

# The Messenger

■ The Lent  
Course and  
Holy week at  
Christ Church  
- see page 5

**Christ Church**  
Methodist URC  
Barnstaple

■ Christian Aid  
activities  
-see page 6

[www.Christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](http://www.Christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)

**April 2017**



■ The next Oasis  
Service for Healing  
and Wellness is on  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
- see page 4

■ Young Families  
Work  
-see pages 8-9

■ A message from  
Ronald from Kira  
Farm Uganda  
-see page 12

## Calendar

### April 2017

Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	
Mon	3rd	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	6th		<i>Two Bridges Café closed for school holiday</i>	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev John Kendall
Sat	8th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker David Wilson
			Barnstaple Ladies Choir Concert	
Sun	9th		PALM SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Rev John Kendall	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
		7.00pm	A4C Circuit Service at Christ Church Barnstaple - Deacon Joan Cole	
Mon	10th	7.30pm	Friendship Group - 'Easter Delights' with Mrs Smudgers Kitchen	
Tues	11th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	13th		MAUNDY THURSDAY	
			'Experience Easter' - a collaborative, ecumenical project put together for local primary school children will be here Thursday to Saturday.	
			<i>Two Bridges Café closed for school holiday</i>	
		10.00am	- 12.30pm Holiday Club	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - Maundy Thursday Communion, Rev Don Macalister	
		7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	
Fri	14th		GOOD FRIDAY	
		10.30am	Good Friday Service	
		12noon	CTiB witness in the High Street	see page 5
Sun	16th		EASTER SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Rev Don Macalister - Family Service	Communion
			Please bring along flowers to decorate the cross at this service	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	No Communion
Thur	20th	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - No Meeting	
Fri	21st		<b><i>Last day for items for the May Messenger</i></b>	
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Alan Telfer	
Mon	24th	2.30pm	4th Monday House Group - info Tricia Kent 324254	
		7.30pm	Friendship Group - speaker Louise Thomas, Dementia Friends	
Tues	25th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	27th	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - speaker Mrs Val Kift (Bring & Buy)	
Sat	29th	9.30am	- 11.30am Christian Aid Breakfast	see page 6
			Barnstaple Ladies Choir Concert	
Sun	30th	10.30am	Rev Tony Coates	
		6.30pm	Oasis - a service of Healing and Wholeness	see page 4

Further ahead:-

**Spring Fair** Saturday 6th May 9am-12.30pm - see page 7

**Christian Aid Dates** - see page 6

Methodist Women in Britain - Circuit Easter offertory dedication service at Fremington at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st May. No service at Christ Church that evening.

## Message

Dear friends,

Some years ago Eddy, Heather and I enjoyed a few days break in Dublin. It was the first time we'd been to Ireland and we were looking forward to experiencing the warmth of the Irish welcome we'd heard so much about. We weren't disappointed and found it as special as others had said.

There were several highlights to the trip but the most moving memory for me is of a bus tour of the city.

The driver was also the guide and he managed to personify everything about the warmth and humour of Dubliners wonderfully. He was a man with, shall I say, a relaxed attitude to red traffic lights, a gentle sense of humour and of course a beautiful lilting accent. But it was what he said rather than how he said it that was truly moving.

I knew painfully little about the history of Ireland and the persecution suffered by the Catholics. In a society in which Catholics made up over 90% of the population they were refused the right to vote, or to attend university, and very little possibility of a well-paid job. Our driver spoke of this without bitterness but matter-of-factly as simple historic information.

That in itself was powerful but it was when it was followed by an expression of gratitude to the Huguenots (French Protestants) who had escaped to Ireland to avoid persecution by French Catholics that we were gently reminded that all religions are capable of such behaviour.

In this season of Lent perhaps that is a reminder we all need as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ in his journey to the Cross of Good Friday. Here was the ultimate expression of intolerance and prejudice.

Who do we relate to most easily in Holy Week? The crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday or those shouting for his death a few days later? We would be right to hope we would be the first but to fear we might be the second. The real tragedy is that some may well have been in both.

Easter is on its way once more but in the meantime let's recognise both the good and the bad within us and within our society and open our minds to the possibility of healing so that, when Easter does arrive, we are ready to open our hearts to the Good News of God's love made flesh.

Grace and peace



## **Prayers for April**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Jesus, when all seems lost,  
when darkness feels too close and too compelling,  
be my light and hope. Amen.

### **9<sup>th</sup> April**

Jesus, enter into my life today;  
may my heart be full of praise,  
may my lips give glory to your name. Amen.

### **16<sup>th</sup> April**

O God of might, of thunderous hope, I worship you.  
You are indeed awesome; you shatter death.  
The heavy stone is rolled away;  
it is no match for your strength.  
I come to you in trembling faith,  
for you are God over all.  
I praise you for your mercy,  
and for your great power. Amen.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Jesus, give me:  
faith to walk in your ways,  
hope to follow you wholeheartedly,  
love to echo your own love,  
peace to fill me  
and overflow to all those I meet. Amen.

### **30<sup>th</sup> April**

Saviour, help me to recognise you this week,  
to listen to you and to learn from you,  
to respond to your promptings in my own life,  
by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

## **Oasis: A service of healing and wholeness**

The next Oasis service will be on the evening of Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>, just two weeks after Easter. The music, reflections and prayers will be prompted by the story (Luke 24) of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus – so caught up in their pain and grief that they do not recognise the stranger who walks beside them.

The evening offers time when we may be open to recognise the healing presence and peace of the risen Jesus.

(Future Oasis services will be on July 30<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> – whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month!)

Rev Marilyn

## The Lent Course 'At the Cross'

Just over 50 people have been taking part in the Lent groups meeting at Christ Church, Port Mill Court or at Sticklepath. Watch out for details of further group meetings after Easter!



## Holy Week at Christ Church

The 'Experience Easter' stations will be set up for the Holiday Club on Maundy Thursday (April 13<sup>th</sup>) and will remain in the church through Good Friday. If you are coming to Ladies Fellowship, or the services on Maundy Thursday evening or Good Friday morning, do try and allow time to look around.

The six stations portray:

Palm Sunday: 'Hopes and Dreams'

Footwashing: 'The Servant King'

The Last Supper: 'Remember Me'

In Gethsemane: 'Alone'

Golgotha: 'Sharing our Sorrows'

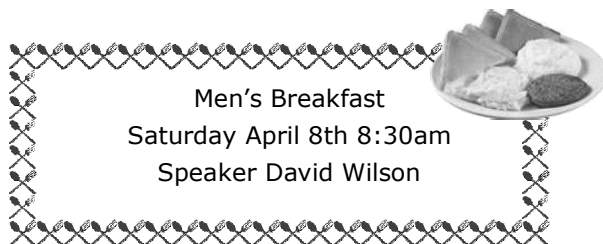
Resurrection

## Good Friday

Once again Churches Together in Barnstaple are planning a Good Friday silent witness beginning at 12 noon for 20 minutes in Barnstaple Town Centre.

There will be walks of witness from Sticklepath, Pilton, Grosvenor and Christ Church. All walks need to arrive and be in position before 12 noon. The aim is that we should bunch together as one large crowd.

There will be stewards on hand and also people wearing "Ask me why?" T-shirts. If anyone would like to be a steward or wear an "Ask me why?" T-shirt, please contact me, Shirley Baxter. Thank you.





### **Christian Aid :**

The collection week runs from 14-20 May, but it is a special year because it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the charity started, and at least some of the sum raised will be

going to the East African famine which is happening now.

As you may know Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 British and Irish Churches and works to support development, stop poverty and provide disaster relief for many countries. So what can we do? Please come to our "Big Breakfast" on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, between 9.30-11.30, and enjoy a big bowl of porridge and/or some waffles or pancakes with sugar and lemon or syrup, and tea or coffee. All foods will be from Fairtrade as far as is possible.

A street to street collection or house to house or flat to flat collection-any few houses will do. Just write on the list soon to be provided where you would feel comfortable collecting from. As they say, many a mickle makes a muckle. Lastly, there is Tesco's collection, as mentioned in last month's Messenger, which is on Thursday 6th April (not Friday 7th as previously announced). Please sign up if you are able to help for an hour if you can manage it. Rose Lane Tesco is nice and sheltered, and warm too.

In time honoured tradition we will try to put up the Christian Aid banner at the hospital, but I am unsure if this will be possible this year because of the road works.

Thank-you for your help.

Carolyn and Ronnie



CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE

## SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 6 MAY  
9 A.M. – 12.30P.M.

STALLS & REFRESHMENTS



Enter the date in your diary now so that you can start preparing! Gardeners can start planting and all the cooks can start thinking about what baking they can provide. You can also start looking out donations of good quality items for the Bric a Brac Stall. We will always accept those unused Christmas gifts.

As we did for the Winter Fair, we will be listing Sunday dates for items to be handed into church so look out for details of those dates in the Messenger and the Sunday Notices.

These dates are: -

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Books
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Unwanted gifts, Bric a Brac.
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Toiletries and knitted goods.
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tins, jams, and kitchen items.
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Plants and gardening items.



Sunday  
Club  
Prayer Tree



**Toddler Praise** themes are currently focusing on Holy Week and Easter.

They made donkey ears and laid down leaves to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Thank you to Shirley Punt for playing the part of Jesus and to Mary Rhuleman for being the lovely donkey!



**X:Site** held at  
the end of February at  
Christ Church





## Young Families Work

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Martin Reardon (from Emmanuel Church, Ilfracombe) and I travelled up to Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire to attend the annual 'Connecting Disciples' Methodist Conference for Young Families Workers and Lay Workers. It was encouraging to share with people doing similar work in their churches throughout the UK. I especially enjoyed learning new methods for creative prayer and getting up-to-date with best practice. I attended seminars led by the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. The theme of the conference was 'Being the Change' with a focus on justice and holiness.

In February and March, San Richards (from Sticklepath Anglican Church) and myself took 30 drums to Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts in Bickington and Sticklepath for music workshops. The music included African-roots and activities which enhanced their favourite modern pop music. The children all composed and improvised. Hopefully this helped them on the way to their Culture badges and Creative Arts badges. The on-going and regular commitment of the adult leaders of Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts is wonderful.

Open the Book assemblies recently have focused on the stories of Moses. Gillian Ashcroft (the new Young Families Worker at Fremington) and Sarah Goodbody (the wife of the vicar from Fremington Parish Church) came to see our Christ Church Open the Book team in action at a rehearsal. Hopefully this will inspire them to set one up for Fremington School as soon as they are able. As a teacher as well as a Christian I believe the 'Open the Book' resource is excellent and I am always keen to promote it to other churches who do not currently have a team. Please let me know if you have children or grandchildren in a school locally who do not have an Open the Book team going in to their school regularly.

In Toddler Praise our themes are currently focusing on Holy Week and Easter. We made donkey ears and we laid down palm leaves to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Thank you to Shirley Punt for playing the part of Jesus and to Mary Ruhleman for being the lovely donkey!

X:site, held this time at Christ Church at the end of February was amazing! We had 50 children aged 7-11 years old, 10 teenagers and 20 adult helpers from Barnstaple, Instow, Braunton and Fremington churches and schools. The theme was the Book of Jonah and the children enjoyed making giant whales in their groups within 5 minutes, learning the Bible memory verse, creative prayer, the electric band on stage and of course the 'drainpipe of doom'! We are currently planning X:site events to be held at Grosvenor Church in June and in Pilton Hall as part of the Pilton Green Man Festival in July.

Easter Experience is on March 30<sup>th</sup> for 90 children from Yeo Valley School. The children and teachers will be coming in groups of around 30 throughout

the day. Thank you to Sue Macbeth, Marilyn Tricker, Guy Byham, Maureen Thomas, Gill Greenland, Joan Cole, Anthea Coates, Shirley Punt and Louise French for your involvement with this.

We are also looking forward to our Holy Week and Easter themed Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds which will include teenagers as Young Leaders. This will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 12:30pm. If you would like to help with this or if you know families with children who may like to come to this, please see one of the team – Don, Anthea, Maureen, Gill, Marilyn, Louise, Guy, Mary, Sylvia, Pam, Joan, Anne, Shirley, Chris, Joy, Mike, Sandy or myself.



Please look out for the results of the Big Raffle at the beginning of this month, which has raised money for W.O.R.K. (Kenya) and Callum and Maisie's AMIGOS project (Uganda).



Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I am very excited about so much that is going on in Christ Church.

Jo

### 5p 2p 1p Boxes

Thank you to all who contribute to church funds through 5p 2p 1p boxes (available in the vestibule). Since I started making the little white boxes £6103 has been raised. If you wish to off-load small change please take home a box/tub.

Thank you again, Carol.



### Jazz Night

at

**Sticklepath Methodist Church**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm**

£6 - Ticket Only (Limited)

Contact Sue 375939

Or Sandy 325602

## **Circuit Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

### **Speaker Pastor Kenny**

As you are no doubt aware many Christians throughout the world are being persecuted more now than at any other time in history.

For example in Pakistan, Christians are not allowed to have well paid jobs, their children are more often than not refused schooling, many Christians face threats and intimidation on a daily basis.

Pastor Kenny, his wife Mary and their 4 children are from Pakistan. Kenny is a Vision for Asia Partner. (Vision for Asia, was set up in Braunton almost 20 years ago by Marilyn Collins)

Following severe persecution and threats to the family Pastor Kenny moved to North Devon last autumn and is currently seeking asylum.

When the family arrived in Barnstaple they were accommodated in an unused Baptist manse, rent-free. Many people from our area provided bedding, furniture, clothing and kitchen equipment etc.

But, while Kenny and the family wait for their application for asylum to be processed, Kenny is unable to work or claim benefits to provide for his family.

The Foodbank in Barnstaple is supporting the family, but there are obviously utility bills to be paid for, school clothing and even nappies for the baby born just before last Christmas. It is believed that there is a shortfall of several hundred pounds per month.

Churches and individual Christians in our area are therefore being asked to sponsor the family whilst their asylum application is sought, a process which may take quite a few years, especially as there is so much uncertainty and change in immigration laws.

I have met Pastor Kenny on 2 or 3 occasions, he really is a remarkable, articulate and inspiring person to meet.

We are planning an evening Circuit Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July here at Christ Church, and have invited Pastor Kenny to speak.

I would hope that you will be generous in any support that you can give to this family both financially and in your prayers.

Please give your donations to me, making any cheques payable to Vision for Asia who will pass them on to the family - Thank you.

Shirley Baxter

***As Maisie & Callum continue to fundraise for their trip to Kira Farm in Uganda, Callum has had a reply from Ronald, the young man sponsored as a result of their, and Jo's, fundraising efforts:-***

Dear Jo and Callum,

What a joy hearing from you. Hope all is well with you at Christ Church. I am so pleased to hear of all the efforts you put in to raise funds for my training on Kira. May God bless you.

Hope you had a good audience turn up for the concert.

I am also pleased to know that Callum and other youths will be coming over in October. I will happily be waiting for you all and I cannot wait to tell my friends as well. I have been encouraged to know how Callum has to work all those jobs to raise money to come. I request if it is possible that when the team comes they share what they have done to raise money. I believe it will be a huge encouragement to my friends that no matter where you come from working hard is good to achieve a goal.

The rains have come on Kira. I have been very busy planting maize and beans in my garden. Hopefully by the time the team comes in October I will show them some of my harvest.

I am so glad that I am not just learning about farming but in the future when I harvest what I have planted in my garden I would have contributed to the food that is needed on Kira Farm.

Apart from farming, I am happy to let you know that I have learnt some new interesting skill of making eco-friendly building bricks called interlocking bricks. While making these bricks one does not need to use the top black soil good for growing crops and they are not baked, an act which leads to cutting down so many trees, as it is in the local brick.

I am also getting better with making joints in the carpentry class. I am so sure by the time the team comes in October I would have made some furniture on Kira.

Thanks a lot for replying, I have felt so encouraged reading your messages. Please keep them coming.

God bless you all.

Yours.

Ronald.

***Excerpts from Rachel's last email from Benin.....***


**February 2017**

Hello from a hot and sometimes stormy Benin!

After a flying visit home over Christmas, it seems an age away now! It was pretty full on when I returned and the wards have quickly refilled. It has been neurosurgery season over these last 3 weeks, which always gives me some anxiety, but we really do see some amazing results, and it's wonderful to see the changes in these young kids. The nurses are doing a great job and many are used to this type of surgery ☺.

It has definitely been an eventful time here, with some difficult things over these last 4 weeks, and it felt like one thing after another. The hardest thing



A man, Ronald Owera, is shown in a field in Uganda, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, dark trousers, and green rubber boots. He is bent over, using a wooden hoe to work the soil in a row of newly planted crops. The background shows a line of trees and a small building in the distance.

Ronald Owera  
planting maize and beans in Uganda

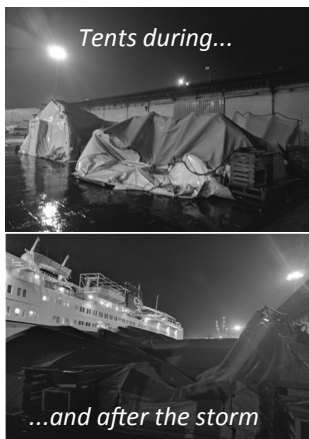


### **Sing for Your Supper** Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>

- an evening of joyful singing and good company. It was the opportunity to learn some new hymns as well as singing some well known and loved ones.



to deal with was the death of a child. She was almost 3 years old. It was a sudden and unexpected death and it had a big effect on everyone on the ship. It always leaves us all a little numb initially, and it's a hard journey to walk through. However, in the middle of it, there were beautiful and tender moments when everyone pulls together, caring for each other, like no other time. The kindness and care shown to each other, our amazing counselor who stayed with her family and accompanied them back to their remote village, the carpenters who stayed up all night to make a beautiful coffin. There is no answer to why a child dies, but there is always hope and in darker times, God shines His light brighter and we are also reminded that we are not in charge of this world. A death on the ship is extremely rare. So many of our patients have pulled through when they really should not have made it. Then we suddenly lose one precious life and it hurts everyone for a while. Then we learn to regain focus, not forgetting her and not stopping praying for that family, but focusing on what we are called to do. If we could show love to her and her family, may that bring comfort to them in the future. Her family were overwhelmed by our help and their gratefulness humbles us. We are comforted by knowing where she is now.



We also had other random things happen that created some chaos. There was a storm in the night 2 weeks ago which resulted in our outpatients and rehabilitation tents collapsing! The insides had some water damage and lots of things had collapsed inside – tables, equipment, shelves, cabinets. There were things all over the floor. With up to 50 patients expected in the tents for their appointments that day there was no time to lose when we were contacted at 6am. I was already to try and cancel some of the non-urgent appointments and went searching

on the ship for spaces to put patients so they could be seen. Amazingly when I returned to the tents to help clear up, it was almost cleaned up – it was an 'all hands on deck' moment. Everyone had come together to help. The deckies, nurses, therapists and translators just got on with cleaning up and every patient got seen that day!



It has been a busy January and February so far, but it's always important to maintain perspective in the middle of crazy times, and I never want to forget that this is an amazing place, and it is an honour to work here. Sometimes I need to just stop and watch patients and enjoy them and not get too focused on the many little issues that each day brings. At weekends I try to play hard too. Often down to a local pool for a swim or an hour's drive and a little boat ride leads us to the lake, for a bit of peaceful relaxation. It's always necessary to leave the ship from time to time as one can forget there is land off the ship!

.....Rachel

## WORK (Widows and Orphans in Rural Kenya) FUNDRAISING EVENT.



Elaine and Eff will be once again cooking a meal to tickle your tastebuds!

**This will be on Friday 26th May at 6 for 6-30pm.**

After the meal Richard Andrew will talk about the work at the school and the clinic, which are supported by funds raised for WORK. Please see Elaine Stevens or Eff Poole to book your place. Maximum number 30.



### Tuesday coffee rota

Apr	4th	Joy & Andy	May	2nd	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Apr	11th	Ena, George & Rose	May	9th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
Apr	18th	Tony, Celia & Lorna	May	16th	Joy & Andy
Apr	25th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon	May	23rd	Ena, George & Rose
			May	30th	Tony, Celia & Lorna




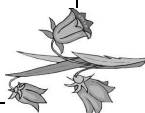



## Our family matters

### Christ Church Family News




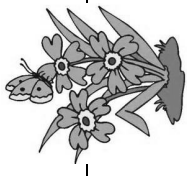



There are many of our church family on the sick list and some house-bound. They are named in the Prayer Book, which is kept in the vestry and used in Sunday services and at prayer meetings.

If you would like your name to be added to the list in the Prayer Book please speak to the duty elder on a Sunday. If you know of someone who is unable to come on a Sunday, but would like their name added, please check with them first as the names in the book may be read out in church.

Sadly we report the death of Harold Ford and Tony Andrew. Harold was not a member here but will be remembered for his many years, alongside his wife Mary, working in the kitchen at Christ Church to produce lovely meals at Hobnob week after week. Tony had not been well for some time but supported the church in many ways in past years, at one time as covenant secretary - before the days of gift aid. Please remember the families and friends of Harold and Tony in your prayers.

SUNDAY ROTAS	2nd April	9th April	16th April Easter Sunday	23rd April	30th April
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Pam Topham	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Wendy Blackmore	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson	Elaine Stevens	Joy & Andy Morley
Projector 	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce
Preparing Communion Morning 1st & 3rd Sunday No evening communion	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Gordon & Pam Pearce		
Serving Communion 	Ronnie Wilson David Wilson Celia Huxtable Kathy Jeacock		Ian Allen Tricia Kent Norman Tucker Andy Morley		
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Ronnie Wilson Shirley Baxter	Elaine Stevens Eff Poole	Ian Allen Anthea Coates	Jack Neville Sylvia Jones	Gill Greenland Shirley Baxter



SUNDAY ROTAS		7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May
Coffee		Sally Blackmore	Diana Snell	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers		-	-	-	Pam & Gordon
Projector		Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday No evening communion		Gordon & Pam Pearce			
Serving Communion		Liz Seymour Gill Greenland Jenny Newman Mike Smith			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening		Liz Seymour Eff Poole	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates	Elaine Stevens Shirley Baxter	Ian Allen Sylvia Jones

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Monday</b>		<b>Short Mat Bowling ...</b> contact Mary Biederman tel 373416
10.00am - 12.00 noon	morning session	
2.30pm - 4.30pm	afternoon session	
7.00pm - 9.00pm	evening session	
7.30pm	<b>Friendship group</b>	(2nd & 4th Mondays of each month) contact Rose de la Cour tel 830824
<b>Tuesday</b>		
9.30am - 12.00 noon	<b>Coffee morning</b>	
9.30am	<b>Prayer meeting ...</b>	(except the last Tuesday of each month)
10.30am	<b>Holy Communion ...</b>	(last Tuesday of each month)
5.30pm - 6.30pm	<b>Rainbows ...</b>	contact Nicola Wilkins tel 377154
5.30pm - 7.00pm	<b>Brownies ...</b>	contact Nicola Wilkins tel 377154
7.00pm - 8.30pm	<b>Guides ...</b>	contact Eff Poole tel 373543
<b>Wednesday</b>		
1.30pm - 3.00pm	<b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b>	contact Jo Grant 07450582414
<b>Thursday</b>		
2.30pm	<b>Ladies Fellowship ...</b>	contact Sylvia Jones tel 346607
7.30pm	<b>Bible Study...</b>	contact Shirley Baxter tel 375560
<b>Friday</b> 10.00am - 12.00 noon	<b>Hobnob coffee morning</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2nd Saturday of each month - circuit event</b>	
8.30am	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	contact Mike Smith tel 345019

### All at Christ Church Barnstaple are committed to the following Safeguarding Principles:

- \* the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- \* the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults.
- \* the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.  
(Methodist Church Safeguarding Handbook 2010)

### Sunday Offertory for February 2017

		<b>Cash</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>
<b>February</b>	5th	£	£
	12th	£	£
	19th	£	£
	26th	£	£

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Currently this offertory is £ per month. Not forgetting, of course, that if you are a tax payer, you can gift aid your offering however it is given.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church, Barnstaple (Methodist/United Reformed) seeks to be an ecumenical, town centre church, bearing witness to the evangelical and social justice traditions of the Christian faith in its expression of the love of Christ for people of all ages. One church, one faith, one Lord.

*If you are visiting Christ Church today we extend a warm welcome.  
Please take a Messenger home with our good wishes.*

Christ Church Minister  
Rev Don Macalister  
8 Kestrel Way,  
Westacott  
Barnstaple EX32 8QN

tel. 01271 345313  
dasmacalister@icloud.com

Young families worker  
Jo Grant

jogrant-christchurch@outlook.com  
tel 07450 582414

### Elders

Ian Allen	Kathy Jeacock (treas)	Liz Seymour
Shirley Baxter	Sylvia Jones	Elaine Stevens (sec)
Anthea Coates	Jack Neville	Ronnie Wilson
Gill Greenland	Eff Poole	

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**East African Crisis Appeal**  
*In South Sudan over three years of fighting have forced more than three million people from their homes. Now 7.5 million people are in urgent need of help, as South Sudan faces a devastating famine.*

*The South Sudan famine is pushing vulnerable people to the brink.*

*We have been having a retiring collection to support the Disasters*



*Emergency Committee's East Africa Crisis Appeal. The DEC brings 13 leading UK aid charities together in times of crisis, including Christian Aid. They launch appeals to raise money to help those impacted by disaster, making sure that funds reach those that need them most.*



**Congratulations to the winners of our Christ Church Quiz night on March 11<sup>th</sup>! Well done.**

