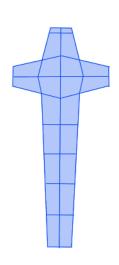
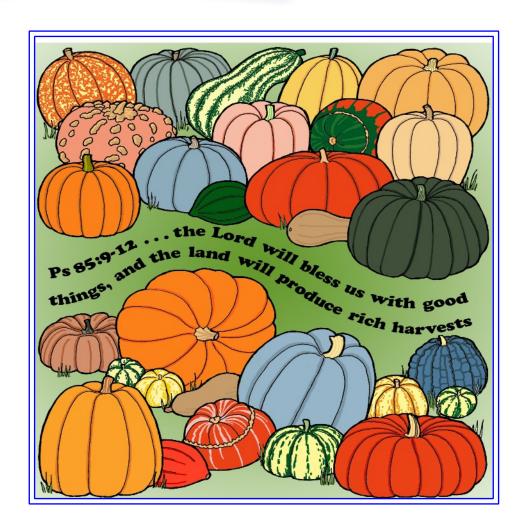
STANDREW'S CHURCH MAGAZINE

The Stow, Harlow, CM20 3AF





Minister:

Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam

Phone: 443400

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025

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Dear Friends,

Hope you had a good break and some rest during the summer holidays. I'm yet to have my break and I'm looking forward to visiting my family and friends in my home country, Ghana. Actually, by the time you are reading this letter, I'll be getting ready to go or I may be there already.

On my holiday in Ghana, there's one person I always want to see but I've missed him a couple of times. He's my best mate. I've therefore resolved to see him this year, come what may.

An example of such a friendship reminds me of how God wants to become friends with us. In fact, the bible talks of many people who became closer to God during their lives on earth. Examples are Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, and David in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, Jesus identified his disciples as his friends.

Talking of Moses as God's friend, he became close to God by experiencing the presence of God. Exodus 33: 12 - 17 (NIV) state,

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

The conversation between God and Moses shows how close Moses was to God. He had that opportunity because he obeyed God and followed his instructions. As a result, God promised his deliverance and purposes for Moses and the people of Israel.

I wonder if you have the presence of God in your life and hence, are friend of God. Anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God has God's Spirit living in them. That's not the end because he promises to use them to bring the good news of God's love to the world. Reflect on that and ask if you're delivering the purpose of God's friendship. If yes, then ask God to help you continue. Otherwise, ask for his help too. He's ready to direct you achieve his purposes in the world. Remember, being God's friend is not about miracles but understanding what God intends for your community and doing what he wants you to do to help the community. It is not too late to ask for his help.

Have a blessed time. Yours sincerely, Frank.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp or trample.... Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap. – Richard J Foster

No one is so much alone in the universe as someone who denies the existence of God. – Johann Richter

Beauty is God's handwriting. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is a living God. He has spoken in the Bible. He means what He says and will do all He has promised. – J Hudson Taylor

You can't build a church with stumbling blocks. – Fred Beck

The church is a workshop, not a dormitory. – Alexander MacLaren

A man shows his character by what he laughs at. – Anon

There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens. - Augustine

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do. – J. Wolfgang

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point. – Billy Graham

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. – Anita Koddick

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. – Anon

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon. – Susan Ertz

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. – Lionel Kauffman

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. – FP Jones

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

A return after may years, from a request!

Uses for white vinegar (as cheap as you can find it)

- 1. Clean your kettle with it, instead of expensive chemicals. Once a week pour about ¼ mug of vinegar in the kettle and swill it around. Leave for 15 30 minutes then tip it into jar or bottle with a top. Rinse the kettle well before use.
- 2. Instead of softener in your washing machine, use some of the once-used vinegar.
- 3. The rest of the vinegar can be used to deter ants, (they hate the smell) Add it to mop or cloth for kitchen floors or wipe sills and skirting boards. It can also be used outside on steps, doors or surrounds.



Over the period September 2024 to August 2025, we were able to make regular JMA collections. The JMA awards were kindly presented by Mrs. Gabrielle Brown on 7th September.

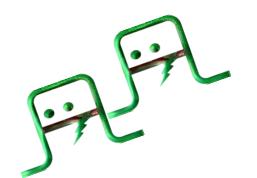
The details of the awards are as shown below:

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I am whole heartedly grateful to the children for their long service and their commitment to JMA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, the donors, the subscribers, the Church Treasurer and the Gift Aid Secretary for their generous contributions and support. In addition, a big **THANK YOU** for your faithful prayers for the Lord's blessing throughout the process.

After 37 years working on the role of JMA Secretary, Kay decided it is a good time for her to step down and allow fresh ideas and new approaches to take place. We welcome Amelia Castle to be the new JMA Secretary, and she is looking forward to the continued support of everyone.

PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK BEFORE BED ON SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER.
YOU'LL GET AN EXTRA HOUR BEFORE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER.







I'm beginning our Smile Lines this time with a note and three stories which were sent to one of our members when she was recovering from an illness.

By the side of my desk top at home, is a motto, which reads...

HOW BEAUTIFUL A DAY CAN BE, WHEN KINDNESS TOUCHES IT

Even though the weather is wet and damp... I have experienced such a feeling of great kindness today from those I met...

First story....

It is simply marvellous what visits can do to lift our spirits...

A young man born in India, brought my shopping today. Quite charming, and soooo polite...I asked his name, we had a little chat... and then he was on his way.

"Keep smiling" I cried out.

Fancy, he came back, with this response....."Thank-you for being so kind to me...". I heard him whistling, whistling down the path....of course, had a little tear...humbling!

Second story.....

I then went off to pick up my prescription from the pharmacy... always smiling faces in there, always... Buddhists and others, great team work, so helpful... they bring me such cheer...and so kind. Tis easy to dismiss these little moments...but they feed the soul.

Third story.....

I went back to the car park, a young woman in a much larger car, parked close to me, asked if I would like her to move..."how kind", said I..."I have met such kindness today....think I can manage...but thanks for thinking that way...I sometimes get hemmed in, and nervous by the thoughtlessness of some drivers... Today everyone is being kind...".

(Then the wind took my scarf... a fleeting moment... and I laughed out loud...)

Her response when I told her of the kindness, was to say, "once upon a time, we all knew kindness, now it feels like the exception...".

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"

Dear Lord, So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

Bible Reading Rota starting Sept 2025

Our Bible Reading Monthly Rota, which has been in operation for a year, has been revised, effective 3rd September. Thank you to all those who responded so enthusiastically to our call for participation. This year, we are delighted to welcome several new readers, including young people from our Youth Church. We really appreciate your offer of help. The details of the schedule are as shown in the table below.

Andrew Wong

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Notes:

- 1. This rota is designed to cater for nominally 2 readings per Sunday. If there is only one reading, then it shall be done by the first reader. If there are three readings, then the second reader shall do the 2nd and 3rd readings.
- 2. Once agreed, it is the reader's obligation to find a substitute beforehand in case they become unavailable for their allotted slot. Failure to do so could mean no reader that day!
- 3. The numbers in bracket are the contact phone numbers of the readers. This to facilitate slot swapping amongst readers should they wish to do so.
- 4. In addition to the named readers above, Yvonne Jones has expressed a wish to participate. However, she has access only to the Four Gospels in braille. So, if any reader comes across a reading from the Gospels, and would like to give Yvonne a chance to get involved from time to time, please contact Yvonne directly on 01279-420637 to arrange with her.
- 5. If Ian Malcolm cannot come to Church on a Sunday morning due to inclement weather, Andrew Wong, Joe-Ike Impraim or some other volunteer will do the reading.
- 6. For any change agreed amongst yourselves please inform Kay Wong so that she can have the correct information for the Weekly Notices, which go out in electronic form and in print every Friday of the week. Email: kaywong@ntlworld.com or phone: 01279-422744.

All updates on church information are on our **CHURCH WEBSITE** www.standrewsharlow.org.uk What you see may be an old version, press the F5 key to refresh.

EDITOR'S LETTER



JESUS THROUGH MIDDLE EASTERN EYES - by Kenneth E. Bailey

A book review by Hazel Taylor

A few months ago, during Rev Stuart Veitch's sermon on the woman taken in adultery, he referred to this book. I found what he said so interesting that I decided to get the book. I ordered a second-hand copy on e-bay and it arrived a few days later. It's a big book, 440 pages long and quite technical at times. It's sub-heading is *Cultural studies in the Gospels*. I've been reading the Bible and listening to sermons and also attending Bible Study groups since I was a teenager. (And the word hadn't even been invented when I was that age – in the 1950's!) But I'd never really thought about Jesus' Eastern background or what his listeners already knew that I don't know, which makes such a difference, particularly in the parables.

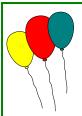
For instance, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) is usually thought of as a simple story about prayer. But *to pray* means to us private prayer or a particular bit of our worship together. But in all Semitic languages there is only one word. To pray and worship are the same word. Now these two men are going to a service at the same time. The only daily service in the temple area was the atonement offerings at dawn and again at 3pm. Everything followed a precise ritual. Everyone listening to Jesus would know this and would know the exact time when those there offered private prayers to God. The Pharisee stands away from others so he isn't contaminated by anyone unrighteous. They would also know that he wasn't praying according to first-century Judaism because there were three types of prayer: confession of sin; thanks for bounty received and petitions for oneself and for others.

They would also know that the tax-collector was so distraught that he was praying like a woman in distress would: beating his chest.

This parable is about righteousness, atonement, a pattern for prayer, self-righteousness, sacrament and obedience to the voice of God. (And probably more as I've tried to give a taste of it by compressing 12 pages into this synopsis.)

There are thirty sections, divided into six headings from The Birth of Jesus through The Lord's Prayer and Jesus and Women to the Parables of Jesus. This book made Jesus and the people around him come more alive for me than at any time before. It's a fascinating read which I know I'll be dipping into for many years to come.





Congratulations to Yvonne on her 80th Birthday on 23rd October





SPUD & PUD LUNCHES

18th October and 15th November

Cost = £5. Please book.

OUR NEW LETTINGS' SECRETARY Tobe Ofili

lettings@standrewsharlow.org.uk

MISSION ENABLER JORDAN STRINGER

Jordan.standrews@outlook.com

If you use FACEBOOK do look at our page,
updated by Joanne regularly.
Just search for St Andrew's Methodist
Church on FB

We are part of HAEBC (Herts and Essex Border Circuit)

We are also part of Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Partnership

POP-IN PRAYERS

prayers in the chapel from 11 - 11.30 am.

On the 3rd Saturday each month

18th October and 15th November

PRAYER WALK

11 - 11.50am 15th November

Praying around The Stow area.

LL WELCOME

Some Thoughts for the Young People of Our Church

As this is the start of the new school term, I want to say a few words of encouragement to the young people of our Church. This is the time when students of a certain age may be confronted with the task of selecting streams of specialization or, in other cases, leaving school or college to look for work and to make that all-important decision on their future career path. So here is my take on the subject.

I have often heard young people bemoan how difficult it is to find a rewarding and enjoyable job these days, and even more difficult to build a meaningful career.

Well, we must all start somewhere. It is well known that Sir Terry Leahy, who transformed Tesco from a small grocery store into the number one supermarket chain in the UK, started life by stacking shelves at Tesco, and Lord Alan Sugar, who built up the Amstrad electronics empire, started life by selling bric-a-brac in Hackney market. Such examples may be a bit too lofty for us ordinary humans to emulate. So I have selected two real life stories below that hopefully can illustrate how flexibility and hard work will pay off in the long run coupled with motivation and a positive attitude.

The first is a story which began with shelf stacking, that I read in the papers some years ago, of a local lad from Manchester whom we shall call David in this story. David left school with little qualifications and the only job he could find was in one of the many Chinese supermarkets in Manchester town centre stacking goods onto shelves. As all the directions given and conversations conducted were in Cantonese (a dialect commonly used in Southern China and many overseas Chinese communities) he soon learnt to communicate fluently in the language. Every day, the shop blasted out non-stop in the background 'Cantopop' songs, a genre of popular music in Cantonese blended with Western influences, and soon David learnt to hum, and then sing from memory, all the hits of the period. His fortune changed one day when he heard of a vacancy being advertised for a Cantopop singer in a top nightclub in the city of Macau, the Las Vegas of the east. With trepidation, he went for an audition, and, to his surprise, was selected. He went on to become a popular star attraction of the city, not as an oddity, but as an accomplished singer of Cantopop music in his own right, thus carving out a successful career for himself.

Critics may say that this is not a very convincing example to quote, as David must be handsome and have a good singing voice, and probably possesses star qualities as well, attributes not many of us have. The next example, on the other hand, is of someone who ploughed on with sheer hard work and determination.

It is well known that many teenagers have come through the 'Starbucks training school' in their formative years. There was a Starbucks co-located in Harlow Sainsbury's and that was how I learnt of a young coffee barista from Eastern Europe (back in the days when people from Europe could work freely in Britain) whom we shall call Eva in this story. While all the local lads and lasses said they were not prepared to work at weekends and bank holidays when asked by the manager, Eva had no qualms about working all days and all hours of the day, and, with that meagre income, was able to not only support herself in subsistence and rented accommodation, but also be able to bring back home loads of presents, to order, at Christmas time for her folks. Not content with what she got and realizing that she needed to boost up her credentials to move forward, Eva enrolled in an Open University degree course and studied in whatever spare time she still had. No doubt by now she would have graduated, and her career prospects would have been completely transformed.

Two very different stories but with a common thread – two adventurous youngsters unfettered by the situations they were in but were motivated to learn new skills and not afraid to try their luck in far-off lands. It is always a good strategy to absorb as much new knowledge and skills as possible whenever you can, and thus be prepared - you never know when an opportunity will come your way, and, if you are not equipped to grab it at that moment, the chance may never come again.

Continued on page 9

As for the young people of our church, there are plenty of opportunities for them to hone their skills and gain valuable experience by volunteering to serve in various ways, especially if they aspire to be a teacher, carer, first aider, journalist, caterer, website designer or sound engineer. Kind and willing adults are always around to give them guidance and advice; they would be learning and doing something meaningful, and their service would look impressive on their CVs when they come to look for jobs. It is encouraging to see some of our young people are already serving in various roles. I hope more of them will come forward and join in.

So, think creatively, plan ambitiously and work diligently. There is no stronger encouragement for all of us than the words of Jesus himself, in Matthew 7:7:-

"Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." Try these for yourself. Take it from me, they really work!

Andrew Wong



BIBLE READING from 1 Timothy 1 Living Bible

A letter from Paul to his fellow Christian Timothy.

Timothy, you are like a son to me in the things of the Lord. May God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord show you his kindness and mercy and give you great peace of heart and mind. As I said when I left for Macedonia, please stay there in Ephesus and try to stop the men who are teaching such wrong doctrine. Put an end to their myths and fables, and their idea of being saved by finding favour with an endless chain of angels leading up to God - wild ideas that stir up questions and arguments instead of helping people accept God's plan of faith. What I am eager for is that all the Christians there will be filled with love that comes from pure hearts, and that their minds will be clean and their faith strong.

There are only 10 chapters in these 2 letters from Paul to Timothy. Why not come to the Tuesday Church Bible Study where we are studying them in October and November. We meet in the chapel at 7.30pm, the back door will be open for entry to the church.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Rudolf Heinecke who died on 20th October 2017
Dilys Lloyd who died on 3rd October 2018
Joyce Schooley who died on 21st October 2020
Marrainne Dunn who died on 10th November 2021
John Spencer who died on 29th November 2024

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

PSALMS IN A PAGE

The Psalms are often referred to as the most loved part of the bible and Christians have their favourite ones. They were originally set to music and formed the hymn book of Israel. We have some of the psalms in our hymn books today the most well known being psalm 23, the Lord is my Shepherd and the Stuart Townend version appears regularly in our services. The word psalm means plucking and is applied to strings, musical instruments.

They are Hebrew poetry but do not rhyme but have a certain rhythm. Verses are repeated and parallel with the following line. See Psalm 32. The shortest Psalm is 3 verses and the longest 176. More fragments of the Psalms have survived than any other Old Testament book.

There are 150 psalms and they are in the centre of our bibles. Half are attributed to David (73) and many can be related to incidents in his life, when he fled from King Saul and his sin with Bathsheba (see 2 Samuel 11 and 12). You can feel the despair, terror and remorse in the personal experiences of David from reading them. The Sons of Korah (involved in temple worship) wrote 10 and Asaph 12 (chief musician) and 48 are anonymous. Psalms are split into five separate books and there is a belief that they relate to the five books of the Pentateuch (first five books of the bible). Book 1 has similarities with Genesis, book 2 with Exodus, book 3 with Leviticus, book 4 with Numbers and book 5 with Deuteronomy.

Psalms are the most quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament. There are Psalms quoted in the gospels and epistles that are applied to Jesus. These are known as the Messianic Psalms. These include Psalm 2, 22, 23, 24, 68, 69, 110 and 118. Psalm 22 takes us to the cross and verse 1 of this Psalm was quoted by Jesus on the cross: `My God why have you abandoned me`. They have a double application: to the situation when David wrote it and also to Jesus. Psalm 22, 23 and 24 are known respectively as the cross (suffering saviour), crook (shepherds crook) and crown (King). Psalm 110 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament referred to 15 times of which verse 110:1 is the most quoted verse: `The Lord said to my Lord, sit in the place of honour at my right hand` and is applied to Jesus. The Messianic Psalms link the Old Testament with the New, emphasising the role of Jesus as Messiah, King and Priest.

The Psalms can help us when we are down hearted, distressed and suffering. They can provide us with comfort. Read Psalm 136, the phrase the faithful love of the Lord endures forever is repeated 26 times. There are Psalms of lament, joy and praise. The last five are joyful psalms of praise. Psalm 120 to 134 are known as the songs of ascent, sung by the Israelites on the way to Jerusalem especially at Passover. Matthew 26.30 tells us that a hymn was sung at the last supper probably one of the ascent psalms – Jesus singing one of them.

The most difficult psalms are the imprecatory ones, pleas to God for vengeance to punish or destroy enemies. This does not fit in with New Testament theology of love your enemy. An example is Psalm 140. They are difficult to explain but we should not ask for revenge today but leave judgement to God.

There is much more to learn about the Psalms, complete volumes have been written about them.

Why should we read them? To provide comfort, praise and thank God; to see ourselves in them and to learn about God, Jesus, creation and the history of Israel. Please spend time studying them.

Arthur Revels

A PRAYER

Lord of all that is holy, we worship you. Your name is praised throughout the world and we join with Christians in every land to worship you.

We give thanks for your love and forgiveness. May our faith and love grow.

We remember the sick and dying, we remember those who are persecuted for their faith.



Bless our church, our minister and our local preachers.

May we be a blessing to those around us - our families, our friends, our neighbours.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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SUNDAY COFFEE

Sunday Coffee - Alison Brand

If you can't help serve, could you donate a packet of biscuits occasionally please?

week 1 Gay Brown & helper needed week 2 Margaret T. & Maureen Etchells week 3 Hazel Taylor & Jayne Graham-Mensah Alison Brand & Louise

PLEASE NOTE:

We still need help on the 1st and 5th Sundays each month.

Margery Collier & helper needed

STARS

Each Tuesday in term time @ 10am Contact: Alison Brand



First Tuesday Gay Brown Second Tuesday CAN YOU HELP? Third Tuesday Gay Brown Fourth Tuesday CAN YOU HELP?

week 4

week 5

HELPER

FLOWER

OCTOBER

5th Patience Okai-Sam 19th Margaret Torkildsen



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO DONATES FOR CHURCH FLOWERS

NOVEMBER

2nd Margaret Nunoo 16th & 30th Can you provide money for flowers please?

Flowers: contact Margaret Mountsteven or Hazel

Please let one of the above have the money and any colour preferences two weeks before your flower date.

OCTOBER DIARY

Our Sunday service is also on ZOOM

YOUTH CHURCH 10.30AM

BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY - Eat your lunch as you share in a Bible discussion.

IN THE CHAPEL, led by Rev Frank.

TUESDAY - 7.30pm - Led by Bob Taylor, IN THE CHAPEL - studying 1 & 2 Timothy.

BUT NOTE - no meeting on 7th October

THURSDAY - 12 NOON - ON ZOOM - led by Arthur Revels - studying 1&2 Samuel

THURSDAY - 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur. ON ZOOM, studying 1, 2 & 3 John.

	Thursday	2^{nd}	12.30am	Friendship Group at the home of Hazel
	SUNDAY	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion
0				Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam
			12.30pm	Church Council Meeting
()	SUNDAY	12^{th}	10.30am	Morning Worship - Cafe Prayer and Praise
7	Saturday	18^{th}	11.00am	Pop-in Prayers
0			12 noon	Spud and Pud - £5 please book
W	SUNDAY	19^{th}	10.30am	Morning Worship for Church Anniversary -
П				Rev John Buxton
刀				CLOCKS GO BACK
	SUNDAY	26^{th}	10.30am	Morning Worship - Mrs Elizabeth Stockdale

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MAGAZINE -

12.15pm St Andrew's Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship

Paper copy by Sunday 16th November, email copy by Wednesday 19th November to magazine@standrewsharlow.org.uk

YOUTH CHURCH Sunday 10.30am In term time

NOVEMBER DIARY

Our Sunday Service is also on Zoom

BIBLE STUDIES -

MONDAY - Eat your lunch as you share in a Bible discussion.

IN THE CHAPEL, led by Rev Frank.

TUESDAY - 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur, IN THE CHAPEL - studying 1 & 2 Timothy.

THURSDAY - 12 NOON - ON ZOOM - led by Arthur Revels - studying 1&2 Samuel

THURSDAY - 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur. ON ZOOM, studying 1, 2 & 3 John.

	SUNDAY 2 nd 10.30am	
W W	SUNDAY 9th 10.30am	Morning Worship for Remembrance Day - Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam
	Saturday 15 th 11.00am 11.00am 12 noon	Prayer Walk led by Rev Frank - all welcome Pop in Prayer Spud & Pud - £5, please book
>	SUNDAY 16th 10.30am	Morning Cafe Prayer and Praise
0	Thursday 20th 10.15am	Friendship Group leave Harlow for Scotsdale Garden Centre
Z	SUNDAY 23rd 10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Marcia Tull
	SUNDAY 30th 10.30am 12.15pm	Morning Worship & Toy Service - Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam St Andrew's Ghanajan Methodist Fellowship

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nativity Puppets Show - Sunday 7th December @ 3pm Christmas Day Family Service - Thursday 25th December @ 10.30am Watchnight Service - Wednesday 31st December @ 11.15pm