



*The Messenger is a monthly newsletter written by the members of Christ Lutheran Church—a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

**CHRIST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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## GAME OF THRONES

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By Phil Hecht

As most everyone knows, the HBO series Game of Thrones follows a dynastic conflict in Westeros among competing claimants for succession to the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms. I've never watched it, but I hear it's pretty good.

We don't have an Iron Throne here at Christ Lutheran Church, but we have a Council. And I've never witnessed an internecine battle over who will rule us, but we do have an important election coming up in November.

Also unlike Game of Thrones, we have a Constitution and Bylaws approved by Synod. The Council is generally responsible for the financial matters of the congregation and for supervision of staff. The current Council is comprised of ten members, including Pastor Renata. There are four officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have a Financial Secretary and four Members-at-Large (formerly known as Deacons).

At the end of this year, the two-year terms of the President, Vice President and two Members-at-Large will expire, and the Treasurer position also will be open. This is an unusually extensive turn-over, and calls for a concerted effort by our Nominating Committee – Artie Harris and Howard Bell – to recruit willing members to stand for election at the November 13 Congregation Meeting.

To be eligible for one of the three open officer positions, you must be over 21 and have been a congregation member for at least two years. Members-at Large must be congregation members and over 18.

Please prayerfully consider putting your name forward with Artie and Howard, and please talk to me or Vice President Marilee Rist if you have any questions about what Council membership involves. We promise it doesn't include weapons or warfare.



## A PATCHWORK QUILT YARD SALE

By Joanne Noll

The 37th Annual Yard Sale at Christ Lutheran Church somehow seemed like a patchwork quilt to me. Many key people were either ill or out of town, so it was a challenge to piece all the departments together with folks who could do the necessary jobs! Many agreed to fill these positions for kitchen duty, electronics, collectibles, jewelry, and people around the building. It was a special joy to find talents of folks that we didn't know about. The Yard Sale not only helps us help others, but helps us know each other in new ways.

Items in the garage were priced on August 26. We had a good time on a hot Friday. (Add a smiley face to the quilt.) "Carry Out" Sunday was early, September 11, and many stayed to help; the children had a great time! (Another smiley face!) A group stayed that day to work at sorting boxes in their departments. The next day sorting started in earnest and the next week pricing was on deadline. With an average of 12 workers per day and evening, the job was getting done. The biggest day was Tuesday, September 20, with 21 workers. A surprise treat for lunch was homemade pizza by Lee Schray. (A really big smiley face patch!)

We were blessed with good weather the whole two weeks. Yard Sale Saturday was cloudy with patches of sun, and Sunday was a glorious day! (A sunshine patch here!) Pastor Lee and Vicar Katherine were at the early refreshment table on Gallatin Street while other great members, friends, former members, plus a couple of our beneficiaries moved the abundant inventory from the Fellowship Hall, undercroft, chapel, big garage and narthex onto the front lawn. (Smiles and worker patches here!) The outside team and jewelry team went right to work on outside. Last year's main cashier team returned (except for Pastor Renata) and Pastor Lois Ryan returned to cashier collectibles. We opened the inside door just before 10:00 a.m. and we experienced many "slow" minutes during the day, which was unusual (a frown patch here). It so happened that the new African American Museum's opening day was Saturday and probably played a part in our attendance. Over 65 workers helped all or part of the day. The four hours on Sunday greatly reduced the outside furniture and very little was left. The Lutheran Social Services truck arrived about 4:30 to take any furniture and inside household items they wanted. Also gleaning on Sunday were reps from: the C4 Clothes Closet in Silver Spring;





Debbie Jones to send items to Sierra Leone; sales at St. Andrew's Episcopal, California, MD; and First Presbyterian, Statesboro, GA.

Clean-up continued on Monday, September 26, with 10 people! Gleaners included: St. Francis Episcopal, Potomac; Prevention of Blindness Thrift Shop; and a representative from U.S. Vets. Many of these people wanted to help the victims of the apartment explosion in August in Silver Spring. (Lots of big Smiley faces of all colors here!!) Upscale Resale, Rockville, came on Wednesday, and they will come again. Also by Wednesday signs were down, shelving and racks put away. A little more clean-up and all will be back to normal. Trips to the dump are always part of the clean-up process.



A new team of Anne Dwiggins and Jacki Banks served lunch both days. We thank them and all those who made salads and desserts to share. (Fruit and vegetables patches here.) Rick Noll, Patrick Noll and Howard Bell served as door men this year. Great cashiers kept the lines moving right along! Anne & Liz Garagusi, Fernwood Estate Sales, and their clients continued to provide us with part of a great inventory! (Furniture and household patches here.) A big thank you to David Blakemore and Alice Meyer for doing all the finances. Thanks also those who provided the charge "square" services. (\$\$\$ patches here.) As of Sunday, October 2, we have a gross total of about \$24,271.54. A great total from the work of the wonderful patchwork quilt of people who call themselves Christ Lutheran Church.




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## KITCHEN KREW THANKS YOU!

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By Anne Dwiggins and Jacki Banks, 2016 Kitchen Coordinators

Many, many thanks to the cooks who provided such delicious pot-luck dishes for workers at the annual Yard Sale, September 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was eager to take a break from sales to partake of wonderful pasta, bean, and jello salads; baked beans as well as black beans and rice; and especially the plethora of cookies, bars, and cake. Sincere appreciation to each of you who not only worked the sale but also cooked!




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## VISIONING UPDATE

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By Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen

We are now moving into the second phase of our visioning process. We will be considering "What are the needs in the community around us?" and "How is God calling us to address them?" Many small groups are meeting on October 16 and in the coming weeks to discuss these questions.

If you have any questions about your small group, please contact Vicar Katherine, [k.chatelaine@gmail.com](mailto:k.chatelaine@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about the visioning process in general, please contact Susy Cheston, [susy.cheston@gmail.com](mailto:susy.cheston@gmail.com).

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## MUSICAL HAPPENINGS

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By Joy-Leilani Garbutt

### Sunday Choir

Our Sunday pick-up Choir will sing on October 23. We will meet at 9:15am in the choir loft. Come join us!

If you would like to sing with our choir more regularly, we rehearse Thursday nights at 7:30 PM.

### Concerts at Christ

Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 1PM, The Barclay Brass Sextet will help us celebrate the Reformation with festive music for brass and organ. The Barclay Brass is a professional ensemble comprised of some of the top military and freelance musicians in the DC area.

The concert will include music by Bach, Gabrieli, Monteverdi, and Wagner.

### Children's Choir

We are growing our children's music program with a weeknight children's choir rehearsal, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Join us for worship on October 16 to hear the children sing. To find out more, please contact Joy.

### Hand Bells

Adults and children 10 and up are welcome to join a handbell group that will play periodically throughout the year. If you would like to be on the email list for bells, just let Joy know.





## FOOD PANTRY RESUMES IN OCTOBER

By Anne Dwiggins

After a one-month hiatus to focus on the Yard Sale, the Food Pantry will again resume its monthly collection and delivery of food items, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, and diapers in October. As we had to clear our existing inventory to make way for Yard Sale preparation, pantry inventory is low at this time. Thus we especially welcome your donations over the next few weeks.

These items are needed: non-sugary cereal, protein bars/ trail mix, canned tuna/ salmon, rice, canned beans, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit/ applesauce, soup, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, toilet paper, kitchen trash bags, sponges, all-purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Unscented hygiene items are preferred. All items may be placed in the Food Pantry box in the narthex. A quick reminder: *please check expiration dates on any foods donated to the Pantry.*

Of course, monetary donations are also welcome. At the end of the month, this money makes it possible for our shoppers to purchase needed items to round out our inventory. Please mark your checks "Food Pantry."

This month's delivery to the 27 families at the Partner Arms apartments will take place on the morning of Saturday, October 29. If you plan to be part of packing and delivering the grocery bags on that day, please speak to David Lippe (lippedk@aol.com). Young folks are particularly welcome!

On Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> a group gathered before worship to prepare shopping bags for distribution to Christ's near neighbors. Three hundred paper bags had been donated by Trader Joe's for this purpose (thank you, Marty Jewett, for arranging this donation). Volunteers stapled a notice about the Yard Sale on one side of each bag; a second notice invited neighbors to fill the bags with items for Christ's Food Pantry. Following worship that day, an intrepid group of members left the bags on neighborhood porches, and some members took bags to deliver in their own 'hoods. Those delivering the bags declared a new appreciation for the step-climbing efforts of U.S. postal workers! During the Yard Sale, we were delighted to have a total of ten filled bags returned to the church. We thank all who took part in this effort to make our congregation's ministries known in our community.




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## STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

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Christ Lutheran Church is blessed to have Stephen Ministers who are trained to listen, care, encourage, pray and walk alongside other members during difficult times. Rev. Lois Ryan, who serves as a Stephen Minister, will be our teacher and preacher this day. We invite you to come to Adult Forum at 9:25 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a discussion of Stephen Ministry. During worship, we will pray for and bless our Stephen Ministers who serve through this caring ministry.

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## CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

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Our Wednesday night small groups have a new name! Join us for a "Conversation on Faith and Life" on Wednesday, October 19 as we discuss the *OnBeing* podcast, "Islam's Reformation" featuring religious scholar Reza Aslan. We'll start with a light meal of soup and bread from 6:45-7:15pm, and will then move into a time of small group conversation on the podcast's themes until 8:15 pm.

You can download and listen to the podcast ahead of time by visiting <http://www.onbeing.org/program/reza-aslan-on-islams-reformation/7039>. You are welcome even if you are not able to listen to the podcast! Please let Vicar Katherine know if you have any questions and if you plan to attend.




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## GARDEN WITH US!

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By Lee Schray

It is time for a fall spruce up of our gardens and outdoor spaces. We will gather on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, beginning at 10 AM, to weed and plant in preparation for our All Saints Sunday celebration. We will have some tools on hand, but encourage you to bring gloves and any of your own favorite gardening tools.




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## SOCIAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

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Please join us on Social Ministries Sunday, October 23, for a special celebration of this year's Yard Sale Beneficiaries. They are: Housing Up (formerly THC), Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Rwanda School Project, Centro Infantil San Pablo, Court Watch Montgomery, Educare Support Services, Healthy Babies Bright Futures, Project Future Institute, United States Veterans Initiative.

Representatives from these organizations will be present in our worship service that day and will be a part of a special coffee hour. We will have a chance to get to know these representatives and learn about and celebrate the work they do all year.

The Social Ministry Committee is Kendall Bentz, Cheryl Beversdorf, Karin Klingman, Pam Sieving. Ask any of these committee members how you can be a part of our Social Ministries celebration on October 23.




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## CONNECTIONS MINI-RETREAT

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By Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen

Join both new and longer-term members for a mini-retreat to connect with one another and with God in a deeper way on Saturday, October 29 from 1 – 3:30 PM at Christ Lutheran Church. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for bible study, conversation about our church community, to connect with one another. We will end our time together with a simple communion service in the Chapel. Coffee, tea, and sweet treats are part of the afternoon fun as well. New members will be received on Sunday, November 6. For more information or to sign up, please email Vicar Katherine at [k.chatelaine@gmail.com](mailto:k.chatelaine@gmail.com).




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## TREASURER'S NOTE

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By David Blakemore

On September 27, we received the final portion - \$751,050 - of Herbert Turvey's generous bequest of \$1,051,050. We thank Herb, and the Lord, for this generosity. The money has been invested in our Endowment Fund account with Merrill Lynch.

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## CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION WITH METRO DC SYNOD

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A worship service commemorating the Reformation is sponsored annually by the Metro D.C. Synod. This year we will gather at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 30 at Washington National Cathedral. All are invited. Reformation Sunday is observed in October, recalling Martin Luther's posting of 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517.

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## SAMARITAN MINISTRY GALA AND AUCTION

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Please join Samaritan Ministry at *Stepping into a New Future: Building on 30 Years of Growth and Learning*. The 2016 Annual Gala and Auction will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St., NW, Washington, D.C. More information is available at [bit.ly/SMGW2016Gala](http://bit.ly/SMGW2016Gala). We'll be celebrating the growth of Samaritan Ministry this year with the integration of STRIVE and recent increases in locations where participants can access the Next Step Program, and celebrate the joys and opportunities ahead of us!




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## HEADING TO COSTA RICA WITH THE PEACE CORPS

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By Sharon Senghor

When President Kennedy announced the creation of the Peace Corps, I vowed I'd one day join. Later, family circumstances being what they were, I took inspiration from President Jimmy Carter's mother, Miss Lillian, figuring I might get there later than most but still achieve my dream one day. Now, with my child now grown, marriage dissolved and parents deceased, that day has arrived.

On February 20, 2017, I will leave Washington DC and my beloved CLC family to serve with the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. After three months of training in San Jose, I will join a-yet-unknown Costa Rican community for two years to help a new generation of entrepreneurs improve their business skills and cultivate new business opportunities. Additionally, I will help community members improve their critical workforce skills so they can improve their employment opportunities and provide local businesses and organizations with qualified human capital.

It was working within the CLC community on the mission to help members find meaningful work that really got me jazzed about these issues. I'm so grateful to find this opportunity to help others find the work that God may have for them.

I'm looking forward to both the adventure and to becoming Spanish-fluent. In a funny sort of way, I'm actually looking forward to selling my car and turning over my apartment for someone else to enjoy. But I will miss each of you and CLC terribly. You have become my family. Please, not only keep me in your prayers, but also stay in touch and come visit.

(And, of course, if you know anyone who might like to rent a large sunny one bedroom or purchase a relatively new Honda Fit with ridiculously low mileage, please let me know.)



## HOUSING UP HELPS STUDENTS

Housing Up is proud to announce that its annual backpack drive has just come to a close. With the help of generous support and donations, we were able to outfit over 400 children across the city with much needed school supplies. That is an increase of over 100 kids from last year's drive.

While the kids might not be too excited to see the end of their summer vacation, they'll definitely be prepared for their first day of school.

Housing Up would like to thank all of its supporters in this effort. This includes Gifts of Hope, The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church in DC, St. Paul's Rock Creek Church in DC, the Morris family, the Pardo family, the Park family and the Iwugo family. We are so grateful to have such generous and caring friends in the community!



Kitchen in the Qabbani home, where the children, eager to learn English, have labeled everything in both Arabic and English with the help of Temple Shalom volunteers.

## SYRIAN FAMILY GETS RESETTLED WITH HELP FROM LSS/NCA

Abbreviated from LSS/NCA's newsletter

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area teamed up with Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase to help resettle the Qabbani family from Syria. Karen Green and her congregation, Temple Shalom, are part of a broader movement among the Jewish community in the United States to respond to the global refugee crisis.

Temple Shalom joined the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Welcome Campaign in May. They had decided to get involved and respond to the refugee crisis back in September when their Rabbi, Michael Feshbach, gave a powerful sermon about refugees over the High Holidays. They formed a refugee task force, and began organizing in order to ensure that whatever they did, they did it well and with deep understanding of what they were taking on. Seven months later they were preparing to welcome a family into their community.

They've committed, as a congregation, to providing many of the things the family is likely to need immediately upon their arrival. The congregation furnished the apartment, stocked the pantry,

and made the family a welcome meal for their first night in Maryland.

"We have little teams for each thing that we committed to do. There were half a dozen of us setting up the apartment over the last few days," Green said. Altogether, they have a team of around twenty committed volunteers already lined up.

"We will help with transportation and conversational English, until the parents can get enrolled in English classes and maybe even beyond. Things like babysitting while the parents are taking their English placement test or getting their social security cards." The types of things you might ask a relative or neighbor to help you out with, if you weren't new in town. The Qabbanis aren't just new to Maryland, they are starting from scratch in a foreign country after fleeing a war. But they have the support of a whole network of families at Temple Shalom to help them make that transition.

When the Qabbanis arrived at Reagan National at 11p.m., Green and Sarah Nathan, another Temple Shalom volunteer, were there to greet them alongside a translator and a caseworker from Lutheran Social Services of the National Capitol Area, the local agency resettling them.

"It's a family of six but there will be almost as many of us," Green says wryly. They're eager to make the new arrivals feel welcome, but don't want to overwhelm them either.

Marilyn Ripin, another congregant, researched traditional Syrian recipes, so that their first meal in their new home would be something familiar. They made everything vegetarian, so that it would be halal. Green likened it to preparing a kosher meal, where going vegetarian is also an option if people are particularly observant.

"Tomorrow we will go to the LSS/ NCA office and they'll start on their paperwork with their caseworker. And we'll probably go get a SIM card for their phone, so that they can communicate with their family, wherever they are. That seems to be people's first priority when they arrive."

After that, their focus will be on "trying to help facilitate the initial adjustment," Green said. "Just familiarizing them with their community. How do you take the bus? How do you bank? Taking them to the library and showing them how that works."




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## FALL FESTIVAL AT THE VILLAGE AT ROCKVILLE

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The Auxiliary at the Village at Rockville will be hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. It will include: grandma's attic, jewelry, baked goods, silent auction, books, stamps, Christmas room, gift shop 50% off sale, and muck more. There will be tours of Independent Living at 11 AM, Noon and 1 PM. Lunch will be served from 11 AM to 1:30 PM; tickets are \$5 and \$10. There will be a Chorus and Chimes concert at 2 PM in the Chapel.




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## EAR OF CHRIST

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OSCAR HUGH MELSTAD

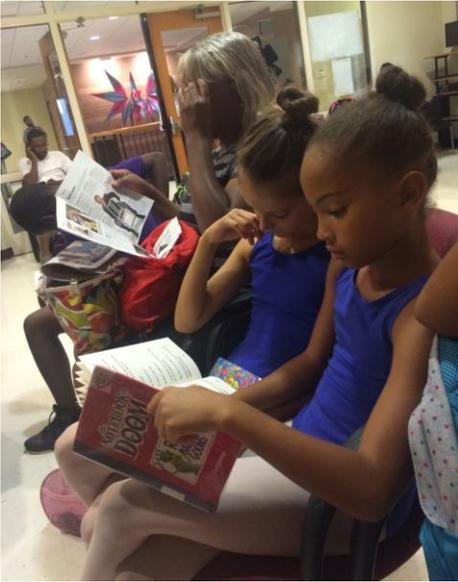
Please welcome Oscar Hugh Melstad, son of Joel Melstad and Kirsten Galisson, brother of Henry. Born in September, Oscar was 7 pounds, 8 ounces when he came into the world.

MY THANKS!

Dear Christ Church Family,

I can't begin to thank all of you enough for your incredible amount of support you have given me and David with prayers, meals and friendship through this year of my medical challenges, starting with the lung cancer, radiation treatments, shoulder replacement surgery and now with the concussion I got when a car cut me off while I was on my scooter.

Alice Meyer



#### CONGRATULATIONS JAMI!

Jami George was awarded The Washington Ballet full scholarship for 2016-17 as part of the company's Excel Program. The program is also supported by John Eaton Elementary School, where Jami is an 8 year old 3rd grader. She was baptized at CLC in 2014. Her family is very proud of her accomplishment, especially her sister Kelsie. As part of the program, Jami will be a part of TWB's spring recital.

#### A NOTE FROM THE SHARPS

Greetings from the Sharp family of West Michigan! We are settled into our new home in Holland, a bike ride from Lake Michigan. Our address is 129 W. 37th St. Holland, MI 49423. No land line, just our cell phones which haven't changed.

I am the new Digital Creative Director for Michigan State University in East Lansing, and I'm loving it! Great people and lots of wonderful perks working for a Big 10 university! It's a long commute for me, but I'm enjoying the "Me Time" listening to podcasts and audio books.

Mark is painting up a storm in his big, new studio in the lower level of the house. The kids are very happy in their new school and neighborhood, with lots of new friends at our house every weekend!

We'd love to hear from all of you and we miss you terribly! I personally miss being part of the Yard Sale this year. Someone please keep an eye out for me in the Boutique and the Jewelry table!

Blessings,

Jennifer, Mark, Lily, Maya, Sam and Sparky

GAVIN HENRY SHOUN

Laura and Mark Shoun are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Gavin Henry Shoun. Born August 30, Gavin weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21.5 inches long!



CHERYL BEVERSDORF AND DENNIS SIEBERT ENJOY ENGLAND

Cheryl and Dennis spent 12 days in England, starting in London and then traveling to Coventry, York, the Lake District, Liverpool, the Cotswolds, Glastonbury, Cornwall, and Stonehenge. They were on a tour that covered some 1700 miles. Highlights included attending a service in London at St Martin in the Fields and a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon.



