



Welcome Booklet - Connected

Welcome to St Cuthbert's - Getting Connected

If you are new to St Cuthbert's, we welcome you and pray that you will find St Cuthbert's to be the place where you can feel at home and grow in faith.

Very simply, our faith is about being connected - to God, to other people and to God's world.

We hope that you will find this booklet helpful in introducing you to the life of St Cuthbert's Church.

If you are new to the area, we will also be able to help point you in the right direction for essential local services and organisations - do ask.

Also - see the final pages for 'The Seven Marks of a Healthy Church' and a list of useful church contacts.

Connecting to those who are different - those of other faiths and none.

Connecting with God - Having a relationship with God through Jesus

Connecting with our faith community - local and global, past and present.

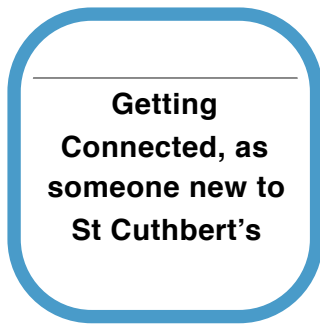
Connecting with those close to us, developing supportive relationships

Getting Connected, as someone new to St Cuthbert's

Connecting with our local community, and working together.

being connected with ourselves - discovering who we are in God

Connecting with creation, learning to respect and care for the earth



There are a variety of ways to get connected into the life of St Cuthbert's.

Look out for events and groups that interest you.

Our men's group meet up from time to time for breakfast, or a walk (usually with a stop off at a pub)

Contact: Iain Dunning

We have several social events in the course of the year - e.g. Quiz Night, Karaoke evening, Treasure Hunt, Music Nights ...

Contact: Alison Jackson

There is a regular sewing/craft group that meets on a Tuesday evening ...

Contact: Ilona Crowder / Anne Dunning

Come on a Sunday, or in the week to join with us in our worship.

This is the heart of the church - we want to discover more of the goodness of God, and to live to serve God in our daily lives - our worship is how we get 're-fuelled' to live as followers of Jesus.

Ask about the small groups that meet - some weekly, some fortnightly

The small group is what makes church for many people. It may not be possible to get to know everyone in the church, but within a small group we can build long-lasting, supportive relationships.

If you have a musical interest - ask about joining the choir, or one of the worship groups.

Music is important to us - especially in our worship, but also in more informal gatherings to make music together.

All current information is on the website, and in the weekly newsletter, which can be picked up at church, or found on the website. For specific enquiries, please ring the Parish Office. 01992 466690.



Being part of a Christian community gives us somewhere to grow in faith in the company of other Christians, supporting and encouraging one another in our Christian journey.

We are here for everyone, regardless of their situation in life, and especially for the people of Rye Park.

Our main opportunities to gather together for worship are:

On Sunday morning when we have two services -

9 am on a Sunday - usually a service of Holy Communion

A service that aims to be fresh and relevant within a fairly traditional format

10.45 am on a Sunday

This is more informal than the 9 am service, with contemporary music. There are groups for primary school age children and young people at this service.

9.30 am on a Thursday - usually a service of Holy Communion

Lasting about 45 minutes, followed by coffee/tea etc.

Monthly on the second Friday for Messy Church at 4 pm.

Messy Church combines creativity through themed craft activities, with games, a short celebration service and finishes with a meal.

Music in Worship

Music at the 9 am service includes a mix of traditional and more contemporary hymns and songs and is accompanied by the organ with the addition of our choir on the third Sunday in the month.

At the 10.45 service, music takes the form of mainly contemporary worship songs led by a different worship leader each week of the month.

Healing Ministry:

We offer prayer ministry at all our worship, believing that healing and wholeness are at the heart of God's work in our lives. Our experience is that God has a particular delight in bringing into our lives such things as healing, freedom from guilt and the bad effects of the past, together with renewed hope and restored relationships - both with others and with God.

New River Close:

Once a month, we visit this sheltered housing scheme to join in with their coffee morning and take a thought for the day and prayer.

Growing as a Christian: <http://www.alpha.org/>

We regularly run ALPHA courses, which are aimed at helping new Christians, and those exploring faith for the first time.

For many people, ALPHA leads naturally into joining one of our home groups, which we have found to be a major source of encouragement and support for new Christians.

Resources

There's a wealth of resources out there to help us in our Christian discipleship.

Websites that will help those who have questions about Christian faith

www.rejesus.co.uk

<http://christianity.org.uk/>

Receive a FREE five week daily reading that will help you to make your own decisions about the difference that having a Christian faith will make to your life.

<http://app.nowachristian.org/#/welcome>

Connecting with
those close to us,
developing
supportive
relationships



Small Group Network

Being part of one of the small groups in the church is an ideal way of getting to know people better, to help us deepen our understanding and experience of the Christian Life, and to encourage one another in living the Christian life. We do this through meeting together, praying for one another, and offering practical support when it is needed.

Some groups are based on a common interest or activity - for example the Choir and the Sewing Group.

Other groups have a focus on growing in faith through learning from the Bible, sharing with one another, and seeking to apply what we learn to our daily lives.

You would be very welcome to come to any of the groups - whether you have been on the Christian journey a long time, or are looking to develop your faith - e.g. following an Alpha course.

Please see the list of telephone and email contacts (at the back of this booklet) for getting in touch with the group leaders.

Sunday:

Special Branch - Primary school age children have their own group where children learn about growing in faith through Bible stories and activities. Meets weekly during the 10.45 morning service

Leaders - Jaqui Cordell / Sarah Brent

SOUL - Our youth group for secondary age young people. Meets weekly during the 10.45 morning service, and also at 6.30 in the evening.

Leaders - Stephen Brent / Fiona Brewster

Monday:

Murchison Road Group - Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Meets weekly on a Monday evening.

Contact: Stephen Brent / Phil Dant

Beta Group - Group for young adults (18+). Meets fortnightly on a Monday evening in the Youth Room at church.

Contact: Izzy Habashi / Simon Smith

B & B group - Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Meets fortnightly on a Monday evening at various homes.

Contact: Fiona Brewster

Tuesday:

Open Church Group - Church open at 9 am for breakfast, followed by Bible study and prayer in the hall from 10.00 -11.30.

The church remains open throughout the morning for anyone to come in for peace/quiet/private prayer.

Meets weekly in school term time in the Church Hall

Contact: Anne Dunning / Sasha Bonfield

Rumbold Road Group - Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Meets fortnightly from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

Contact: Dorothy Ayre

Sewing Group - For anyone to come along and bring their own projects. The group also work on designing and making banners for the church. Meets weekly at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Contact: Anne Dunning/Iлона Crowder (*Evening*)

Wednesday:

Mothers' Union - To support the worldwide work of the Mothers' Union. A range of meetings that include visiting speakers, and also preparing materials to support Mother's Union ministries. Meets in Church Hall (unless otherwise announced) monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 8 pm.

Contact: Heather Smith.

Thursday:

Men's Group - Bible study, prayer and fellowship. The group has a focus particularly on growing as disciples of Jesus in our daily lives. meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 8pm in various homes.

Contact: Colin Crowder / Paul Cordell (*Evening*)

Old Highway Group - Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Meets fortnightly at 7.30 pm at 116 Old Highway. (unless otherwise announced)

Contact: Tamara Sharman

Friday:

Choir - The choir support our worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Sunday 9 am service. Whether you have experience of singing in a choir or not, you would be very welcome to come along. Meets monthly on the Friday immediately preceding the 3rd Sunday.

Contact: Dorothy Ayre.

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral care at St Cuthbert's is based on the small group, and is overseen by our Pastoral Care coordinators, with clergy being available when appropriate.

Contact: Beverley Evans / Iлона Crowder

**Connecting with
our faith
community - local
and global, past
and present**



The Church of England - www.churchofengland.org

St Cuthbert's is part of the Church of England, and has been a presence in Rye Park for over 100 years, starting life as a 'daughter church' from Hoddesdon Parish Church.

Today, we are fortunate to have links with a whole variety of Christians. Some of these are within our own tradition of the Church of England, lead by our Bishops and Archbishops.

The Church of England is part of worldwide network of churches called the Anglican Communion.

We have links to other local churches of different traditions, believing that there is much that we can learn from one another.

We are also connected to those Christian people who have gone before us, whose life of faith inspires and encourages us.

Locally we relate to a small group of other Church of England Churches in Hoddesdon and Broxbourne called The New River Group. More widely, we are part of the Cheshunt Deanery within the Diocese of St Albans.

Churches Together - cthbw.blogspot.co.uk/

We work with other Christian Churches in the area through Churches Together in Hoddesdon, Broxbourne and Wormley. Working with Christians from other churches gives strength and breadth for our work in the community.

New Wine Network - www.new-wine.org

New Wine is a movement of churches working together to change the nation through a network of church leaders, National Gatherings, training events and resources.

The National Gathering, held each July/August at the Bath and Wells Showground, bring Christians together from all over the country and abroad, for worship and teaching. For a number of years, a team has gone from St Cuthbert's to work with the youngest children at the Summer Camp. The local Leaders' Network meets several times a year for worship, teaching and fellowship.

Greenbelt - www.Greenbelt.org.uk

Greenbelt is a movement bringing together Christians with a common love for the arts, and a concern for peace with justice. Greenbelt finds its main expression through a Summer Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Global Church

Putting faith into action is important to us, and we support a range of Christian and other charitable organisations, at home and abroad, both financially and through prayer and action.

We currently have personal links with the following overseas Missions:

Compassion International - www.compassion.com

We support the Boa Semente project in Brazil. Compassion's programs are rooted in Christian child development and child advocacy. Compassion have a long-term approach, beginning in some cases with prenatal care and going all the way through leadership development for qualified young adults.

Find out more: Lizzie and Sherif Habashi

Trans World Radio in Austria - David and Marlene Fry

Find out more: Dorothy Ayre

Churches / Development projects in Kasese, Uganda - Pastor Alfonse

Find out more: Dave Lee

In addition, in the last year, we have supported: The Children's Society, Christian Aid, Mildmay Hospital Mission, Young Life, Church Mission Society.

In 2016, we aim to have a Mission Focus each month throughout the year, to give up to date information and points for prayer, for the Mission Agencies we support:

January: All People All Places - Local charity working with the Homeless

February: Compassion International

March: Young Life

April: Trans World Radio

May: Christian Aid

June CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)

July: CMS (Church Mission Society)

September: Kasese, Uganda. (Providing Water Tanks)

October: Compassion

November: Broxbourne Food Bank

December: The Children's Society

**Connecting with
our local
community, and
working together.**



The church does not exist for its own sake, but to reach out with the love of God to others. We work with individuals and groups - especially in Rye Park - with the aim of building community.

Coffee Morning and Pop-in Ministry for Older People

Coffee Morning: Each Thursday from 11 am - 12 noon

(Except when there is a Pop-in Afternoon Tea)

Pop-in Afternoon Tea

Usually the last Thursday in each month. 2 pm - 4 pm.

A tea of sandwiches and cakes, with the opportunity to play a game of cards or scrabble, or just sit and chat.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We are here for all those in the St Cuthbert's Parish who are enquiring about baptism, or about getting married at St Cuthbert's. It is a privilege to be able to share with families at these key moments in our lives.

We are also here to support families at a time of bereavement, whether they are regular church attenders or not. We can hold a funeral service in church, or at the cemetery or crematorium chapel.

Schools

We work closely with the two Primary schools in our parish - Forres School and Cranbourne School through a mixture of assemblies, lessons and an after-school club.

Hands On

'Hands on' is an occasional one-off, or short series of evenings, when someone with a skill or particular interest shows us the basics, and then we have the opportunity to 'have a go'.

Big Lunch - www.thebiglunch.com

A new initiative in June 2015 - The Big Lunch is a community event initiated by St Cuthbert's, but working with full participation from local residents. Annually in June. We are working on extending this to have several social events throughout the year to help us connect with our local community.

Ogardians

A Community group led by local residents in neighbouring Ogard Road - we add our support to help with a summer fun day and a Christmas event.

Street Pastors - <http://www.streetpastors.org/>

Street Pastors go out once a month, and do a great job in supporting those who are out clubbing - usually on the last Friday of the month from around 10 pm until the early hours.

Food Bank - <http://broxbourne.foodbank.org.uk/>

The Foodbank operates in Wormley every weekday, and in Hoddesdon on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Young Life - <https://www.facebook.com/YLHODDESDON>

Young Life is an outreach ministry to young people through club nights, small group meetings and camps at Summer half term and in the long summer holidays.

Find out more: Dave Lee

Church Hall Hire - www.ryepark.com

We aim to provide an affordable venue for local groups, and our church hall is home to a wide variety, including:

Monday Morning: Dots and Tots. Contact:

Monday Evening: Rye Park Women's Club. Contact:

Tuesday Evening: Brownies. Contact:

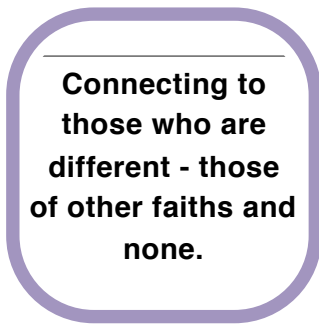
Thursday Evening: Slimming World. Contact:

Friday Morning: Crafty Rascals. Contact:

For more details, please ring the Parish Office, 01992 466690. The Office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays 9 am - 2 pm.

Visit the church website at:

<http://www.ryepark.com/hallhire.html>.



Christian Faith is not just about relating to other Christians, but also about finding a way to share our faith with others. The starting point for sharing faith is listening, and often this means working hard to understand those who may think very differently about faith and about the world.

Because the whole world is now a 'Global Village', one moment we find ourselves in conversation with neighbours in our own locality, and then through the internet we might be plunged into something happening across the world. Whether it is in our own local community or wider, we are seeking to have the conversation about faith and how it impacts our lives.

Out and about - usually on a Wednesday or Friday

Being out and about in the parish on a market day gives an opportunity to chat with people and hear their concerns. This sometimes leads to conversations about God, and opportunities to offer prayer.

Life on the Frontline - www.licc.org.uk

In 2015, we spent several weeks thinking about our various 'Frontlines' - those places where we find ourselves day by, week by week, living out our Christian Faith.

For many, our places of work can be hostile to Christian Faith, or maybe put us alongside those who practice another faith.

Whether it is the work environment, or the family, or with neighbours, we are continually challenged as we seek to engage with those who have a different outlook on life, and share with them something of our own Christian story.

Ash Wednesday and Holy Week - ashestogo.org

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day period leading up to Easter.

Traditionally, many Christians have been to church on Ash Wednesday and had the sign of the cross placed on their forehead or hand as a sign of their desire to follow Christ faithfully.

Although it is less common for people to go to church these days, there is still enough of a memory of this ritual for it to have the potential to speak to people.

We are looking for ways to take our faith out of the church building to meet people where they are - so, in 2015 we took ashes to the streets for the first time - inviting passers by to receive the sign of the cross in ash on their forehead or their hand.

Traditionally, on the Sunday before Easter, many churches give everyone in the congregation a cross, made out of a palm leaf, to remind them of the story of Easter - the cross and resurrection. This gave us another simple way of taking our faith to the streets and offering shoppers in the town centre a Palm Cross.

Working for Peace with Justice - www.christianaid.org.uk

Wherever possible, we seek to work with others in the search for a fairer, more equitable world. Working for example to support Christian Aid in their climate change campaigning work, alongside many other organisations in the climate change coalition.

Connecting with
creation, learning
to respect and
care for the earth



Our faith is rooted in God's care for the earth, and the Christian hope that God's ultimate purposes are for the renewal of all creation.

Trade Justice - www.tjm.org.uk/

One of the ways we can show our concern for creation is through supporting Fair Trade and other examples of ethical trading. We are a Fair Trade Church, and want to encourage one another to think about our shopping habits, both in terms of supporting the poorest in the world, and also in terms of the consequences of our lifestyle on the planet.

Live Simply - www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Campaigning-guide/Become-a-livesimply-parish

We also want to practise simple living, by considering how our own lives can reflect God's care for the world.

Church Grounds

Our care for the world starts with caring for our own environment, and we have several sessions in the summer months when we have a tidy up, and then go somewhere (a local pub usually) for a well earned sandwich.

Walking Church

In August (2015) we went for a walk instead of our regular 10.45 service one Sunday.

Our walk took us through a range of places, and challenged us on a variety of ethical issues ...

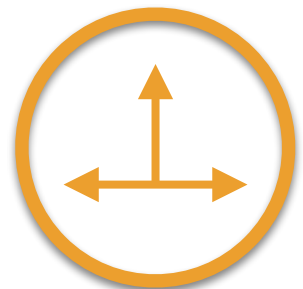
through the allotments, (live simply);

past the Post Office (ethical banking);

along the New River (conservation);

Looking out over the power station (energy use/misuse);

past the tip (recycling)



Getting connected

The whole theme of 'Getting Connected' is about experiencing a relationship with God, with other people and with creation - but it is also about getting connected with ourselves.

In the busyness of everyday life, it's hard sometimes to stop and reflect on our lives, and the things that we value and which bring meaning to our lives.

You may have had negative experiences of religion, but still see yourself as seeking to become a truly spiritual person.

If your experience of religion has resulted in it being dry and lifeless, rather than something vital and life enhancing, we pray that you might discover the true nature of the word religion - the meaning of the word is actually about connecting us together.

Discovering who we are in God's eyes

Our Christian faith is founded on a trust that God wants to bring us to a place of wholeness. Through God's love, and because of the work of Jesus, we can discover that we are, each of us, precious in God's eyes.

This is partly about a destination - in other words, this knowledge of God's love is solid and assures us that we are known and loved by God.

And it's partly about a journey - that we are all work in progress.

Discovering a purpose for our lives

We find happiness and meaning in many places - our hobbies and interests that give us satisfaction, through to the intimate relationships that we have with those closest to us. As we discover more about ourselves and God's purposes for us, we find that the things that often give us the deepest sense of purpose take us beyond ourselves to seek the happiness and good of others.

We have found the following helpful in reflecting on our life as a church: The 7 Marks of a Healthy Church

1 Be energized by faith

With worship that enables people to experience God's love.
Having energy that comes from a desire to serve God and one another.
Engaging with the Bible in creative ways that connect with life.
Nurturing faith in Christ: helping people to grow in, and share their faith.

2 Have an outward-looking focus

Rooted in the local community, working in partnership with others.
Passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally.
Making connections between faith and daily living.
Responding to human need by loving service.

3 Find out what God wants

Listening for what God wants us to be and to do.
Developing and communicating a shared sense of where we are going.
Having priorities that are shaped by mission.
Learning to make sacrifices, personal and corporate, in living out the faith.

4 Face the cost of change and growth

Embracing the past, while daring to take on new ways of doing things
Taking risks, and admitting when things are not working.
Responding creatively to challenges that face the church and community
Affirming positive experiences of change, however small.

5 Operate as a community

Nurturing, often in small groups, so that people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service
Fostering a team based leadership of ordained and lay people.
Affirming lay ministry, where different gifts, experiences and faith journeys are valued.

6 Make room for all

Working to include newcomers into the life of the church.
Ensuring that children and young people are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith.
Giving opportunities for enquirers to explore and experience faith in Christ.
Welcoming those with different social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and people of all ages.

7 Do a few things and do them well

Doing the basics well: especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration. Serving the parish in ways that make sense of life and communicate faith. Being good news as a church in our attitudes and ways of working. Enjoying what we do and being relaxed about what we are not able to do (yet)

Helpful Contacts

Staff Team of Clergy, Reader and Church Wardens:

Clergy	Jonathan Evans, t:01992 468335 Alison Jackson, t:07833667707
Reader	John Griffiths, t:01992 413614
Church wardens	Paul Cordell, t:01992 442619 Anne Dunning t:01992 468233
PCC Secretary	Dorothy Ayre (Also Deanery Synod) t:01992 463121
PCC Treasurer	Izzy Habashi t:07815597460
PCC members	Tish Bloomfield, Stephen Brent, Fiona Brewster, Ilona Crowder, Ed Chapman, Lizzie Habashi, Kate Harris, Dave Lee, Mauveen Lee, Ros Scarborough, Betty Jones, (Deanery Synod)
Parish Administrator	Valerie Hind t:01992 466690
ALPHA	Lizzie and Sherif Habashi t:01920 872262
Catering:	Colin Crowder, t:01992 467577 Iain Dunning t:01992 468233
Choir	Dorothy Ayre t:01992 463121
Churches Together	Dave Lee t:01992 443005
Flowers in Church	Jeannie Morris t:01992 466428
Hands On	Stephen Brent, t:01992 500465 John Griffiths t:01992 413614
House Group Co-ordinator	Vacant
Mission Group	Jonathan Evans t:01992 468335
Ministry to Older People	Dorothy Ayre t:01992 463121
Messy Church	Sarah Brent, t:01992 500465 Jaqui Cordell t:01992 442619
Mothers' Union	Heather Smith t:01992 428068
Organist:	Evelyn Meekins t:01992 536675
Pastoral Care	Ilona Crowder, t:01992 467577 Beverley Evans t:01992 468335
Prayer Ministry	Jaqui Cordell t:01992 442619
Publicity	Vacant
Outreach Group	Alison Jackson t:07833667707
SOUL Youth	Stephen Brent, t:01992 500465 Fiona Brewster t:01992 450045
Special Branch	Sarah Brent, t:01992 500465 Jaqui Cordell t:01992 442619
Welcome Co-ordinator	Vacant
10.45 Worship co-ordinator:	Jo Harris t:01992 420659

Revd Jonathan Evans, St Cuthbert's Church, Whitley Road, Rye Park,
Hoddesdon EN11 0PU.

w: www.ryepark.com

Vicarage t: 01992 468335 e: vicar@ryepark.com

Office: t: 01992 466690 e: churchoffice@ryepark.com