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What's in a name?

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**... We thank Thee, then, O
Father, for all things bright
and good,
The seed time and the
harvest, our life, our health,
and food;**

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It's all over the press: A moral collapse, a careless society, a broken society.

As I write, the horrific riots and events in London and around the whole country were just a week ago. And now the political response is in full flow, with the government suggesting the cause of the riots that have shaken the country and detailing their response to ensure that such events do not occur again. The opposition of course are warning to not make knee-jerk reactions in the heat of the moment – I certainly hope that we can all agree to that!

I don't want to focus on the politics of how each party is reacting to these past events. However some of the language that has been used by the politicians does intrigue me. In one article I read David Cameron, the Prime Minister, said that as a result of the riots "tackling the broken society is back at the top of his agenda". Policies that have been suggested so far include plans to improve parenting and education and to help troubled families. The government has also pledged a war on gangs to try and stop the apparent moral collapse in our nation.

No matter what your political views, I am sure that you see a lot of good in these policies that have been suggested. I would love parents to have wonderful relationships with their children, for every child to have a good and equal education, and to see an end to gangs and the criminal activities that are often associated with such groups. However despite these good and worthwhile aims, I wonder if these

policies are missing the point. These policies may well scratch the surface of the problem, but will they get to the root of the problem? Will they really solve 'a moral collapse'?

As a Christian I believe that there was a point in time where this world was perfect, where there was no pain, there was no suffering, there was no arson, looting and anti-social behaviour. However in the Bible we then hear how humans decided that they didn't want to stick to God's rules, rather we wanted to go our own way. And this then started the slippery slope. Some may be surprised to hear that the Bible from this point on is full of forgery, adultery, murder, greed, vanity to name but a few. I don't know about you but this sounds like a moral collapse to me!

My point is that a moral collapse is not a new phenomenon; it is not something that has reared its ugly head over the past few weeks or years. Rather it is something that has been ongoing for thousands of years, in many different forms. The challenge for us as Christians, for us as a generation, is how do we resolve such a collapse? I believe we need to go back to what started the problem... I believe as a society we need to obey God and what he would have us do, then we would see society restored again.

Matt Rowe ~Student & Young Adults Intern

On the Sunday of Zach's dedication, Amanda Munday shared why Geoff and she had chosen this name for their son.

2010 didn't start out for Geoff and me as happily as it ended. On the 3rd of January we found out that we had lost our first baby at just nine weeks. This was a very dark time for both of us which understandably we found difficult to deal with.

As you all know, life continues to move on and eventually I went back to work and started getting on with the mechanics of life. One evening when I was walking back from work later that month, it felt particularly cold and dark and the night seemed to reflect exactly how I felt. Although I've been a Christian for most of my life, I would say that the times I have heard God speaking directly to me are fairly minimal.

But as I walked home that night, I heard God say to me "it won't always be winter, the spring will come and you will be happy again". I didn't want to get my hopes up about this and what it might mean for us but it was always at the front of my mind.

At the start of the spring Geoff and I found out that I was expecting Zach. We were obviously ecstatic about this. However, those of you who know me well will know that I am a real worrier and I didn't find it easy to relax and

accept that things would be OK.

However, once again I felt God speak very clearly to me and remind me that he keeps his promises. I wish I could say that this stopped me worrying, it didn't! But it did reassure me over and over again throughout my pregnancy.

When we were expecting, Geoff and I didn't know if we were having a boy or a girl. We had a girl's name picked out but we struggled to agree on a boy's name. However, as we perused various books we came upon the name 'Zachary', a name which we both liked and agreed on. When we looked at its meaning we found that Zachary means 'God keeps his promises' or 'God has remembered'.

I believe that God blesses us in different ways and is always faithful; if we had never had Zach, I know that in one way or another we would still have experienced God's blessing upon our lives, just in a different way. For us Zach is a constant reminder that we are richly blessed and that God does indeed keep his promises.

Amanda Munday

*God blesses us
in different ways
and is always
faithful*

Central Baptist Church has a long-standing association with the village of Atorkor in Ghana. Village chief Dr. Sam Adjorlolo brings us up to date with some of the recent developments in the village.

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Atorkor Vocational Training Centre (AVTC)

The collapse of the fishing industry in Atorkor has resulted in high unemployment and high levels of poverty. Most parents cannot afford to support the education of their children. Therefore very few youngsters are able to continue in secondary school or indeed tertiary education. Hence the area has very high levels of youth unemployment. Even though the Atorkor Development Foundation (ADF) has been supporting some of these children by providing educational sponsorship to enable them to continue further formal education, this is not sufficient to address the problem.

The Foundation decided to build a vocational training centre, and Phase One of this project was completed at a cost of £125,000 and commissioned by Ghana's Minister of Youth and Sports on 16th August 2011. The Bake Family Foundation donated £73,000 and the rest came from private donors in Canada. The Ghana Government will give £45,000 to support the operation of the centre.

The centre has five large workshops, an administration office, 2 washrooms, a large kitchen and covered walkways.

The AVTC will address the high rate of youth unemployment in the community



Vocational Training Centre

by providing the youth with the opportunity to acquire skills which will assist them to generate sustainable income.

The centre will run 2 types of training

- i) A formal skills training for the youth and those with formal education;
- ii) An informal apprenticeship program for those without any formal education.

For the Phase One, the Centre will focus on the following programs: Information and Communication Technologies; Business Administration; (Marketing); general agriculture especially fish farming; Batik and fibre and dress making.

The Phase Two will include building additional workshops for teaching kente weaving, bead making, welding, masonry, plumbing and electrical installation.

The Foundation hopes that these programs will bring economic opportunity to the area and diversify

Atorkor's economy away from the fishing industry.

On completion of their training, the Foundation will assist those with viable business plans with "start- up capital" to invest in tools, equipment and related items to start a sustainable income generating business. This will be in the form of loans to be provided by our microfinance partner, Lumana Credit.

The Foundation will also work with businesses to allow trainees to undertake work experience to enhance their prospects for meaningful and gainful employment after qualification.

Six Room Classroom Block

The Ghana Government is building a six room classroom block for the Atorkor School. This will be completed by the second week of September 2011. Together with the three-unit classroom block built by the Central Baptist Church (CBC) last year, the large class sizes will be reduced considerably.



New Six Room Teaching Block

Prize Giving Day

The ADF organized the 6th speech and prize giving day for the Atorkor School

on 9th August 2011. The guest of honour at the function was the British High Commissioner to Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Peter Jones.



Atorkor School Award Winners

47 children received prizes - books, school bags, uniforms and educational sponsorships. This year the pass rate of the school at the Basic Education Certificate Examination, an external examination taken at the end of the Junior High School is 95% - the best results so far. Last year's result was 68%.

Educational Sponsorship

Two students being sponsored by members from CBC have this year gained admissions into college. One of them is studying midwifery and will eventually work in the clinic in Atorkor. The other is studying electrical engineering.

The foundation would like to express its sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the entire congregation of the Central Baptist Church for their wonderful and continuous support to the work of the Foundation. God bless you.

Dr. Sam Adjorlolo

This year's Harvest offering is going to a Baptist Missionary Society project called Sacred Soil.

The Sacred Valley in southern Peru attracts thousands of tourists each year but it's also an area where the physical poverty is matched only by desperate spiritual need. It's a place where people still enact sacrifices at an annual festival, and where farmers and communities are at the mercy of a volatile climate.

In January 2010, the village of Yucay, in the Sacred Valley, was hit by one of the worst floods in 40 years. 350 people lost their homes and 400 farming families lost the crops on which they depend for survival.

For farmers like Eddi the long-term outlook without a harvest was potentially devastating. Seeds were needed for a fruitful harvest but their income from spoiled crops had been lost.

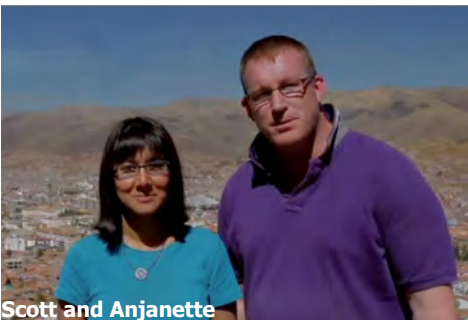


Thanks to generous giving from UK Christians, the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) was there directly after the disaster, helping with food and shelter providing seeds for 400 families affected by the flood.

A different type of poverty controls people further down the valley in Cusco, where a festival called Inti Raymi happens once a year. At this festival prayers and sacrifices are made to the Inca sun god for the soil to bear fruit and huge numbers attend.

It's against this background of spiritual poverty that Scott and Anjanette, BMS Mission workers have planted a church. Scott and Anjanette started a church called El Puente in the Quispicanchi suburbs of Cusco. It has grown from zero to 45 people in two years.

People like Marco have started attending the church. He is still searching for a deep relationship with God but he is regularly helping with the technical equipment in the church.



Scott and Anjanette



Mercedes has found that relationship with Jesus. She has been baptised and is a committed member of the church.

From practical needs to spiritual hunger, the love of Jesus expressed through his servants, changes lives for ever.

This all costs money. And there is still so much more to be done. Your giving makes this work possible, not just here in the Sacred Valley, but all over the world.

Please give and pray for Scott and Anjanette and this project.

Lomo Saltado

Serves six

Preparation time: one hour

Ingredients:

- 2lb beef tenderloin or other tender steak
- 1/4 cup red wine or Burgundy
- 2 tablespoons crushed garlic
- 2 medium onions cut in strips
- 4 tomatoes, seeds removed, pureed in blender
- 5 potatoes peeled and cut into strips for frying
- 1 jalapeno pepper cut into thin strips
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Salt and pepper
- Finely chopped parsley

Preparation:

1. Cut beef into thin strips and marinate in wine for one hour.
2. Cook garlic in oil over medium heat and add meat. Cook meat to taste (medium/rare/well done) and



- reserve the juice.
3. Add the tomato puree, salt and pepper. Cook for a few minutes.
4. Add onion, jalapeno strips, parsley and vinegar, then add the juice from the meat.
5. Fry the potatoes in a separate pan and add to other ingredients.
6. Serve over white rice.



SACRED SOIL
HARVEST IN PERU

Robin, Hayley, Henry and Anna Hance and Penny Bonnett spent two weeks over the summer on a mission in Sri Lanka.

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August 12: The waiting is over!

The waiting is over and today is the day that we begin our journey to another Sri Lanka. By this time tomorrow, God willing, we will be recovering in a hotel room in Colombo, the island's capital city before we embark on our mission.

Our aim is to work and worship alongside the children and staff at the Agape Orphanage. In a small village called Tissamaharama, 120 children from difficult or tragic backgrounds are raised in Christ's love.

During our time at Agape we will be refurbishing the dining hall, helping with livestock, providing a holiday club and worshipping God alongside the children and their carers.

August 15: Settling in

This morning we joined the congregation of The People's Church in Colombo for worship. The ministers give three services back to back, each in a different language – Sinhalese, English and Tamal. They're certainly very fit – especially in the heat and humidity! Our text today was from Deuteronomy, the theme was "Don't forget" – and believe me, we certainly will always remember the powerful preaching and prayer we experienced.

August 18

Journey down south yesterday was long, tiring and painful. This morning



we finally arrived at Agape. Such a mix of happiness and sadness.

We began work by scrubbing down the dining hall ready to paint tomorrow. This afternoon was a joyful session on Noah: every child made and wore a mask. Quite a sight!

August 21

The dining hall has been transformed from murky orange to crisp blue and the mural of the ark is almost complete. Bible stories and craft activities on Joseph and David & Goliath have been lively. Last night we gave spa treatments to the Care



Mothers who endlessly work hard – so good for them to receive for a change.

August 22: Church in a front room

Our church yesterday was the pig man’s front room! 60 people inside and more standing outside in the street. The praise and worship was incredibly powerful.

Anna had woken up with an eye infection, weeping and swollen. We were planning to find a pharmacy but with fervent prayers for healing during the service, it had gone. Rob gave an emotional testimony. Not a dry eye to be seen. We were there for two and a half hours. It felt more like twenty minutes!



August 23: Hope after the Tsunami

Yesterday we went to the beach where the tsunami hit. There has been a lot of redevelopment but there are still some shocking reminders of what happened. There is a field in the centre of town where those who died are buried. We had lunch with a lady who lost her husband. She spoke of the sense of loss, and the promise of aid which often didn’t arrive. Hope in Sri Lanka [who finance Agape] was amongst the first to provide practical help and still does today. A harrowing day!

August 25

All the painting was finished and we had a powerful youth session where the teenagers identified their feelings and laid them on a paper cross. Almost every young person took up the offer of prayer. What an incredible privilege to offer prayerful support to people who have experienced tragedy and suffering in their lives.

August 28: Goodbyes

It goes without saying that the last day at Agape was emotional. It began with

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a sports day event, masterfully led by Penny. Recent surgery meant I was given the easy job of official starter. From my vantage point, I was able to watch and reflect on the activities. Despite some prior concerns, the allocated teams and the scheduled races went like a dream and all around me were smiling children, cheering on their friends. I have no doubt that they will remember the sprints, the sack race, the egg and spoon and the skipping races for a long while to come.

Our final event was a talent contest - groups of children were hiding away practising for the show scheduled for the afternoon. The pressure was on for the Hope team to come up with an act as well. At short notice, we put together a routine which culminated in a hybrid of Flag Worship and Morris Dancing in Saris. As far as I'm aware, this was not filmed. (Phew!).

The children's acts were astonishing; Bollywood style dancing, cultural dancing, singers and a comedy sketch. Without a doubt, "Sri Lanka's Got Talent"! The translator explained that this was the children's way of thanking us for our time with them. Not a dry eye in the house.

We had one last treat for the children. We wanted them to have a meal to remember. We all contributed some money and Mala [Rev. K A Dayaratne and his wife Mala

run the orphanage] bought a huge fresh fish and bread for supper. The children never have bread - it's too expensive. It's almost impossible to imagine that a commodity that we use for a quick snack is completely missing from the daily diet of these people. It's equally impossible to describe the faces of 100 children who are given a huge door step of fresh bread to eat with their fish curry - hugely touching. And then to finish? Ice cream of course!

After the meal, the children came, age by age, to say good night and good bye. What a week! From a personal point of view - I went to serve this small Christian community but came away having received so much from them; spiritually and emotionally.

Hayley Hance



Over a year ago Lesley, our Seniors Worker and I had a conversation about starting a cross generational activity. In the church over the last twenty years there has been an increase in age related activities which has been on the whole a positive thing. The downside however is that there have been fewer opportunities for the generations to do things together and now the young and old have become distanced. We wanted to bridge the gap and this project was put on the 'To Do' list - where it stayed!

My Mum then told me about a basic computer course she had signed up for at her local library in Hove. This gave me ideas but the project remained on the list. Several young people then approached me asking whether they could volunteer for something in the church for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. I suggested that they could start a Technology Club for older people (older than them!) and left them to survey some of the seniors who attend the Charis lunch to see if they were interested. Over six people signed up straight away and Technology Club was born!

At the age of fourteen Abi Seago was one of our oldest teachers:

"Over the last three months I have been helping out at Technology Club, [...]. I have worked with different people wanting to find out more about emails, facebook and using their mobile phones. We have done three courses, all lasting a month each. I have seen an improvement in everyone as they become more and more familiar with newer technology and understanding



what they can do with their phones and laptops."

Over the three months a total of seven volunteers have been able to help fourteen people with their technology – Lesley and I have learnt a few things as well! One of these people is Terry Cocks. Soon to retire, Terry was keen to get what help he could before moving to Cornwall:

"Tech club has helped me learn how to use my laptop so that I can now communicate with friends and much more. I can now read emails, chat with friends on facebook, listen to music, download photos from my camera, and rotate them if necessary, and this isn't all of it. Bearing in mind, I have had my laptop for about six months, and never used it until I came to tech club I have learnt so much in such a short space of time."

Technology club has been a really positive experience for all involved. The young people remain available to answer questions and should there be sufficient interest more courses could be planned for the future.

Sue Parrotte (Children's Worker & Youth Leader)

The Adventure of a Lifetime...

II

I recently went on a trip to Thailand and Cambodia as part of a group of young people with the World Challenge organisation. A couple of 'responsible' adults joined us to ensure our safety and that our decisions were sensible! Before we left we focused on the plans for the week-long trek through the Thai jungle and a project phase spent helping in an orphanage in Cambodia.

The trip was divided into four main sections; Acclimatisation, Trek, Rest & Recovery and Project. As we got used to the heat and climate in Bangkok and surrounding area, we were able to discover the local culture on our many day treks and get used to carrying packs. During this time we visited Erawan National Park and climbed alongside the infamous seven tiered waterfall. At the Bridge over the River Kwai and Hellfire Pass we trekked along the old Thailand-Burma railway and learned how it was built by the prisoners of war. I found these days interesting, learning the history of the area, and beneficial to the group to raise fitness and encourage group bonding and morale.

During the main trek we had the opportunity to white water raft to get to the first camp, and it was nice not to carry the packs for this section. At the camp we rooted through our rucksacks to find our hammock, basha (rain canopy) and mosquito net. Once these were up, they were extremely cosy and comfortable, although we were all so shattered. Getting in was also a source of amusement!

All our meals were cooked on an open fire and consisted of rice, rice, rice, occasionally noodles and a little bit of meat, but it tasted good to hungry trekkers!

At the end of our week of trekking and surviving in the jungle, we were happy to finish with a elephant ride around the park. Finally back to civilisation with a leisurely float down the river on a bamboo raft.

Whilst we recovered we had the opportunity to visit Kho Samet, famous for being the set for the James Bond film "The Man with the Golden Gun". The white sands and beautiful water were just too much and we spent most of the day relaxing on the beach and messing around in the sea!

For the final phase, we crossed the border into Cambodia. This was an extremely scary experience for me as the guards with loaded guns were quite menacing and rumours of mugging, etc. were constantly in the back of my mind. Looking back I can see that God kept me safe and was reassuring me, therefore the border crossing was successful.

On arrival in Siem Reap we were able to spend time looking around the Temples of Angkor (Angkor Wat being the set for the film "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider") and learning a bit about the local Buddhist Religion. Once we got back, we met up with the representative from the orphanage who described what needed to be done and

showed us around. The next day we started work; our brief was to convert a swamp into a levelled area, which was concreted, and construct a shading canopy where the children could play.

The weather was against us during this phase, undoing much of the day's hard work with a heavy downpour, appearing on cue at 5pm every day! Nevertheless we battled on in the mud and mosquitoes with our shovels and determination and completed the levelling so that the concrete could be laid. The wooden framework for the canopy was constructed and inserted before the concreting and the shading was laid over and fastened into place whilst the concreting was being done.

With our remaining funds, we bought the children a swing to enjoy alongside the slide and climbing frame they already had.

Whilst we were doing the manual labour, we took it in turns to teach the children English using songs, pictures and rhymes, and general conversation in a couple of instances. The children seemed to really enjoy our time with them and many helped us in the building work. At the end of the week we had a celebration with music and dancing.

The children performed a few local dances with traditional costumes, and our contribution was a rendition of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!'

The last couple of days we relaxed in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city where we looked at the remaining group funds, pooled our resources and spent a night in a luxury hotel with hot water, squishy beds and several pillows...bliss!

We went out for dinner on our last night to celebrate birthdays and the successfulness of the trip. It was a happy, yet melancholy affair as we had all had a great time and would miss each other's company as we returned home to our families.

During the month I felt God's presence and He helped me deal with issues as they arose, big or small, important or not. The group managed to maintain a friendly atmosphere and we were able to resolve concerns as they arose. When we found ourselves in troubling situations, the prayers of people back home supported us through those hard times.

Sherilyn Powell



Early in the summer, two young people, Sarah and Joanna were baptised as a sign of their Christian faith. These are their stories:

Sarah

I have been coming to this church for my whole life and I have been brought up in a Christian family and background. I have grown up coming to church most Sundays, going through all the light factory groups and regularly attending the youth events here, like Ozone, Oxygen and Outrageous. Coming to church became a routine, I used to think that everyone had their own second family at a church and one day my light factory leader would take us all upstairs to go get baptised and choosing who would hold your towel was the most important part of it. But as I grew up, I realised that not everyone goes to church and I was told about many other theories saying that God doesn't exist. I started to try and find excuses not to come to church, because it was not the 'cool' thing to do and from coming so often it just seemed all the same and pointless.

A couple of years ago, I went on my first week away with the church to Capernwray [a youth holiday]. It was the first time I started to listen to God, and coming away from it I wanted to learn more about him. Though that determination lasted a few weeks, it quickly got removed by the stress of school work and

friendships. I went to Capernwray again, and I found it just as interesting and inspiring as the last one, and I was determined to learn more. I signed up for the baptism courses and decided I wanted to show my love for God and how I want to live my life for him by getting baptised today.

The Bible verse I have chosen is Philippians 4, v 13 "I can do all things, through Christ who strengthens me". I've chosen this verse because sometimes I feel like I can't do things, like talking to friends about my beliefs, but I know that he will give me the strength to do so.

Want to find out more about Christianity?

If you would like to find out more why not join our next Alpha course, starting on 3rd October, which is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. It's relaxed, low-key, friendly and fun. It's a place where no question is too simple or too difficult.

Register now for our next course at alpha@centralbaptistchelmsford.org to ensure you have a place and we will be in touch.



Joanna

God has been in my life for as long as I remember. Having been brought up in a Christian church, I started to learn about him from a young age. Growing up I felt happy in the religion I was in. However, I was yet to look more deeply into my faith.

When my sister was baptised I felt really happy for her - it was a great day. Sometime after that I felt I wanted to go to baptismal classes. They were a great help to me because I realised that there was more to Christianity than I had thought before. Although this led on to a period of time where I wasn't as sure inside about my faith, it was helpful for me to look deeper into the faith I had been brought up in. I found it wasn't as familiar as I thought. So at the end of the course I decided that I wasn't sure enough to be baptised.

And now I am glad that I didn't. Having some time to think more helped me to get rid of the main doubts that were spinning round and round my head. Although I was doubting on and off over that period of time, I found myself praying to God to help me through it. I still believed, I still trusted. From there I grew in my faith. I found that things that people said, talks and songs meant more to me. Reading the E100 passages [a Bible reading course] I found that some passages fitted the day perfectly – when a Christian friend was upset I found that the day's reading was about how God can help you through all situations. This encouraged me and sometimes I would feel, in a rush of joy and amazement,

God's presence. I kept most of my thoughts and feelings to myself, only sharing them now that I'm past them.

I go to the Christian Union group at my school each week. I remember a week when we watched a YouTube clip from a talk and the speaker was talking about Laminin which is the tiny cell that holds your body together, and it's shaped as a cross. I found that amazing.

I went to Spring Harvest this year and there were sessions for young people called "Distinctive" in the morning and the evening. I really enjoyed the worship there, being in a room with lots of people who believed was great. In lively songs the whole room was filled with people jumping up and down and enjoying praising God.

Before Spring Harvest I went to another set of baptismal sessions. Although it was going over topics we had talked about last time, it was helpful and there were different views as it was a different group of people. Thinking about where my true beliefs lay, I felt that I had stronger faith than before. With this in mind I reached the end of the course ready to say yes. That's why I'm here today, to show my commitment to God. As it says in the verse I have chosen, Psalm 25:1. "O Lord I give my life to you"

To watch the YouTube video go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KqziOKZ4AE>

Church Diary ~ Main Events

Key dates to put in your diary

<i>Fri 23rd Sept</i>	International Students: The Big International Welcome 7pm
<i>Sun 25th Sept</i>	Harvest Sunday - Big Welcome 10am International Evening - 6pm
<i>Sat 8th Oct</i>	International Students – Making the Most of Your Time in England 7pm
<i>Sun 9th Oct</i>	Baptismal Service 10am
<i>Thurs 20th Oct</i>	BOB Go-karting
<i>Sun 30th Oct</i>	Thank God for our Loved Ones – we remember those dear to us who have died 10am
<i>12th Nov</i>	International Students - British Film & History Night 7pm
<i>11th Dec</i>	Children’s Christmas Party 2pm followed by Carols for Young Families at 4pm
<i>18th Dec</i>	Carols by Candlelight 7pm
<i>25th Dec</i>	Christmas Praise 10am
<i>31st Dec</i>	New Year’s Eve: A Watch Night Service

We’d love to hear from you.

To get in touch you can email us at: info@centralbaptistchelmsford.org, call us on 01245 264163 or pop in and see us at: Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1LN

If you’d like to contribute to Connect or have any comments then you can email us at: connect@centralbaptistchelmsford.org

