



November 2018

CoM CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Companions – Fighting Isolation 2018

Dear Companion,

With so much happening, even before our next newsletter (due January 2019), I wanted to update everyone on what was going on and highlight the key dates for your diary over the next few weeks.

Thank you for supporting all these activities and, in advance, for all your hard work over the upcoming Christmas Season.

Christmas Plans

The *Christmas parcels* for the homeless are underway, packing started in earnest last Thursday in a phenomenally busy but organised effort. Primark are again supporting us in London and around the country with the main kit (sweatshirt, hat, gloves, long sleeved T-shirt etc, plus bags). With their help this year we are providing 700 parcels, to be distributed nationally as follows:-

LONDON incl Cirencester - 280 broken down as: Lincoln Inn's Fields - x 99; Cafe - 110; Breakfast Club - 35; Cirencester - 36 = 280

REGIONS - 410 broken down as: Oxford - 25; Cambridge - 40; Colchester - 40; Birmingham - 50; Edinburgh - 60; Glasgow - 60; St Andrews Dundee - 36; Banf - 40; Aberdeen - 60 = 370

The spend last year was (£19k inc part of 2016) , our budget this year is £15k (as approved at the AGM).

Homeless Christmas parties and lunches are; in London 13/12, Oxford on 15/12, and Colchester 19/12

On the *OSJCT Homes* front, Cribs are again being supplied to care homes who do not have them, the CoM Council on 6/11 approved the purchase of 10 of these which have now been ordered from Germany.

We also have the county Christmas parties (see the dates below) which will be supported by us and to which everyone is invited to attend and help.

Finally, our *Carol Service* is at 7pm on Wednesday 12/12 at St .James's with the reception to follow. The ticketing email has gone out, please do sign up and/or come along on the evening for the service and party.

2019

Looking ahead. All sorts of different projects are planned, but more of all that in our next Newsletter.

Until then, thank you again for all your support in 2018 and every best wish and blessing for Christmas. See you at the Carols!

Many thanks and God bless,



Paul Letman
CHAIR CoM

Upcoming Key Dates	
November	
21/11	CoM London Oratory Tea Party, 2pm at St. Joseph's Hall
22/11	Christmas Parcel packing continues, 7.30pm onwards at St. James's
27/11	Oxford CoM Term Mass and Dinner
December	
6/12	Gloucestershire OSJCT Christmas party
12/12	Christmas Carol Service and Reception, 7.00pm at St. James's
13/12	London Homeless Christmas Party, 7.30pm at St. James's
15/12	Oxford, Homeless Christmas Lunch, at 11.45 am at St. Giles' Parish Hall
19/12	Christmas Breakfast Club (last Wednesday before closing until 9/1/19)
19/12	Colchester Homeless Christmas Lunch 12.30pm
19/12	Wiltshire OSJCT Christmas Party
20/12	Last Thursday 'Soup Kitchen' of 2018 (before closing until 3/1/19)