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sbc

Stoneygate  
Baptist Church

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**THE LINK**

October/November 2011

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# Who's Who

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# Minister's Letter

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Dear friends

Two of this autumn's film blockbusters are based on famous novels – Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and John le Carre's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. *Jane Eyre* is set in the bleak moorland landscape of the North of England (the film is actually shot in the Derbyshire Peak District) and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* in the equally bleak landscape of the Cold War of the early 1970's.

Le Carre's book is a lot more recent, of course, but both books belong to a time very different from our own. *Jane Eyre* was first published in 1847, when people were just getting used to the idea of being able to travel across the country by train, and before women (and many men) had the vote. The Cold War, with its threat of nuclear war between the West and East, is thankfully long past. So what is the enduring appeal of these stories, that they should attract the attention of today's film-makers?

Central to both novels is a strong personality. Bronte's story is of a spirited young woman holding her own in a man dominated world. George Smiley, the hero of *Tinker, Tailor*, battles valiantly against powerful forces which would stop at nothing to achieve their political ambitions. Both heroine and hero have their weaknesses, but both have a strength of character and a resolve that sees them through. Both books depict timeless qualities, like courage and integrity. They also remind us of all too common human frailties and weaknesses.

Also, both stories are about relationships. One is a romance, the other a tense thriller, but central to both are the complexities of how people relate to each other, in good ways and in bad. They tackle the big themes of love and betrayal, loyalty and loss.

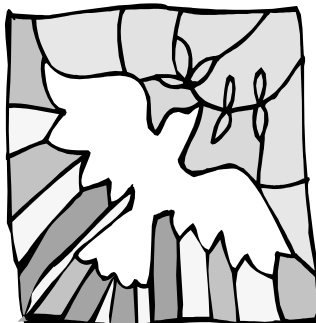
We can identify with these themes because they are part of universal human experience. We may be unfamiliar with the times in which they lived, but we can stand in their shoes and understand the way they felt. That is why the story of Jesus continues to be relevant today. The conditions in which we live have changed out of all recognition, but our basic human condition – our questions about the purpose of life, our fear of death, our sense of right and wrong, our need for love, our striving for what is good and our search for God – these things have not changed.

The two films are shot using all the latest technology and sophistication, and these are important in communicating to a modern audience, but they are not central to their appeal. Similarly, the Christian message of love and sacrifice is timeless. The passage of time and changes in technology do not diminish its power or relevance.

With best wishes from your minister



*Peter Shepherd*



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# Pastoral News

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We are sad to record the death of **Margaret Witts** on Friday 12 August. **Margaret** had been a very loyal member of our church and she is sadly missed.

**Pat and Peter Thirlby** would appreciate your prayers as they face an uncertain future. We are pleased to hear that **Roger & Yvonne Kershaw** have now moved into their new bungalow in Stony Stanton. We wish them well.

**The Martin family** have had a very sad time recently with the loss of **Briony & Carls** baby twins. We pray that they have felt the love and concern of us all. Please remember **Jenny & Mick Sharp** in your prayers.

Congratulations to **Liz, Clare, all our teenagers** and many other helpers for an extremely happy and successful **Busy Bees Holiday Club** again this year.

Also congratulations to our younger members who achieved some very good results in their recent examinations.

Congratulations to **Sue Frisby** on winning a Bronze Medal in the 300 metre hurdles in the UK Masters Championship.

**Hilary & David Smith** are delighted to hear that **Jonathan**, their youngest son, is to be an Olympic Torch bearer in recognition of his charity fund raising on behalf of M & S.

On Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> three musicians and twelve singers visited Harley House & South Lodge for a time of harvest hymn singing and readings, led by our minister **Peter Shepherd**.

*Hilary*

*Hilary Smith*

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# Bible Notes

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If you are interested in learning more about your Bible, I can thoroughly recommend "Day by Day with God". I have been very blessed and encouraged by these daily readings. They are written by women for women and can be purchased from the CLC bookshop in Bishop Street, priced £4.05 for four months. The current one is for September to December.

*Christine Morgan*

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## Stoneygate Festival

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**24-25 March 2012**

Please book this exciting weekend in your diary. A series of special events – including music, talks, stalls, flowers and food – is being planned for the Saturday.

This will be of interest to anyone with links to our church and to local Stoneygate people. It expresses our desire to reach out to our community.



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# Unite Youth Group

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The group will meet

between 6:30 - 8:00

at the Martin's house (Tel 0116 270 8784)

on the first & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

unless agreed otherwise: See updated version at the back of church.

<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	Martin's 4 Guilford Road	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Kevin & Dorothy's 14 West Ave	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Martin's 4 Guilford Road	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Robertson's 22 Brookside Dr	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Martin's 4 Guilford Road	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Church (after Carol Service)	It's Nearly Christmas

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# It doesn't happen here

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Domestic violence affects 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men at some point in their lives. It is a hidden crime – crossing all social classes and reaching into all communities – even churches.

In 2001 the Baptist Union (BU) launched a campaign to highlight that many church people will know victims of violence or be victims or abusers themselves.

Domestic violence can take many forms. It may be a one-off physically violent attack, or repeated episodes, often increasing in severity. It may be emotional abuse, leaving the individual drained and exhausted, feeling worthless and humiliated. It may be abuse of property, or threats against children, pets or property. It may involve a current carer or family member or someone from any previous relationship. It includes elder abuse and forced marriages and about 86% of victims are female.

A new and worrying trend (*Bodyshop YouGov Survey 2004*) found that 1 in 6 girls (aged 13-17) said they had been hit by their boyfriends and 1 in 16 said they had been raped. Sadly many of these girls did not think there was anything wrong.

Abusers can be very controlling and it is often the people who are being abused who feel they are to blame, but violence against women in all its forms is unacceptable in the church and in society.

A Charter for Churches has been developed with an aim of making all churches safe places where women who have experienced abuse can find sanctuary and informed help. The BU urges every local congregation to break the silence over domestic violence. The first step must be to acknowledge that

**ANYONE** CAN BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND  
**ANYONE** CAN BE AN ABUSER.

(You can't tell by looking)

You or someone you know may be suffering in silence. If someone tells you they are being abused, would you know what to say?

- DO ensure her immediate safety.
- DO believe her. Take time to listen, and talk in a safe private place.
- DO recognise her need for positive response and ongoing support
- DO reassure her that the violence her partner commits is NOT her fault
- DO find out what she wants to do and see if you can help her achieve it.
- DO encourage her to make an emergency escape plan
- DON'T judge or criticize the victim
- DON'T ask her what she did to provoke the violence (this implicitly condones the action)
- DON'T make decisions for her and
- DON'T expect her to make binding decisions in a hurry.

Confidentiality is crucial.

**Nine in ten people will know someone affected by domestic violence and many will never report it. Break the silence**

**Speak to someone and seek help now.**

24hr National Helpline                      0808 2000 247

[www.saferleicester.org/dv](http://www.saferleicester.org/dv)                      0116 255 0004

[www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)                                      [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Remember that you are special,  
and that you have the right to live free from fear.

*Elisabeth Burleigh*

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# City of Sanctuary - AGM News

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There are now five 'official' cities of sanctuary – Sheffield, Swansea, Bradford, Bristol and Coventry. Rules requiring city council support have been relaxed and there are now no obstacles to Leicester being 'approved' in the near future.

Pam is soon to meet with members of Sir Peter Soulsby's cabinet to discuss how the City Council might support the group. While he was MP, Sir Peter was very supportive of the organisation.

**Finance** remains a problem as several start-up grants have come to an end, and the Development Worker Gill Buttery has been made redundant. They are asking Supporters to become "Friends" and to commit to a regular donation. SBC is not an official supporter yet, but we hope to invite someone along to talk to us about the work they do before too long.

The **Drop-in Centre** opened at St Martin's House in May. They run a computer course, a sewing class (using donated computers and sewing machines) and a painting class - several now run by asylum seekers. LUSH run pampering sessions and an Immigration Solicitor runs free surgeries. A grant from the Leicestershire Fund allows the provision of simple meals and support for travelling expenses (a big help for people living on £35 a week – or with no income at all).

They run a series of **outings**, the latest being a trip to Hunstanton in September. At the end of the day one thirteen year-old said that it had been 'the best day of his life'.

The **hosting scheme** aims to match homeless guests with volunteers who can offer free accommodation in their homes ('hosts') for a maximum period of eight weeks. A pilot stay has occurred and the scheme continues.

*Elisabeth Burleigh*

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# City of Sanctuary

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**Appealing4** emails are sent out with requests for specific items of need and is proving very successful.

**Bikes4All** is a similar scheme, run through the Red Cross, and aims to provide unwanted/reconditioned bicycles for the needy. So far four of the ten or so recipients of bicycles have been asylum seekers.

**Conversation Circle and English classes** haven't had much support, possibly due to transport costs (One destitute asylum seeker said 'You see, we have to do such a lot of walking ...') but it is hoped to get them started again this autumn.

**NEST** is the newest initiative. Asylum cases depend on whether or not an asylum seeker can convince the authorities of the truth of what they say happened to them in the country from which they have escaped. It is the responsibility of the asylum seeker to supply evidence to support their claim. This is often very difficult because when people are fleeing for their lives the last thing they think of is collecting evidence, even if it exists. NEST is a voluntary group of researchers affiliated to Leicester City of Sanctuary which will help asylum seekers put together a convincing account of what happened to them, help them understand what constitutes evidence as far as the UKBA (United Kingdom Border Agency) is concerned, and help them search for credible evidence. If the asylum case is in order, presented in clear English, with all the documentation in place, it is much easier for a solicitor to put forward a credible claim.

If you feel that you could help out with any of these initiatives, please contact [pam\\_inder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pam_inder@yahoo.co.uk) or I might be able to find out more.

*Elisabeth Burleigh*



*CITY OF SANCTUARY*

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# Services this autumn at Stoneygate

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Our general theme for our minister's Sunday services this autumn is *Living by the Spirit of Jesus*. We are exploring the "Fruits of the Spirit" in Paul's letter to the Galatians and considering what they mean for us today. These are vitally important qualities for anyone who takes following Jesus seriously. Notes are being provided, and there is opportunity to take things further in our House Groups

Following Peter's Sabbatical month in October, planned service themes are:

- 6 November**      *Patience and Sticking at Things*
- 13 November**    (Remembrance Sunday): *Kindness and Compassion*
- 20 November**    (lunch together with Martin Gage from Christian Aid): *Goodness and Holy Living*
- 27 November**    (Toy Service for asylum seekers at the beginning of Advent): *Faithfulness and Loyalty*
- 4 December**      *Gentleness and not trying to force our way on others*
- 11 December**    *Self-control and using our energies wisely*

Then it will be Christmas, with lots of other exciting things to look forward to!

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# "Sabbatical"??

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During October I will not be undertaking my regular ministerial work. Others will be taking the services and attending to duties I would normally fulfil. The month involves one week's holiday and three week's sabbatical. A few people have asked me what a sabbatical is, and I dare say there are others who are wondering but don't like to ask. So what's the idea?

The Baptist Union recommends that every 7 or 8 years ministers take up to three months on sabbatical. The purpose of this is to make time for reading, study, prayer, retreat or other kinds of activity that are hard to fit in otherwise, but are important for a good and effective ministry. Some employees, such as academics, also have sabbaticals, and good employers allow staff time for personal development and training, so it is not unique to the ministry. It is, however, a recognition that ministers usually work on their own and that the demands of ministry can be fairly relentless. It's actually good for churches as well as ministers.

In practice, ministers do all sorts of different things with sabbatical leave. In 2003 I spent three weeks in India finding out about Christian work there, and meeting church leaders. I recently heard of one minister who had spent 30 days on a silent retreat in a religious community.

2011 is my year for a sabbatical. In March, while I was still minister of the church in Derby, I had about three weeks of it, and now I am taking the rest. My intention is to reflect on my first six months at Stoneygate and think and pray about where God is leading us as a church as we move forward. I also want to do some writing. And for a few days Rita and I will be spending time at the Northumbria Community sharing in their life. Three weeks is not long, but I hope it will be a fruitful time for me and that the church will benefit. I am grateful to Stoneygate for allowing me the opportunity.

It would defeat the object of the exercise if I got involved in church affairs during that time, so please contact one of the deacons or church officers if you want to talk about anything. But if there is anything really urgent, don't be afraid to get in touch.

*Peter*

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## Will Aid

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In November 2010, Will Aid solicitors helped 19,000 people make or update their Wills. Instead of charging a fee for this work, the lawyers invited clients to make a donation to Will Aid, which last year raised £1,500,000 pounds for the 9 charities that make up Will Aid.

Christian Aid received over £200,000 as its share of Will Aid donations. And 60 supporters decided to use the opportunity to remember Christian Aid in their Will. Whatever the size of those individual gifts, their true legacy will be the change they will enable Christian Aid and our partners to bring about in the lives of communities around the world.

If you decide to use Will Aid and make a donation to have your Will written or if you feel you could be one of the people who do something truly special for Christian Aid by leaving a gift in your Will you could help someone just like Gloria in Jamaica. After being made redundant from the Eastern Banana Estates, Gloria Dennis had no capital and no ideas about how to take care of her family. That changed when she received 100 chickens from Women's Resource and Outreach Centre and European Community Project,

enabling her to start a profitable chicken farm that supplies local butchers and vendors in her area. Gloria has since been able to keep her children in school and restore electricity to her house. With business going so well, Gloria can contemplate expansion – a real testament to the change your support for Christian Aid can bring.

If, like so many others, you need to make or revise your Will but have been putting it off, Will Aid in November 2011 is the perfect opportunity to put that right. Using Will Aid secures you a professionally prepared Will and helps people like Gloria at the same time. Will Aid solicitors can become very busy so it is advisable to contact your nearest one as early as possible to book an appointment.

For more information about Will Aid, how you can help our work through your Will or to find a participating solicitor in your area, please either call your local Christian Aid Legacy Officer, Martin Gage on 01509 265013 ([mgage@christian-aid.org](mailto:mgage@christian-aid.org)) or alternatively you can contact Will Aid on **0300 0300 013** or go directly to [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) and use the online 'Find a Solicitor' facility.

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## Change of Address

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Yvonne and Roger Kershaw have moved home to:

16 Abbott Drive  
Stoney Stanton  
Leicestershire  
LE9 4AB

Phone: 01455 274764



# Temba Association Day

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**9.30am for 10am-3.30pm**

**Friar Lane and Braunstone BC, Leicester**

**Hallam Crescent, East Braunstone, LE3 1FH**

## 'In Christ Alone'

Keynote Speaker

**Revd Dr Steve Brady**

Principal of Moorlands College

Includes fun day of activities for children

**Please bring a packed lunch,  
refreshments provided.**

*Contribution offering  
on the day*

Keynote addresses: 'Christ centred church' and  
'Christ honouring discipleship'

plus Leaders Workshop



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# Open Hand Visit

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On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September six of us, from SBC, went to visit Open Hands, our church charity for 2011/12. We were welcomed warmly and shown round the unit where much of their work takes place. The unit used to be a garage, but has a large window at the front and has now been converted into a café area, where hot drinks and toast are served, and an area towards the back where clothes are displayed and organised according to size and gender.

We arrived at the beginning of the session. Visitors were already waiting outside and the volunteers were inside having a time of preparation and prayer. As time went on, the level of noise in the unit grew and grew. One of the next things that Open Hands are hoping to achieve is the development of a 'quiet area' at the back for those seeking peace and quiet. How valuable that would be if you were living on the street or in a hostel!

All visitors to the unit are treated with the utmost respect and care and the work that the charity undertakes is truly inspirational. The number of volunteers required and the administration involved is enormous, not to mention the financial commitment.

Everyone served by Open Hands has a story. Most are in desperate need, some have risked their own lives and the lives of their loved ones to get to this country, others are fearful. Open Hands offers a refuge for a couple of hours a week, a welcome, friendly faces, and practical help where possible and it is clear that this is offered in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Clare Robertson and Rita Shepherd*

So far this year we have raised £331.38 for Open Hands:

£103.13 from monthly coffee mornings

£100.25 from the Outsiders cream tea

£128.00 from the Misfits lunch

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# Misfits Lunch

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In August the Misfits enjoyed a delicious Summer Lunch beautifully prepared and served by Rosie and Marion M at SBC. This culminated in the cutting of a celebratory cake presented to Margaret K and Marion F in honour of their special birthdays this year. (see picture).

The £128 profit from the lunch was donated to the church charity Helping Hands.

*Jeni Smith*



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# Housegroup

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**Peter Shepherd** will be leading a housegroup at the home of  
Hilary & David Smith 19 Higher Green Great Glen on  
**Thursday Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Thursday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

We shall commence at 2.30 p.m. The kettle will be put on a 3.30  
p.m. after which we may continue our discussion or enjoy tea and  
cakes together.

*Please make a note of the dates - you are most  
welcome to join us.*

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# It Makes You Laugh

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A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose  
profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from  
Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was  
created out of chaos and that surely was an architectural job."

"But" the politician pointed out in triumph "somebody had to have  
created the chaos first!"

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# November is Will Aid Month

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**DON'T LEAVE A MESS BEHIND YOU. PUT THINGS IN ORDER WITH WILL AID**

*This November a Good Solicitor will write your will and ask only for a donation to charity.*

## HOW IT WORKS

Solicitors around the UK donate their time to support the Will Aid charities.

Instead of paying them a fee for writing your basic Will, you are invited to make a donation to the Will Aid charities.

Suggested minimum donations are £40 for a codicil, £85 for a single Will or £125 for a pair of basic matching Wills.

To find a participating local solicitor visit [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) or call 0300 0300 013

Your donation can help raise millions for life-changing work around the world.

Will Aid supports 9 charities

**act:onaid**

**ageUK**  
Improving later life

**BritishRedCross**

**christian aid**

**NSPCC**  
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP

**Save the Children.**

**SCiAF**  
Scotland's anti-slavery agency

**Sightsavers**

**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

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# It Makes You Think

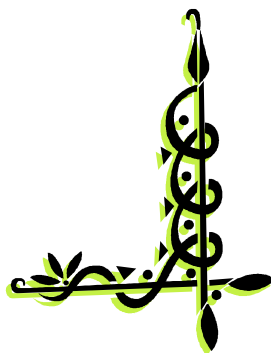
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The terms “right” and “left” came from the Estates General in France. It’s interesting that now we use them as our basic political terms. On the left sat the ordinary people, on the right sat the nobility and the clergy! (What were the clergy doing over there?!) I think you see the pattern.

In history you will have these two movements, because we didn’t have the phenomenon of the middle class until very recently. The vast majority of people have been poor, even in Jesus’ time. The people who wrote the books and controlled the institutions, however, have almost always been on the right. Much of history has been read and interpreted from the side of the “winners,” or the right, except for the unique revelation called the Bible, which is an alternative history from the side of the enslaved, the dominated, the oppressed, and the poor, leading up to the totally scapegoated Jesus.

From a daily meditation by Fr Richard Rohr of the "Center for Contemplation and Action".

[www.cacradicalgrace.org](http://www.cacradicalgrace.org)



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# Diary - October

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Sat 1st		SLCP Quiet Day - see Elisabeth for more details
Sun 2nd	10:30am	Worship & Communion - Revd David Tennant
	6:30pm	Unite
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Deacons meeting at church
Fri 7th	10.30am	Coffee Morning - in the Church
	7:00pm	Outsiders - Ladies' Pamper Evening at Church
Sun 9th	10:30am	Worship - Revd Malcolm Barrett
Fri 14th	2:30pm	Misfits - Members' Afternoon
Sun 16th	10:30am	Worship - Revd Bernard Monk
	6:30pm	Unite
Thur 20th	7.30pm	Church Meeting at church (provisional date)
Thur 20th	2:30pm	Housegroup at Hilary & David Smith's
Sun 23rd	10:30am	Worship - Revd David Morris from the <a href="http://communityofgrace.co.uk">communityofgrace.co.uk</a>
Thur 27th	7:30pm	SLCP AGM at St Guthlac's
Sun 30th	10:30am	Worship - Revd David Butcher

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# Diary - November

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Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Deacons meeting at church
Fri 4th	10.30am	Coffee Morning - in the Church
Sat 5th		Outsiders - Fireworks
Sun 6th	10:30am	Worship & Communion
	6:30pm	Unite
Tues 8th	7:30pm	Knighton Justice Group at St John's
Sat 12th	10:00am	EMBA Association Day
Sun 13th	10:30am	Worship
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Church Meeting at church (provisional date)
Thur 17th	2:30pm	Housegroup at Hilary & David Smith's
Fri 18th	2:30pm	Misfits - Talk
Sun 20th	10:30am	Worship
	<b>12:00noon</b>	<b>LINK DEADLINE</b>
	6:30pm	Unite
Sun 27th	10:30am	Worship

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# Weekly Activities

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**SUNDAY:** 10:30am      **Morning Service**  
with children's groups

Communion is normally celebrated during the first Sunday service of the month.

6:30pm                  Unite - for years 8-13 (fortnightly)

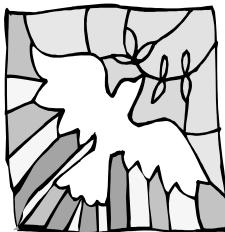
**TUESDAY:** 4:30pm      Genesis - for years 3-7

**WEDNESDAY:** 7:30pm      Church Meeting  
(as announced)

**FRIDAY:** 10:30-11:30am      Coffee Morning in the Church  
(monthly)  
Everyone Welcome

2:30pm                  "Misfits"  
(monthly)

**SATURDAY:** 8:00pm      "Outsiders" Social Group  
(monthly)



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For further details of these events please see  
the weekly Contact Sheet

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