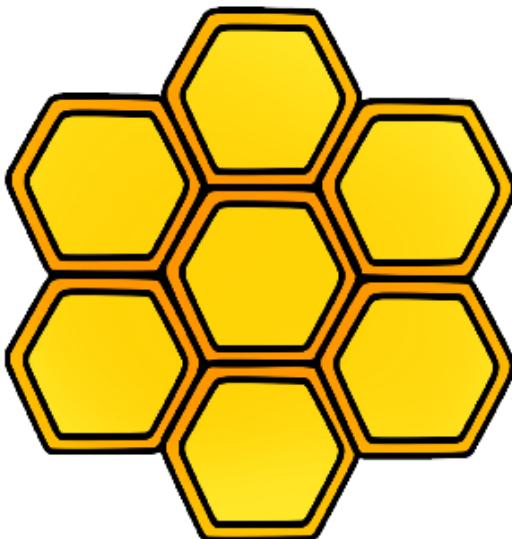
The Honey Bee - Magical Honeycombs

Young worker bees have glands that secrete beeswax, which is gathered up by other worker bees ready for use. As the worker bee gets older, their supplies dry up and they go out on foraging duty.

Older worker bees use the beeswax to construct the cells of a honeycomb, either for storing honey or for receiving eggs laid by the queen bee. Wax is also used later to "cap" the cells during the pupa stage of the life cycle, and to keep any stored honey safe for winter survival.



The cells of a honeycomb are hexagonal. Nature is amazing! Honey bees have found the perfect way to store the most amount of honey with the least amount of wax, with no gaps and maximum strength!



**ST. ALBANS
CATHERDRAL**

**You are invited to attend a
Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel
on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am:**

7th January 2025

**The Reverend Simon Carver,
Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain,
St Albans Cathedral.**

*Please note this service will include a celebration
of the Lord's Supper, to which all Christian
believers are invited.*

4th February 2025

**Maggie Dodd,
Anna Chaplain, St Albans.**

4th March 2025

**The Reverend Mary Moody
Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association.**

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,
Email: simoncarver@btinternet.com

YWAM, Harpenden Chapel



THE LIGHT FANTASTIC



AFTERNOON CONCERT WITH
KINGS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sat Dec 6th
4:30-5:45pm

EVENING CONCERT WITH
KINGS CHAMBER ORCHESTR

Sat Dec 6th
7:30-9:00pm



KINGS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

December 25/January 26

YWAM, Harpenden Chapel

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

THE TEDDY BEAR CONCERT

Saturday December 6th

2:00pm-3:00pm

The Chapel, Highfield Oval





MISSION NEWS

Christian Aid's 2025 Christmas Appeal

“No Crib for a Bed”

As the festive season approaches, a time traditionally marked by tidings of peace and joy, we are invited to consider the reality of those facing unimaginable hardship due to violence.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), decades of conflict and political instability have fuelled one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. Violence between multiple armed groups and government forces has left millions of families with no option but to abandon their homes and livelihoods in search of safety. As a result of conflict, the DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. It's estimated that more than 70% of the population lived on around £1.50 a day last year. The violence has damaged infrastructure. Shops and businesses have been looted and church congregations have been subjected to targeted attacks.

Chance is the mother of eight children, including baby Siborge, and used to work as a shopkeeper. When armed conflict swept through her community in February, Chance knew her family had to escape to survive. Clutching her newborn baby and rallying her children, Chance fled on foot. Her husband stayed behind. As fighter jets screamed overhead and bombs fell, Chance felt her recent caesarean wound open. With great courage, Chance sought out the relative safety of Katashola Camp for displaced people and was able to receive some medical assistance.

But now, her children are hungry, and at grave risk of malnutrition and malaria. Chance told us: 'Here in the camp, people need food, clothes, jerrycans, saucepans, blankets and mattresses.' The humanitarian emergency in the DRC is one of the largest global hunger crises, with more than 27 million people in need of food. Though Chance is a brave and resourceful mother, she's running out of options – because of a situation that's heartbreakingly beyond her control. She says: 'I wish you could help me and my companions who are suffering like me. Please help us.'

Joyce is a farmer and mother of four children. Her loving family includes her husband, Michel, three daughters and one son. When Joyce was heavily pregnant with her daughter Emiliana, violence was spreading in the region where the family live in the DRC. Joyce was afraid that the conflict would reach their home. As she went into labour, Joyce could hear bombs falling nearby.

When Emiliana was just two months old soldiers came to Joyce's village and the family were forced to hide in the nearby forest. Returning to their home meant capture or death. The family fled to Bulengo Camp for displaced people. Joyce told Christian Aid: 'Emiliana was in a near death state. I tied her to my chest and covered her with a blanket. The child just clung to my chest. I was scared and thinking: Will I die? Will my children die too? I was asking God, if I die, who will take care of my child?'

Sadly, life in Bulengo Camp offered little relief. Food and drinking water were in exceptionally short supply. After two days, the family faced serious hunger and thirst. Michel risked his life returning to their home to collect whatever supplies he could salvage. While the family have been able to return to their home full-time, the trauma stays with them. Joyce says: 'All the time I am thinking about the war. If it gets here, where will we flee to?' She adds: 'Emiliana's whole five months of life have been very stressful. She doesn't even get enough time to play with me – her mother – due to my fear.'

Working with trusted partner, ECC-MERU, Christian Aid is delivering financial assistance to refugees, people who've been displaced, and people who are marginalised in the DRC. Called the Chronic Crisis Stream, this vital funding is a lifeline for families who've left everything behind to survive. Offering financial assistance means people can prioritise their own specific needs and decide how to meet them. Many choose to buy ingredients that will guard their family from malnutrition. Others opt to replace left-behind bedding and blankets for their children – help

ing to make temporary shelters feel a little more homely. With medication beyond the budget of many households, some choose to buy lifesaving malaria treatment. ECC-MERU is also working to increase sustainable access to drinking water.

Christian Aid urgently needs our support this Christmas, so that mothers like Chance & Joyce can buy nutritious food, vital medicines and hygiene products. Our gifts could fund emergency shelters, as well as cosy bedding to comfort traumatised children.

Look out for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal envelopes in the church on Christmas Day. Alternatively, you could go to the Christian Aid website to donate on-line, or use the QR code on the poster in the Cross Street Centre.





Baptist Union Prayer Diary December 2025

7 December: Please pray for the North West Baptist Association as they seek to share God's love together across the Baptist communities in Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, and parts of Cumbria and North Wales. www.nwba.org.uk

14 December: This week please pray the Small Church Connexion as they expand their team, vision and reach. A high percentage of Christians across the UK experience a valid expression of God's Kingdom every Sunday in congregations with 40 people or less, and the Small Church Connexion aims to inspire, empathise and encourage with resources to try and links to various websites to help churches in their mission to reach people for Christ.

www.baptist.org.uk/smallchurchesconnexion

21 December: In this Christmas week, we give thanks for the love of God shown through the birth of our Lord Jesus. Pray that we may show God's light and peace to those we meet this Christmastime.

28 December: As we come to the end of 2025, take time to reflect on the past year. Pray that we may see where God has blessed us and challenged us, and ask for God's guiding presence for the year ahead.





Tools With A Mission

TWAM is a charity which DSBC has supported for very many years, both through planned mission giving and with our various tool collection activities.

Sadly, we no longer organise our annual tool collection event or make regular grants to TWAM through our planned mission giving, such is the effect of the ageing process and the need to tighten our purse strings!

However, we do still support TWAM by passing on donations of tools we receive to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, who are able to store them and arrange for delivery to depots in Ipswich or Rugby.

TWAM's latest newsletter explains the process:

“We are a Christian Charity that collects donated useable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and ships them to the developing world for livelihood creation.” (Countries in receipt of tools are Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe together with Burundi, one of the world’s poorest countries, where TWAM’s first container was sent earlier this year.)

“We support local people, meeting local needs with life-transforming skills training projects. We supply tools to equip training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support we see long-term sustainable livelihoods created.”

They go on to say costs are kept very low, but they still need a lot

of support. Every toolkit sent changes lives and provides hope. Those who receive a toolkit receive the dignity of being able to provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. Each year over 18,000 tools are collected, sorted and packaged by loyal teams of volunteers, but the spiraling cost of shipping means that a further £15,000 is required in order to achieve the goal of sending 25 containers this year.

For more information just google TWAM.



Chris Penn



Building Hope: Supporting Young Minds in Challenging Times

Anxiety among children and teenagers has quietly become one of the greatest challenges of our age. While some worry is natural, for many young people it can take root deeply, shaping choices, dimming confidence, and clouding hope for the future.

Times of change can be especially difficult. The move from primary to secondary school, for example, can be both exciting and overwhelming for 10- and 11-year-olds. New teachers, buildings, routines, and social pressures can magnify existing fears, and without the right support, debilitating anxiety can take hold.

Scripture reminds us that “hope is an anchor for the soul.” Hope does not remove life’s challenges, but gives us the strength to face them. When we listen to, encourage, and equip young people with hope-giving resources, we reflect the compassion and love at the heart of the Gospel.

Faith in action often looks very practical. It can be a volunteer giving up an evening to run a youth group, a teacher taking time to check in on a pupil, or a church opening its hall as a safe meeting place. Each small act builds a stronger net of care around our young people.

Haven Hope, a local Christian project, has been doing just that since 2017. Through small group programs in schools and community settings, they have helped more than 600 young people manage anxiety and rediscover hope. Their new *Haven Hope Primary* initiative reaches children before they move up to secondary school, so helping them build much-needed resilience and hope for the journey ahead.

As we look to the future, we can ask ourselves what part are we playing in building hope? Perhaps it begins with noticing, listening, and offering support. And it surely grows when we join together—

as neighbours, churches, and community members—to ensure every child knows they are valued, capable, and never alone.



Claire Banham founded Haven Hope (formerly The Haven) after her pre-teenage daughter experienced ongoing, acute anxiety, preventing her from participating fully in school life. Motivated by John 10:10, Haven Hope exists to enable children and young people to reduce acute debilitating anxiety, so enabling them to “*live life to the full*”.

Find out more about our work at www.havenhope.uk.



Haven Prayer

God, please grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

In the days and the weeks and the months ahead, grant me the gift of peace, real peace in the depth of my being, a peace that goes beyond my understanding. And help me to find ways to build a lasting calm into my life.

Amen

Claire Banham

Claire was our guest speaker at our Church in the Café on 2nd November.



Calmer & Stronger, For Life

December 25/January 26



CROSS STREET CAFÉ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

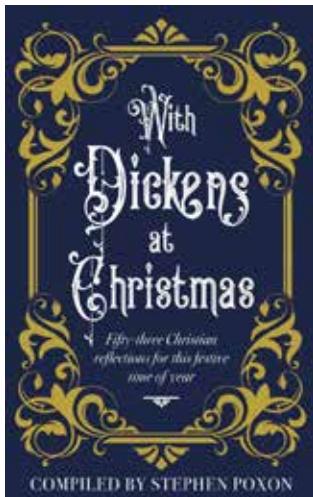


THURSDAY
11th DECEMBER

10.00-2.00

Everyone welcome





This beautiful book comprises 53 carefully-curated extracts from the writings of Charles Dickens, all relating to the season of Christmas. Each reading is presented for reflective reading alongside an appropriate passage from the Bible, a prayer, and a verse from a traditional Christmas carol. The collection as a whole is the perfect Christmas gift for fans of Dickens, and an inspirational armchair companion for all non-Scrooges at 'this kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time' of year.

The book, written by Stephen Poxon who has conducted many services for us, particularly during our recent pastoral vacancy, is due to be published later this month, and in a recent email he says, "Any help you might be able to offer in promoting my newest book would be greatly appreciated."

'With Dickens at Christmas' is available from **Eden.co.uk** at: <https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christmas-and-advent-books/advent-books/advent-devotionals/with-dickens-at-christmas/>

It's simply a question of visiting the Eden website, then entering 'Stephen Poxon' into the 'Search' box - then ordering lots of copies as Christmas presents!

December 25/January 26

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



Who Let the Dads Out (WLTDO)

Meets on the Second Saturday of each month

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided
For Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc..**

Taking place in the Lower Hall

Entrance via the church car park

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 10am
and in the New Year
SATURDAY, 10th JANUARY 2026**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes



*DAGNALL STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH*

*CHRISTMAS CAROLS
by
TWINKLY LIGHTS*

*SUNDAY
21ST DECEMBER
6.30pm*



THE CORE

YOUTH AND KIDS MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER

'The BIG ideas session' – games, storytelling, websites, visual aids, craft, songs and much more. Come grab some ideas!

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

'Helping parents survive their teenage years' – join us as we unpack some of the challenges of having teenagers and chat through a few ways we can support one another.

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER

'Intergenerational, all-age, multi-age, worship for all' – whatever you call it – ideas to help your worship work better when everyone is together.

7.30pm-9.30pm

Christ Church, High Oaks, St Albans, AL3 6DJ

To book or for more info: mike@the267project.com



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Let's remind ourselves of the items we can undertake as a church.

Food Bank

A list of items we can give to support this are listed in the church magazine.

Any items can be taken to the Town Hall (11am to 5pm)

TWAM -Tools with A Mission.

Any items of hand and machine tools to support people in overseas countries to help them be self-sufficient. Any tool items can be taken to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave. St Albans, on any Thursday afternoon.

TWAM leaflets are in the leaflet rack in the Centre, or if you require further details contact me.

Emmaus; who recycle old furniture as well as supporting people who are homeless.

Used Postage Stamps for local charity. Please leave in the box on the link table

Due to circumstances, I will no longer be attending Car Boot sales, so any items can be taken to your local Charity shop of choice.

We can all play our part with environmental issues in protecting God's planet.

Recycling you can undertake at home:

Recycle Paper - Cardboard Tin – Glass and Plastic with the council waste collection.

Recycle food waste and plants in a compost bin, if you can.

Many thanks in anticipation

Trevor Oakley





Nativity Word Scramble

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. ASRT -----

2. HSERHSEDP -----

3. YKENDO -----

4. MAYR -----

5. GLEAN -----

6. SGKIN -----

7. SJESU -----

8. ERANMG -----

9. HJSEPO -----

10. TEBLAS -----





PHOTOGRAPHY

You may have noticed bright yellow signs placed in areas of the church and Cross St café. These are a reminder to us all that any photos taken on our premises are for personal use only and **must not** to be shared on social media or in any form of publicity, **unless** permission has been granted by those being photographed, or in the case of children, by their parents or carers.

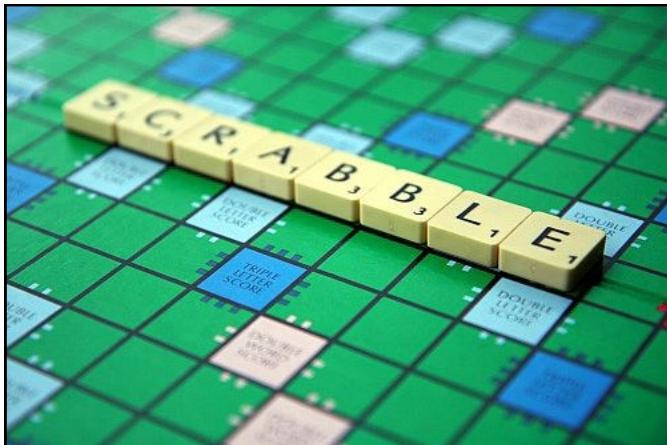
There are consent forms available if needed.

For further information please contact:

LINDA ROBERTS on 01727 858869 or FRANK IDDIOLS on 07939 287785 (both responsible for Safeguarding) or CHRIS PENN on 07770 334339 (Church Secretary)

Thank you.

Scrabble Club



DSBC Scrabble Club is on the ***first and third*** Tuesday of the month from ***14:30 to 16:30***.

Tuesday 2nd and 16th December
Tuesday 6th and 20th January

All are welcome.

So come along to the Cross Street Centre and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

Colin Owen

December 25/January 26

Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool and other Indoor Games



Every Monday at;
Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans
In the Lower Hall from 10.30am till 12.30pm

*Come along and join us for a time of
Fun and Fellowship*

All are Welcome

Contact: Trevor Oakley

CHRISTMAS



The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

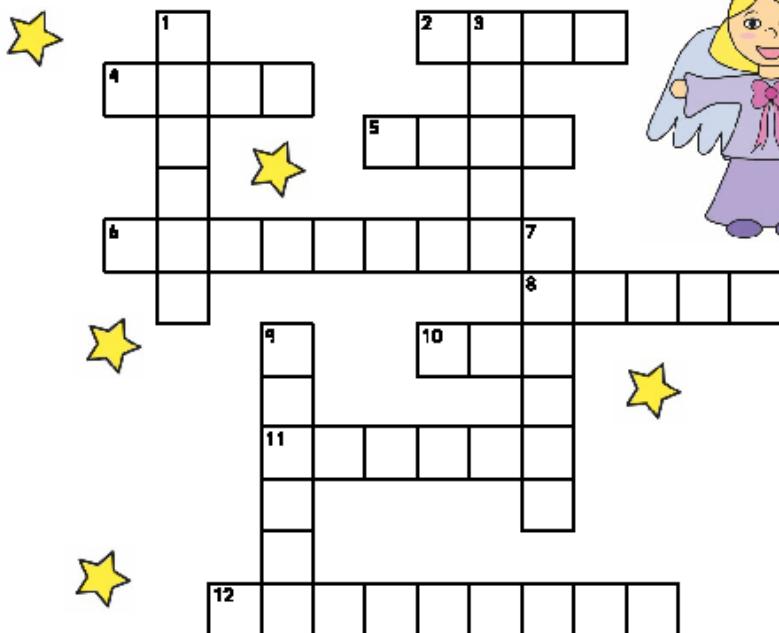
And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

JOHN BETJEMAN



The Nativity Crossword



Across

2. The Wise Men followed this.
4. Precious metal given to the baby Jesus as a gift.
5. Mother of Jesus.
6. The town that Jesus was born in.
8. Mary was visited by one to tell her she would have a baby.
10. There was no room here for Mary and Joseph.
11. Baby Jesus was born in this building.
12. A angel visited them to tell them about the birth as they watched their sheep.

Down

1. Mary rode on one.
3. The number of kings or wise men who visited Jesus.
7. Jesus was laid in here as a crib.
9. Mary's husband.



Goodwill to Men—Give us your money

It was Christmas Eve on a Friday
The shops was full of cheer,
With tinsel in the windows,
And presents twice as dear.
A thousand Father Christmases,
Sat in their little huts,
And folk was buying crackers
And folk was buying nuts.



All up and down the country,
Before the light was snuffed,
Turkeys they get murdered,
And cockerels they got stuffed,
Christmas cakes got marzipanned,
And puddin's they got steamed
Mothers they got desperate
And tired kiddies screamed.

Hundredweight's of Christmas cards,
Went flying through the post,
With first class postage stamps on those,
You had to flatter most.
Within a million kitchens,
Mince pies was being made,
On everyone's radio,
"White Christmas", it was played.

Out in the frozen countryside
Men crept round on their own,
Hacking off the holly,
What other folks had grown,
Mistletoe on willow trees,
Was by a man wrenched clear,
So he could kiss his neighbour's wife,
He'd fancied all the year.

And out upon the hillside,
Where the Christmas trees had stood,

All was completely barren,
But for little stumps of wood,
The little trees that flourished
All the year were there no more,
But in a million houses,
Dropped their needles on the floor.



And out of every cranny, cupboard,
Hiding place and nook,
Little bikes and kiddies' trikes,
Were secretly took,
Yards of wrapping paper,
Was rustled round about,
And bikes were wheeled to bedrooms,
With the pedals sticking out.

Rolled up in Christmas paper
The Action Men were tensed,
All ready for the morning,
When their fighting life commenced,
With tommy guns and daggers,
All clustered round about,
"Peace on Earth - Goodwill to Men"
The figures seemed to shout.

The church was standing empty,
The pub was standing packed,
There came a yell, "Noel, Noel!"
And glasses they got cracked.
From up above the fireplace,
Christmas cards began to fall,
And trodden on the floor, said:
"Merry Christmas, to you all."

Pam Ayres

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the
sky and stay by my cradle till morning is
nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay.
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care and take us to heaven to live with Thee
there.



**THE NEXT DATE FOR COPY FOR THE
MAGAZINE WILL BE THURSDAY,
15th JANUARY, 2026**

By this time it will be all over! And I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

But in the meantime the run up to Christmas is all around us. The advent calendars to buy, the decorations to put up, the Christmas tree to decorate and light up. All that food shopping to look forward to!! I looked on the Waitrose site last week and a lot of their Christmas food is already sold out. But I did get my crackers half price!

I've posted my cards to Australia, and I've ordered bits from Amazon Australia (you have to do it early otherwise everything is sold out). I've given them instructions on what they can and cannot open (they can open the Advent Calendar jigsaw puzzles on 1st December the rest will have to wait until Christmas Day). And in between the festivities there are two birthdays too. Everything is labelled with instructions!

The weather has been very changeable of late. The Friday before last I got soaked all the way through gardening at the hospice, last Friday the sun was beautiful although there was a thick frost on the ground (thank goodness for Thermals). But there is nothing better than a frosty morning with the sun shining. We even sat on a terrace for our tea break.

Hope everyone has a happy and Merry Christmas and a really good start to 2026.

Glynis
glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com
01462 733665
07517 877601



PICCALILLI

450g/1lb each picking onions peeled, cauliflower florets, de-seeded cucumber and top and tailed French beans all chopped into bite size pieces

340g/12oz course rock salt

750ml/11/4 pt white malt vinegar, cider vinegar or white wine vinegar

1 tbsp English mustard powder, ground ginger & ground turmeric

1tbsp whole yellow mustard seeds

2 clove garlics chopped

175g/6oz light muscovado sugar

2-3 tbsp cornflour

Warm large sterilised jam jars with screw tops

Put vegetables in a non metallic bowl. Sprinkle the salt over the top, toss together and leave covered overnight.

Put vinegar in saucepan add the spices and bring to the boil.

Drain the vegetables and rinse well under running water.

Add to simmering vinegar, cook over a low heat for 20-25 mins. Add the sugar and simmer for 1-2 mins.

Mix 2 tbsp of cornflour with a little water and stir into the vegetables. Bring back to the boil and cook for 1-2 mins. The mixture should be glossy and thick. Add the remaining cornflour in the same way if necessary.

Remove from heat and leave to cool for 15 mins. Spoon into the warm jars and cover with a wax paper and screw top lid. Label. Store in a cool dark place for 3-4 weeks before eating.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

As we all know our household bills are rising and the cost of heating and lighting the church is no different to the energy costs at home. Our church relies on raising its own income. Some of this comes from hiring out our rooms, but the majority comes from congregational giving. There are various ways in which this can be done. There is a plate by the door of the church for cash and offering envelopes.

We now also have a contactless offering device which accepts card or phone payments of specific amounts and this is also by the main church doors on Sundays. These donations are completely anonymous.



We are happy to receive bank transfers and standing orders and the details are below:

***Deacons of Dagnall Street Baptist Church
60-18-11
42087783***

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight,
lizblight@gmail.com, so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Deacons



'Share St Albans' is a 'library of things' where we lend DIY, garden, kitchen, party items or something for your home. Set up for St Albans and district to borrow not buy. Whether you want to loan a gazebo or DIY equipment we are here to share and reduce our collective environmental footprint and have a collaborative community.

By borrowing something for a small fee you can save yourself money, save on space needed for storage and help to save the planet.

Locations:

The Green House, 46 London Road, AL1 1NG
Sandridge Parish Council Car Park, The Ridgeway AL4 9TU

Please log onto the site to see opening times at these locations



What, When and Where December 2025

The church is open for services at 10.30am each Sunday. There are activities, games and crafts for children during every service on a Sunday.

After service coffee is served in the Cross Street Centre.

Scratch Nativity and Gift Service, Sunday, 14th December 10.30am.

Church in the Café, none during December.

Tea Chat and Prayer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th December from 2.30-4pm.

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 2nd and 16th December, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45—11.15am. The last meeting for the Autumn term is on Wednesday, 10th December.

Who Let the Dad's Out . Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday 13th December, 10-11.15am.

Monday table tennis/games club is held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café opens weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm. The Café will be closed for the Christmas holiday from 2pm on Saturday, 20th December and reopening in the New Year at 10am on Wednesday, 7th January, 2026.

Cross Street Café Christmas Celebration, Thursday, 11th December, 10am—2pm.

Newsletter by email, weekly.

What, When and Where January 2026

All Age Family Service, Sunday, 11th January. Everyone welcome.

Tea, chat and Prayer. January meeting TBA.

Church in the Café, none during January.

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6th and 20th January, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45-11.15am. First meeting in the New Year is Wednesday, 7th January, 2026.

Who Let the Dad's Out. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The January meeting will be on Saturday, 10th January.

Monday table tennis/games club is held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am.

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café reopens after the Christmas holiday on Wednesday, 7th January, 2026, at 10am.

Newsletter by email, weekly.

The church magazine can be viewed on the church website in colour.

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and join us this Advent and Christmas

**On each Sunday during Advent join us 10.30 am service
with lighting of Advent candles**

Special Services

Sunday 14th December, 10.30 am FAMILY NATIVITY AND GIFT SERVICE

We would love as many of you as possible to dress up as one of the Nativity Characters
Donations welcome for our collection of gifts for St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge

Thursday 11th December, 10 am – 2 pm CROSS STREET CAROLS

with music, carols and nibbles

Sunday 21st December, 6.30 pm LESSONS AND CAROLS

followed by refreshments

25th December, CHRISTMAS DAY, 10.15 am All Age Service of Celebration

All are welcome to any of our services and events

Please do come along and join us.