



The Heartland Bulletin

Issue 26 - 18th November 2018

Peace be with you my friend for all of time,
Peace of a kind that sets your life in rhyme.
Peace in your heart and in your mind and soul,
Peace of a kind that makes your life a whole.



Peace be with all folk in this hurting world
So many lost and by the storms are whirled.
Peace can bind all God's children into one,
Healing and helping them to see the sun.



Peace is a calm that lodges deep inside,
Peace is contentment which we cannot hide.
Peace stems from love and has no place for fear;
It's to be cherished and to be held dear.

Peace is a gift, and we must pass it on;
it comes from God, just as He gave His Son.
It's not for us to keep or hold too tight;
It's to be shared, so we can spread its light.



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This bulletin has been collated by Gill Elliott of Trinity URC St Albans. If you have news or notices that you wish to be included in the next Bulletin, please email gilldotelliott@gmail.com, or ask your Heartland representative to do so on your behalf.



Chiswell Green had a knitted memorial.

At Trinity's Remembrance service, the names and brief biographies of those from Trinity who were killed in the First World War were read out.

Wheathampstead have now considered the draft Legal Sharing Agreement from the Synod. Although this is a work in progress there now seems to be light at the end of a very long tunnel - Praise the Lord!

Please think of **St Katherine's, Dunstable** as their boiler has broken, which means they have had to cancel their Grand Christmas Coffee Morning; in the meantime they are holding Sunday morning services in the Chapel.

Churches Together in St Albans have an initiative to send Christmas Cards to all of the prisoners in The Mount at Bovingdon. **Trinity** volunteered to sign 100 cards; many were signed at the morning service on the 18th, and the rest will be signed the following week.

Winter Beds Project

Last year, **Trinity** was involved in the St Albans Severe Weather Winter Beds Project (SWEP). This was run in conjunction with the Open Door homeless Shelter, and offered 5 extra beds during particularly cold weather; these beds were in Trinity's Upper Lounge. This was very successful, and will restart this winter. Volunteers are still needed, please, to either welcome people into the church, stay overnight or give them breakfast in the morning. Training is given: the dates for this are the 26th and 30th November at 7.45 at Trinity. The same training is being given on both days.

If you are interested in helping, please email david@davidpartridge.com.



Wheathampstead took part in a village-wide remembrance of 100 years of the Great War. These photos show some of the amazing stations on the remembrance trail route at St Helens which was a Churches Together event.

Each arrangement represented different aspects of the commemoration which were The Armistice, Remembrance, sacrifice, peace and hope. Soft appropriate music was played which added so much to the moving and reflective atmosphere.



Many of the local school children wrote incredible poetry and created drawings about their thoughts on war using the stories of those from Wheathampstead who died.

stories of those from Wheathampstead who died .

A thought from the trail leaflet which contained many quotes, prayers and Bible readings:-

The legacy of the Great War 'woven into' our lives is an obligation to work for peace, both in our personal lives and on the world stage, to start the task even if will not be fulfilled in our lifetime.

At a recent meeting of Synod, the highlight for me was the invitation to do a prayer walk before lunch. As the meeting was being held at High Cross URC, Tottenham, this was to be a prayer walk with a difference and we were invited to engage with the sounds and sights of city life.

For those of us unable to walk any significant distance we could watch a slide show of sights around the area and do a virtual prayer walk. As often is the case for me I picked up my pencil and began to doodle as I prayed. As my pencil began to form the outline of a tree, a default doodle, my eyes saw a city road sign on the screen and a connection was made. I was fascinated with where the connection took me and the time became quite special as I, a rural girl at heart, explored the city through the symbols of rural life. This was a totally new slant on the city and I thought I would share with you the doodle and the meditation that arose from this 20 minute prayer walk. Heather



The City

This is land, it is creation.
It is a profusion of light,
suffused with light,
signposted in light.
From a million windows light reflects by day
and shines by night;
light shining on people who walk this land.

From a million signposts life is directed,
even tempted,
journeys in cars, on buses, on foot,
even deep within the land
as trains snake their way like worms,
fertilising this land,
bringing new life,
new growth,
through new journeys.

This land once green,
now multicoloured, never just grey,
is still creation, still creative
and people still farm this land,
creating new opportunities,
feeding growth,
nurturing life and harvesting love.

This land is God's playground
and we, God's people, are invited
to play,
to explore, to discover –
who, why, where;
our journey of life continues
and the path still winds
and the signs remind us
of the infinite possibilities in God's
land.

Look and listen,
feel God's heartbeat,
and measure your steps to the
sound of love.
Be with God for God is here.
This is God's land.

Heather Whyte 2018



(Tottenham Green, opposite High Cross URC, Tottenham; photo by Gill Elliott)

Advent Activities!!



In November **Edward Street** congregation put together some Shoe Boxes for children overseas.

At December's Gift Service we will be giving gifts for all ages to the local Salvation Army Appeal.

The Revd John Hardaker will be leading Advent Bible Studies at **Homewood Road URC** at 2.30 p.m. On Wednesdays 28th November and the 5th, 12th and 19th December **All welcome.**

Wigmore Church will be holding Crafts, Tea and Carols on 16th December at 3 pm.

Homewood Road URC will once again be knitting angels which will be left around St Albans with messages of hope, to be found and picked up by people in the community. Recipients will be able to engage with Homewood Road via Twitter when they pick their angel up.



If you would like to join in with this initiative, please

download a pattern from www.christmasangel.net. The angels need to be with Homewood Road by the end of November.

Homewood Road URC invite everyone to join them in singing Carols Round the Tree, accompanied by St Albans City Band, at 5.30 on 1st December. Afterwards, everyone is invited to share mulled wine and nibbles in the Hall.

Wheathampstead are holding an afternoon Carol Service on Sunday 16th December at 3.30 pm.

This will be held in the Lady Chapel at St Helen's Church and will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. **Join us if you can. Children are very welcome**

Homewood Road will be holding a Carol Service on 16th December at 6 pm. The choir will be joined by other singers in the pastorate. **All are welcome to attend the service.**

Trinity will having a Messy Church Christmas Party on 29th December.

Looking forward towards Advent.....

A hymn from Heather Whyte

1. Long time ago, beyond our sight,
your people told stories of light.
We read and listen still today,
and in these stories find our way.

*Rejoice, rejoice, the Lord will come
to you again, O children of God.*

3. A prophet, John told tales of hope,
a new beginning for all folk;
in clothes and words of olden days,
he told the people of new ways.

Rejoice...

5. A baby born on Christmas day
did come to show the world the way,
to live in love and see the light
that shines from God, restoring sight.

Rejoice...

Advent Story (to the tune 'Veni
Immanuel')

2. Your faithful people turned to you,
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob too,
Through wilderness, water and sand
Your people followed hand in hand.
Rejoice...

4. Mary, a maiden, gave her word
and named her son as she had heard;
though startled, Joseph followed
through
and hope dawned in the world anew.
Rejoice...

Heather Whyte 2011

Prayers for the Heartland Group of churches		
Date	Church	Prayer focus
4 th November	Panshanger	Ministry to children and young people.
11 th November	Homewood Road.	Continuity of children's work.
18 th November	Trinity	Homeless in St Albans.
25 th November	Welwyn Garden City	Outreach ministries with families and those on the fringe.
2 nd December	Wheathampstead	Development project with local Anglicans
9 th December	Heartland LAG	Links group.
16 th December	Bricket Wood.	Wisdom on how to conclude the situation
23 rd December	Chiswell Green	The Pudding Club.
30 th December	Dunstable Edward Street.	Spiritual conversations with hall users.
6 th January	Dunstable St Katherine's	Toddler group.

Waiting

Wonderful God,
Amidst the bustle of life
Instil in us patience.
Take our moments and make them
Incarnate, a living experience of hope;
Nativity in our flesh;
Growing God in our being.

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Advent

Amidst the clamour of a census
Divine movements were afoot.
'Veni', you said, and all
Eternity cascaded to earth in one
moment.
Now we await you again
Trembling with excitement, anticipation
and apprehension.

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