

Dear HBC family,

We have done it!



We want to say a huge thank-you to everyone who has helped prepare for the Christmas Gala and Markets over the last few weeks.

We have successfully packed 1800 goodie bags for children, painted around 900 Nativity story stones, and wrapped over 200 Christmas story books to be given away at our Toddler and Baby groups. Thank you so, so much!



This really was a collective effort, and it has been amazing to work together as a whole church towards something that will directly bless and encourage so many people in our local community.

We are now praying for every goodie bag, stone and leaflet that is given out – that 1800 children will read the Nativity story, and that hundreds and hundreds of adults will place the stones on a mantelpiece, table or windowsill, and use the picture and words to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



Do pray that as we hand out 3000 invitations to church that many, many people will be stirred by the Holy Spirit to come along, and that as they do they will encounter Jesus – 'God with Us.'

And finally, please pray for the weather over the next few days (particularly Saturday and Sunday), and that this does not prevent people from coming out to the event!



Even if you have not signed up to help at the gala and markets – do feel free to come along and join us! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to come together as a church family, as we reach out to those around us.

[This week – 24<sup>th</sup> November – 10.15am](#)

In our morning gathering we conclude our new series 'Generosity'

This week our topic is: 'The Practice of Giving'

The Bible passage is: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11.

## What's happening in the next 2 weeks.....

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Guest speaker & Advent Reflection



Next Sunday we have two fantastic opportunities to meet and worship God together.

At our morning gathering, we are delighted to be welcoming Revd Lisa Kerry, the Regional Minister Team Leader for the Central Baptist Association, to preach. Before she was a minister, Lisa was a nurse for over 20 years but then felt God's call into ministry. She worked at three different churches, as well as being a chaplain for two hospices, before taking on the Regional Minister role. We are excited to hear what Lisa is going to share with us from the Bible

In the evening, we would then love to invite the whole church family to join us for our Advent Reflection at 7.30pm.

The festive season can feel hectic and rushed, so we encourage you to set aside one evening as a time for quiet and stillness at the start of Advent as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus – 'God With Us.'



### Church Members Meeting – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7.45pm



We would love to see everyone at our next Church Members Meeting, as we come together to worship, pray, and seek God together.

These evenings are such an important part of our life together as a church family, particularly as we pray for our new staff appointment, for the events and gatherings over Christmas, as well as our financial position moving into 2025.

### Advent Craft Afternoon – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 3-5pm



Join us as we have fun sticking, gluing, creating, designing, colouring and making all sorts of Advent and Christmas craft activities!

Plus festive snacks and refreshments too. There will also be a small play area for younger siblings, who might be too little to do the crafts.

So much to do for all the family – and for the bargain price of £2 per child.

We would love to see you and your friends there – use the step free entrance on Chambers Street.

Coming up soon.....

## Hollybush School Christingle - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1.30pm

We are delighted to be welcoming around 200 students, staff and parents from Hollybush Primary School on Tuesday 3rd December for a Christingle service.

For the event to run smoothly, we need several people to be welcomers, and to provide tea and coffee for parents and carers who come along.



We will need people to be around from about 12.30pm through to 2.30pm. If you can help, please contact Helen, via the church office. Thank you!

## Christmas Gatherings and Publicity



We have been busy this week updating our website and Facebook page with all the information that you need for Christmas. Each of the services we are holding has their own Facebook event, so you can easily share these and invite others to come along too.

You can also share details via the dedicated Christmas page on our website. There is information on there about each of our Christmas services with a description of each one too: [www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk/christmas/](http://www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk/christmas/)

And finally, we also have flyers that you can take to give to friends, neighbours and work colleagues – you can collect these from church at any time.

Do pray about who you are going to invite to church this Christmas. We are excited by all that God is going to do, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus – God with Us.

## Mince Pies and Festive Treats – Donations needed



Over Christmas, we are praying that God gives us the opportunity to welcome hundreds and hundreds of people to church. This means that we will need hundreds and hundreds luxury biscuits, mince pies and festive treats that we can serve after the gatherings!

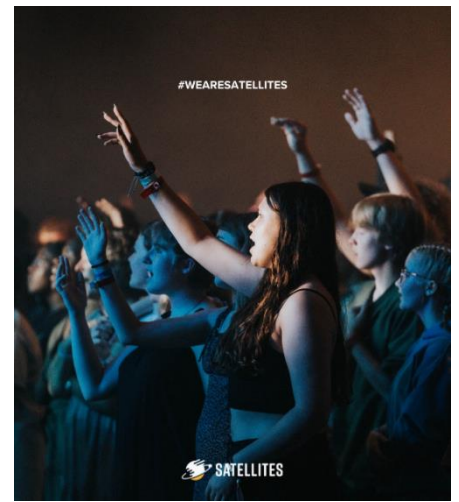
To help with this, we are asking the church family to donate **shop bought** yule logs, mince pies and biscuits etc for us to use. Wherever possible, things need to be in date until at least 24<sup>th</sup> December. They should also be **nut and alcohol free!**

Please sign up on the sheets in the Chambers Streets foyer, and then bring donations either to the church kitchen or the church office by the date stated. Thank you so much for helping in this way.

## Satellites 2-6<sup>th</sup> August 2024

We are so excited to be taking a group of our 11-18 year olds to Satellites again this summer. Places are £150, and this includes food and transport, as well as the ticket to the event. Do let us know if cost is an issue – as funds are available to support you.

**This price offer only lasts until the beginning of December**, and we would like to begin to book tickets next week. Parents and carers – do drop Helen or Ian a message this week to let us know that your young person is coming.



## Harvest Offering – update

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Harvest Offering for BMS – we have been able to give £1983 to support mission work on the tea plantations of Bangladesh.

## Memorial Service & Service of Thanksgiving

A memorial service for Pat will take place here next Friday (29<sup>th</sup>) at 12.30 pm. Suzanne and family will be very pleased for those who remember Pat to support them at this service.

We will be giving thanks for Margaret's life on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon at Hertford Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. Any donations made will be given to the Mara Rianda mission in Kenya. Chris, Sarah and their families would be delighted to welcome anyone from the church family along to this celebration of Margaret's life.

## Weekly and Monthly Planner

### November 2024

Hertford Gala and Christmas Markets	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
Members Meeting	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 7.45pm
Family Advent Craft Afternoon	Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 3-5pm

### December 2024 – Christmas events on website and social media

Lisa Kerry – Regional Baptist Minister	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 10.15am
Cross Links	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 3.00-5.00pm
Edward House Service	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 3.30-4.45pm
Golden Lunch	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 12noon
Men's Ministry Breakfast	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 8.30am
Edward House Carols & Readings	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 3.30-4.45pm
CAMEO	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00-4.00pm

### Every week

Times of Prayer	Tuesday 7am on Zoom and Wednesday 1.30pm
Toddler Group	Tuesday 10.00-11.30am term time
HBC 0-3s Group	Wednesday 10-11.30am term time
Wednesday Welcome	Wednesdays 2.00-4.00pm
Baby Group	Fridays 10.00-11.30am term time
Re:fresh – Young Adults' Group	Sundays 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Our Tuesday prayer time is held on Zoom at 7.00am. Meeting ID: 972 4792 8944 Passcode: 493793