



# Churches Together News

## February 2012

### Forthcoming events

#### February 2012

##### [Messy Church](#)

Friday, 3 February 3.30pm - 5.30pm Southdown Methodist Church Halls (above the Co-op Supermarket).

##### [Harpenden Outreach Prayers](#)

Saturday 4 February 8.30am at St Nicholas Church Hall, Church Green. Contact Paul Johnston 07808 296925 for details or prayer requests. Click above for details.

##### [Cafe Thursdays - Book Cafe](#)

Thursday 9 February 7.45 for an 8.00 pm start in Wesley's, High Street methodist Church. We shall discuss "The Room of Lost Things" by Stella Duffy, now available to borrow from the Harpenden Library

##### [Healing - Services, Teaching and Workshop](#)

We are organising a day at High Street Methodist Church on **Sunday 12 February** to focus on God's Healing Love. Rev Dr Malcolm White will preach in the morning, lead a workshop in the afternoon (2.30pm) and lead a healing service in the evening.

Malcolm leads the healing ministry team at Central Hall Westminster and has been involved in the healing ministry for 20 years. He has spoken at many conferences in the UK and abroad. All are welcome to all or any part of the day. Click above for flyer. Further information from Elaine Naughten 769052 or Vernon Cobb 967828. It is not necessary to book a place, but organisers would like an idea of numbers.

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#### March 2012

##### [Women's World Day of Prayer](#)

Friday 2 March 10.30am hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, Rothamsted Avenue  
7.45 p.m. hosted by Bethany Community Church at Highfield Oval, No. 8 Conference Room.  
The title is "Let Justice Prevail", and the service has been prepared by the women of Malaysia. Men, women and children are all welcome! Click above for details.

##### [Batford Methodist Church Quiz Night](#)

Saturday 3 March 7.00pm at Batford Methodist Church, Lower Luton Road, Annual Quiz Night with fish and chip supper. £7.50 per head. Bring a team or join a team on the night. Tickets from Geoff Ackroyd 01582 767042 or June and Leslie Jenkins 01582 760815. Click above for flyer.

##### [Farewell event for Rev Christopher Futcher](#)

Saturday 24 March 6.00 pm Rev Christopher Futcher is leaving after 11 years as Rector of St Nicholas' to become Archdeacon of Exeter Cathedral. There will be a farewell event in St Nicholas' Church Hall. All welcome

# Harpenden Matters

## Olympic Outreach 2012

### Reaching the millions of visitors to the UK during the Olympics



Outreach during the Olympics was the subject of our prayers at the Harpenden Matters prayer breakfast held at Christchurch Vaughan Road on Saturday 28 January,

Hayley Bullen and Kyle Henderson-Begg from YWAM came to tell us about the events that will be happening at the Oval in the summer and initiatives that are already happening as part of the Olympic outreach.

You may have heard of [More Than Gold](#), which is an ecumenical organisation looking to support and encourage all churches and Christian groups in their own initiatives to spread the gospel to the millions of visitors we will see in London and the other Olympic venues this summer. There is a joint statement about More Than Gold from the Presidents of Churches Together in England, [here](#).

The various initiatives which YWAM are involved in, named Forever 2012, come under the umbrella of More than Gold. The aim is to send international teams to all the Olympic venues to share the gospel in different ways.

One of the initiatives is to precede the Olympic torch in its passage round the UK with a bus full of people praising God and publicising events which churches along the torch route will be hosting.

About 5-6000 people will be camping at the Oval from July - September, to be part of the teams. In the week running up to the start of the Games, an International Arts and Sports Festival called Go 4 Glory will be held at the Oval, giving Christian artists and athletes an opportunity to celebrate, train, network and promote their ministry. Those attending Go 4 Glory can then go on to be involved in the Olympic outreach. More information about Go 4 Glory can be found [here](#).

Young people in local churches are invited to be part of events which are happening at the Oval, and older ones may wish to join an outreach team, for which there will be training provided on the base. Details will be posted on the [Forever 2012 website](#).

Prayer is an important part of the success of any Christian venture. YWAM have set up an online prayer calendar called 'Brick by Brick' where you can sign up for one or more hour slots (bricks) of prayer on a 'prayer wall', running 24/7. Information about this and how to sign up can be found on the [forever 2012 website](#)

Local churches are running their own events as part of the outreach. Some will be showing parts of the Games (eg the Opening Ceremony or key events) on a wide screen on their premises and inviting the local community to share watching the event together. St Mary's Kinsbourne Green is considering running an *Its a Knockout* competition. Christchurch Harpenden is hosting a Sports Quiz in May, in collaboration with Christians in Sport. The Methodist church is involved in hosting visitors (eg families of athletes) in local homes.

More ideas for ways in which your church can be involved can be found on the [More than Gold website](#).

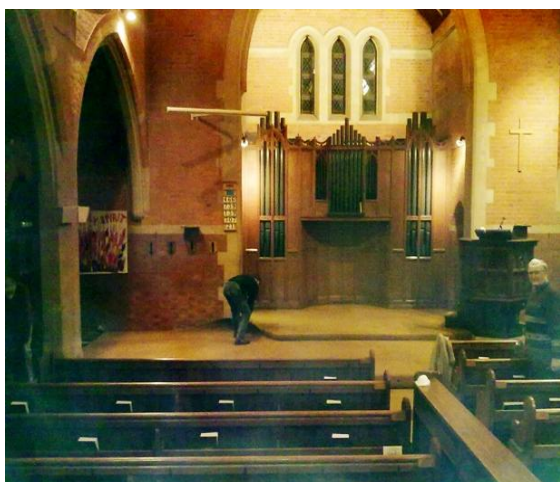
Don't forget to give details of your church's events to this website for publicity on the What's On page!

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## Refurbishment of the United Reformed Church, Harpenden November - December 2011

In Autumn 2011, the URC embarked on a major refurbishment of the interior of the church, to extend the dais at the front, sand and seal the floor, and to replace the pews with chairs. This allows for the church to be used more flexibly, since the chairs can be moved when required to provide a large open floor space, and the extra space at the front may allow for the area to be used for concerts or plays. Use was made of this at the end of term when the local school's nativity play was held in the building.

The main stages in the work are shown below.  
(photos by Philip Valle)



**Removing the carpet**



**Extending the raised area**



**Floor sanded, but not yet varnished**



**Dividing the pews into two halves**  
(most were sold to members of the congregation)



**New chairs and shining floor!**

*(photo by Dorothy Pattie)*

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## Inter-church Quiz 2012



About 24 teams from churches across Harpenden took part in the 19th annual Inter-church quiz on 14th January at Roundwood Park School. The quiz was as competitive as ever, with several teams within a few points of each other for much of the evening. All rounds were general knowledge, including such diverse problems as 'What does an oologist study?' and 'What races beginning with C are held at Newmarket?' Questions about the Bible, and the number of legs on a spider, proved somewhat easier.

Congratulations to the eventual winners - the 'Also Rans' - a team from All Saints who scored 80 out of a possible 101, with the All Sorts and All Stars in joint second place (both All Saints) and Neighbours and Boiled Eggheads third. Many thanks to John Farrow, the quiz master, for organising this successful event, and his team of able helpers. The quiz marks the beginning of the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).