

THOUGHTFUL LIVING NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



The Thoughtful Living group enjoyed a fun evening at the end of November gift wrapping presents and writing cards for CIRDIC's Christmas lunch guests. These gifts have been made possible by your generosity!

The £450 which was raised for CIRDIC, not only paid for the gifts, but will also fund their Christmas lunch, buying Turkeys, potatoes and vegetables.

At the very successful Christmas Pudding Evening, 6 puddings were also made and donated for this meal and later this month some parishioners have offered to make mince pies to complete the meal and to be delivered in time for the lunch date (17th December).

The Ramble for the Reading Refugee Support Group which took place this Autumn and proved to be a lovely day out on a crisp but bright day, raised a wonderful £245 - On top of this, the donated monies were doubled by a special scheme that allows all donations over the period of a week to be matched. So a total of £490 was raised. These vital funds will provide reading materials to assist in the teaching of English. Two of our parishioners volunteer with this worthwhile charity and we hope to bring you further updates early next year.

Our Advent Tree tradition continues - your gifts for the elderly and house-bound of the parish and those in need at the Reading Drop-in Centre are very much appreciated. And Keith will be taking them down on Christmas Eve to be distributed so please make sure you have any parcels returned by Sunday 22nd.

Our community of St Michael's is reaching out to support the marginalised in our locality. While this is a significant response to Pope Francis's call in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, helping in whichever practical ways we can, it is, nevertheless, important that we also prepare our spiritual lives during Advent. The Pope's charity for World Mission, Missio, has a children's branch called Mission Together. They have produced a digital Advent Calendar, which offers daily reflections up until Christmas Eve. It is really worth a look! You can find it online;

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar>.

Simply click on the date and reveal the thought for the day

It just remains for us, the Thoughtful Living Group, to thank you for your continued efforts, donations and support and to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Mary