

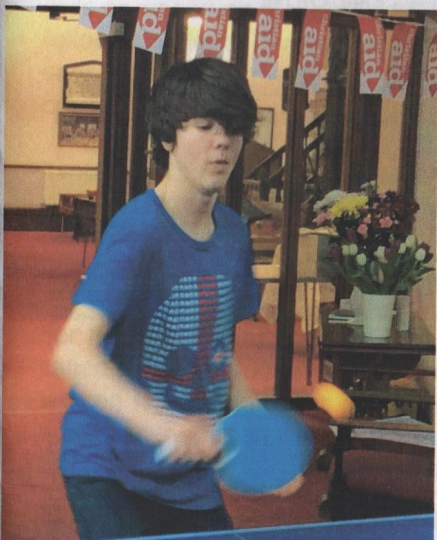
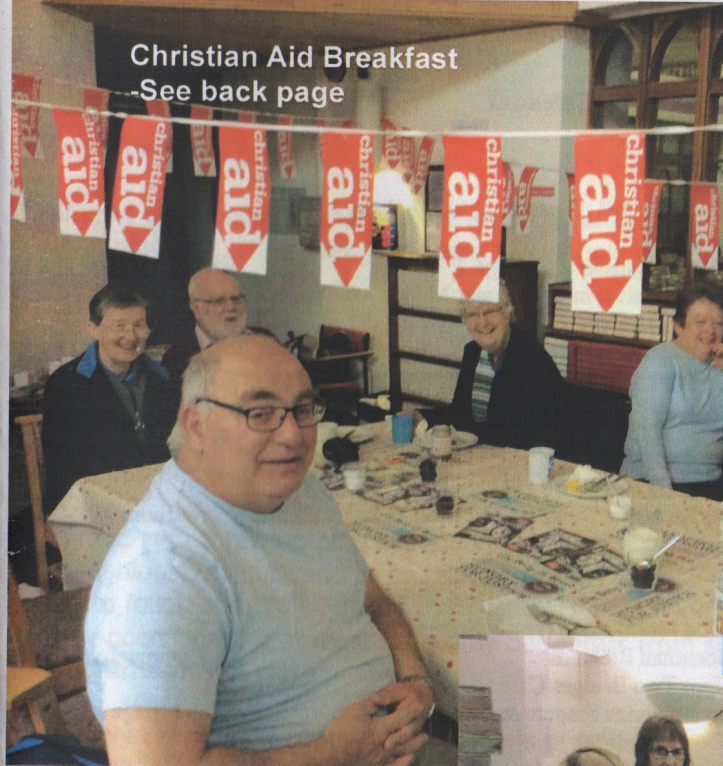
Christian Aid Breakfast
-See back page

The Messenger

June 2017

Christ Church
Methodist /United Reformed
Church
Barnstaple

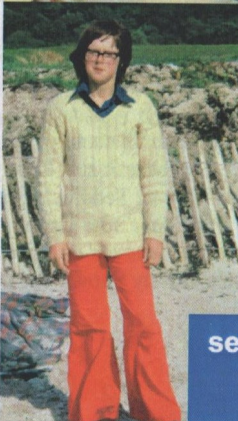
www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



Photos of the Sponsored
Table Tennis marathon for
Amigos and our church
project W.O.R.K- see page 8



News of our
Spring Fair
-see page 8



For news of the 2017
Pentecost Festival
-see page 7

Goodbye to Tom and
Gill-see page 12

see page 3

Calendar

June 2017

Thur	1st		<i>Two Bridges Café closed for school holiday</i>	
Sun	4th		PENTECOST	
		10.00am	Rev Don Macalister - see page 7	<i>No Communion</i>
		11.00am	Pentecost Festival in the Pannier Market - see page 7	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	
Mon	5th	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	8th		Church premises used as a polling station	
			<i>Two Bridges Café close today due to elections</i>	
Sat	10th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Stuart Innals
Sun	11th	10.30am	Geoff Harding	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
		7.00pm	Circuit Service at Newport - Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir	
Tues	13th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	15th	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
Fri	16th		<i>Last day for items for the July & August Messenger</i>	
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister - Family Service	
		6.30pm	Rev Jonathan Richards	Communion
Thur	22nd	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
Fri	23rd	7.30pm	Concert - Jubilee Singers & Ilfracombe Male Voice Choir	see page 10
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Richard Martin	
Mon	26th	2.30pm	4th Monday House Group - info Tricia Kent 324254	
Tues	27th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	29th	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
		7.00pm	Children's Concert - featuring local talent and raising money for WORK and Amigos. Please check the weekly notice sheet for more details of this event nearer the time.	
Fri	30th		Safeguarding Training Evening	

The Ladies Fellowship and the Friendship Group are now on their summer programme - if you want details of any events please get in touch with the appropriate contact, listed on page 18.

The Bible Study Groups continue to meet - if you need details for the Thursday or Friday Groups get in touch with Shirley Baxter, contact listed on page 18, and for the Monday Group, information from Tricia Kent, 4th Monday House Group, as above.

Further ahead:-

July	Sunday 23rd	2.30 - 5.00pm	Garden Open see page 11
	Sunday 23rd		Circuit service - speaker Pastor Kenny (Sunday evening here at Christ Church)
Sept	Saturday 30th	6 for 6.30pm	'Harvest Teddies' (For the townies that's jacket potatoes)
Oct	Sunday 1st		Harvest Festival (<i>Please note harvest w/e was previously advertised as September 23rd/24th but has been moved on a week.</i>)
	Saturday 21st		Christ Church Variety Show - see page 14

Message

Dear friends,

When I was a child in the 60s the Kinks recorded a song with the words "They seek him here, they seek him there ... coz he's a dedicated follower of fashion."

A few years later, as a teenager I was something of a dedicated follower of fashion, from bright orange jeans and flowery shirts to loon pants and tank tops (these were wide legged trousers and a sort of knitted vest, not some kind of underwear and artillery). Now most definitely past all that I am most certainly not a dedicated follower of fashion.

In fact, with a few notable exceptions, I'm not sure that following anything is as fashionable as it used to be. Nowadays we're encouraged to be ourselves, not to follow the crowd but to think for ourselves, which in many ways is a very good thing; it at least saved my daughters from some potential "Dad embarrassment".

So, what are the exceptions, what kinds of following are still around? Well, football supporters still faithfully follow their team, whether it's the blues or the reds or whatever. Political parties and party leaders urge us to support and follow their lead. Tweeters on twitter are invited to follow individuals, being sent the every stray thought and every waking moment of the latest star celebrity.

Twitter asks me to ask myself the question, who it is I want to follow? It's a good question. Do I want to follow the words of a celebrity whose life is utterly removed from mine in their wealth and luxury or someone who understands, and cares about, the ups and downs of my life?

For me the answer to who I want to follow comes in the form of a carpenter called Jesus who knew what it was like to go hungry, who gave his life so that we can know God's love has no limit and who continues to show me a better way of living, even if I don't always manage to follow.

Grace and peace,



Prayers for June

June 4th

God of the universe, send your Holy Spirit to renew and refresh your world, that we, and creation in all its colour and all its diversity, may sing out your praise, and celebrate your presence among us.

Send streams of living water where hearts are parched,
and sprinkle showers of grace and peace in all places of conflict and need.
Amen.

June 11th

We praise you, eternal God, for making disciples of us, slowly but surely, with our doubting and hesitancy.

Reassure us when we feel inadequate.

Guard us when we are too impulsive.

Keep us together through disagreement.

And send us where we are most needed.

Amen.

June 18th

Lord Jesus,

bless me with your peace, that I may share it with others;

show me where I am rich, that may be generous to others;

make me compassionate, that I may be gentle to others;

speak to my weaknesses, that I may not demand from others;

touch my pain, that I may not hurt others.

Use all that I am in your service, that I may be an example to others – not because I am special, or wise, or good or gifted, but because you are.

Amen.

June 25th

Lord Jesus, you knew that family life wasn't easy.

We pray for our families, for all the joys and frustrations.

We pray for all families suffering today:

for those where relationships have broken down...

for those in which some have had to flee their homes, in fear...

for those where there has been tragedy...

for those where there have been harsh words said,

and the way back together is hard...

for all who live with us and those who live apart from us...

Amen.



Step out for Children
In aid of
Action for Children

Saturday 10th June

Starting at Fremington Methodist Church
Old School Lane EX31 3AZ

There will be two walks available.

Walk A - approx. 4.5 miles (Not too hilly)

Walk B - approx. 2 miles (Suitable for buggies &
wheelchairs)

Followed by lunch back at the church in aid of
local Family Centres
and a raffle.

For more details and sponsor forms phone
01271 344335 or circuit office.

If you can't walk then consider sponsoring
someone even if they are not representing
your church.



REJOICE

SING WITH US

worship
prayer & praise

CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTAPLE

SUNDAY 2ND JULY
6.30 – 7.30PM

GOOD NEWS

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 Branton almost 20 years ago by Marilyn Collins.)

Following severe persecution and threats to the family Pastor Kenny moved to North Devon last autumn and was seeking asylum, which can often take a period of up to 3 years, sometimes more.

However, the good news is that Kenny and his family have been granted asylum after just six months. Obviously an answer to prayer from many of you here at Christ Church. Kenny wishes to thank everyone for their support, love and prayers.

We are planning an evening Circuit Service on the 23rd July here at Christ Church, and Pastor Kenny has been invited to speak. We hope that many of you will want to come along to that service. - Shirley Baxter

Pentecost Festival ~ 2017

This years' Pentecost Festival on the Sunday 4th June will soon be here!

There will be a half hour service at Christ Church beginning at 10:00am with tea & coffee served afterwards.

Then many of us at Christ Church will be joining with other churches in Barnstaple for a Pentecost service at 11:00am in the Pannier Market.

Revd Simon May from Trinity, who is to retire in July, will be giving the address.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to meet with other Christians in North Devon to pray, praise and worship God on this special Sunday in the year when we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church.

We have asked that 45 seats be allocated for people from Christ Church to use.

There will be a retiring offering made at the end of the service to help fund the Pentecost Festival for 2018.

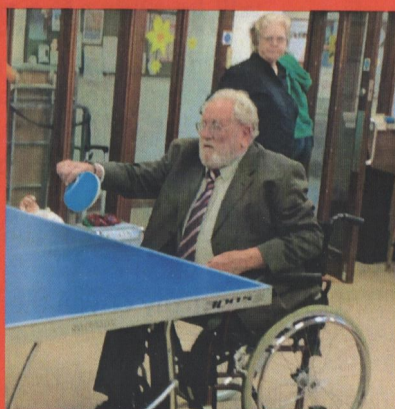
We look forward to seeing many of you there - Revd Don & the Elders



Christ Church Spring Fair



Sponsored Table Tennis



Young Families Work

I went to Hoddesdon for three days to attend a 'Connecting Disciples' conference. This was themed on 'Being the Change' with an emphasis on holiness and justice. I was particularly interested in ideas for creative prayer. There were fourteen prayer stations that could be visited at any time.

One of the prayer stations was entitled 'Sharing the Peace'. Here we were invited to take a cobble stone and write something comforting or uplifting on it. We left these on the table and at the end of the conference these were gathered in and handed out to everyone.

Another prayer station was entitled 'Poverty'. Here you were invited to place one of the paper coins in your hand and think about those that have less than you ...Then put the coin into the money tin.

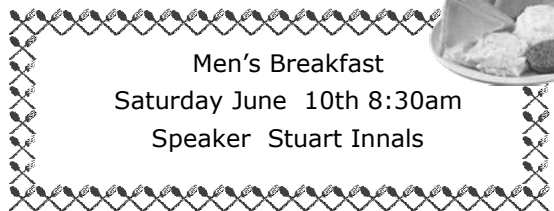
There was a prayer station with the title 'Our Environment' where you were asked to take an interesting natural item from the table and hold it in your hands for a moment... Then place it into one of the bowls and pray that our leaders will properly consider our earth and its welfare when making political decisions.

Another prayer station was entitled 'Holy Ground'. You had to take a paper flame and write on it a time when you felt especially close to God ... Then you stuck it to the picture of the burning bush and prayed that others will also experience closeness with God.

Creative prayer is an area we are working on developing in Toddler Praise, Sunday Club, X-Site and Holiday Club. We would welcome any ideas you may have.

God bless you,

Jo



Amigos Thank you to all those who took part in the table tennis marathon and to those who sponsored the event. The money collected so far is £137.50, half of which is for W.O.R.K. and half towards the money Callum & Maisie need to raise for their trip to Kira Farm. Well done everyone, from a wide range of ages and skill levels, who greatly enjoyed this event.



Widows & Orphans
In Rural Kenya

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers

with guests

Ilfracombe

Male Voice Choir



Friday June 23rd 7.30pm

at Christ Church,

Bear Street, Barnstaple

Free admission – Retiring Collection

Refreshments Raffle

**Proceeds for Christ Church and
Barnstaple Dementia Action Alliance**

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers

40th Anniversary Concert

Friday June 23rd 7.30pm at Christ Church

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers celebrate 40 years of making music this summer. We are looking forward to our annual concert at Christ Church, with our guests Ilfracombe Male Voice Choir. Do come along and bring your friends!

This year concert proceeds will be shared between Christ Church and Barnstaple Dementia Action Alliance – who encourage activities for those with memory loss, including the 'Sound It Out' group which meets at Christ Church on Tuesday mornings.

New choir members are always welcome – we rehearse on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, at Christ Church. The choir is grateful to the church for the welcome we are given.

Marilyn Tricker (Secretary)

***Ian Allen plans to open his garden again this summer,
in support of the North Devon Hospice and WORK,
our church charity.***



Garden Open

Sunday 23rd July 2:30pm - 5:00pm

20 Old Bideford Road, Sticklepath



Barnstaple EX31 2DE
Entry £3, under 16s free.



Plants
for
sale

Offers of cakes would be very gratefully received
- please contact Ian

Oasis - a service of healing and wholeness

(whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month)

For Oasis on 30th April we followed the disciples as they met the risen Jesus on the Emmaus road (Luke 24: 13-35). From left to right, in front of the two banners made especially for Easter by the Banner Group: the cross and the disappointment of hope; the opening of the scriptures and the beginning of understanding; the staying for a meal, the loaf of bread and the cup of wine; the disciples return to Jerusalem with the news.

Tom & Gill

It was good to be able to say a collective goodbye to Gill and Tom shortly before they moved to Exmouth to live nearer family. Tom's other big move - from organ seat to pulpit - has meant that we haven't seen quite so much of them here, so it was especially good that he and Gill were able to be with us the Sunday before they left. After a few weeks breathing space, to recover and settle in to a new routine, they're not too far away to visit.

Gill and I would like to thank you all at Christ Church for your love over the years since we have been back amongst you (27 years). We were very touched at all the 'Good Luck' messages, and cards we received from so many people. We thank you too, for your generous gift, which came as a complete surprise. If you attended worship on our last Sunday service with you, you will realise Gill really doesn't like being in the 'spotlight'. As for me 'I don't mind,' as you may have worked out for yourselves.

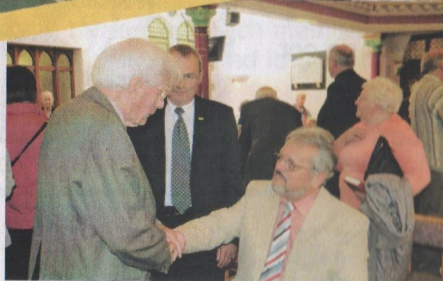
On a more serious note, it has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve in Christ Church and the wider Circuit. We have made many friends in all the various churches - friendships which will be a part of our on-going service in our new Circuit. I shall be joining Terry in ministry as we will be on the same circuit plan.

Our new address is: 26 Warneford Gardens, Exmouth, EX8 4EN. We don't yet have the telephone connected, so we can't supply you with a number to ring. We will be happy to see you if you wish to call, but please give us time to settle in, as the 'moving experience' has been a very difficult one for both of us. And please, always give us a call first or message us on the usual e-mail address; t.h.harding@sky.com. We don't want you coming on a fool's errand, only to find us out somewhere. We shall have much more involvement with the family, and are likely to be out with them quite often.

We wish you all at Christ Church every blessing in the future.
Tom and Gill Harding.



Oasis – a service of healing and wholeness



Every blessing to
Tom and Gill
Harding
from all of us at
Christ Church



Tuesday coffee rota

June	6th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon	July	4th	Ena, George & Rose
June	13th	Wendy, Anne & Gill	July	11th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
June	20th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia	July	18th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon
June	27th	Joy & Andy	July	25th	Wendy, Anne & Gill

Events

Thank you to all who supported our recent Spring Fair. As Don said, "There was a lovely atmosphere to the day."
A total of £962. 91 was raised.

Variety Show The Spice of Life

The Events Committee are thinking of holding a Variety Show "The Spice of Life" on Saturday 21 October 2017.

The show would consist of volunteers wishing to perform their talents in five minute slots. This might take the form of playing a musical instrument, performing a reading, or forming a group to sing, dance or perform. Someone may even

like to tell a few jokes or funny stories.

We feel sure there is a wealth of talent within our church family that has, to date, not been recognised.

So, do not hide your light under a bushel - here is your chance to shine!

Please speak to either Jack Neville or myself by August 1st at the latest, when a

decision will be made as to whether the show is viable. Remember, if you do not come forward- then no show!

Andy Morley (Events Comm Secretary)



To all who use our church premises.

Whether you are part of an organisation, or an individual, coming into the church buildings for a meeting or to do one of the many jobs that get done around the place, please think as you leave the premises. Are you the key-holder responsible for locking up? If so:-

Please check that you have:-

switched off all lights except those illuminating the cross in the foyer,
closed all windows,

left everywhere as tidy as you would hope to find it.

Please make sure you are the last to leave before you set the alarm and ensure that the main entrance door is locked.

If the alarm is not set then whoever enters the building next may spend a long time looking for someone who isn't there, if the windows are left open we may get unwelcome visitors (if only pigeons/seagulls!) and if the lights are left on we are wasting money/resources and nobody likes walking into a place that looks a mess.

Thank you for your co-operation,

From the elders.

Our family matters




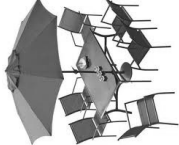



Christ Church Family News









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 this month we record the deaths of James Miles-Smith and Edna Moseley, both of whom have not been well enough to join us for Sunday worship for some time. They each maintained a faithful connection to Christ Church and have remained in our prayers. We send condolences to their families and friends.

Our good wishes go to Pam & Gordon Pearce, who will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on June 1st - congratulations to you both.

SUNDAY ROTAS	4th June	11th June	18th June	25th June
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Pam Topham	Nicola Wilkins
Flowers 	-	Ann Squires	-	-
Projector 	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Jack Neville	
Serving Communion 	Gill Greenland Jack Neville Mary Ruhleman Reg Symons			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Jack Nville Shirley Baxter	Liz Seymour Antha Coates	Ronnie Wilson Sylvia Jones

SUNDAY ROTAS	2nd July	9th July	16th July	23rd July	30th July
Coffee 	Elaine Stevens	Sally Blackmore	Diana Snell	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers 	-	Gill & Norman Tucker	Pauline Dawson	Chris Punt	-
Projector 	Andy Morley	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley
Preparing Communion Morning 1st & 3rd Sunday No evening communion	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Liz Seymour		
Serving Communion 	Elaine Stevens Ian Allen Tricia Kent Kathy Jeacock				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Elaine Stevens Eff Poole	Ian Allen Shirley Baxter	Gill Greenland Sylvia Jones	Jack Neville Anthea Coates	Liz Seymour Eff Poole

Weekly Meetings

Monday		Short Mat Bowling ... 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	Friendship group	(2nd & 4th Mondays of each month) contact Rose de la Cour tel 830824
Tuesday		
9.30am - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning	
9.30am	Prayer meeting ... (except the last Tuesday of each month)	
10.30am	Holy Communion ... (last Tuesday of each month)	
5.30pm - 6.30pm	Rainbows ...	contact Nicola Wilkins tel 377154
5.30pm - 7.00pm	Brownies ...	contact Nicola Wilkins tel 377154
7.00pm - 8.30pm	Guides ...	contact Eff Poole tel 373543
Wednesday		
1.30pm - 3.00pm	Parents & Toddlers	contact Jo Grant 07450582414
Thursday		
2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship ...	contact Sylvia Jones tel 346607
7.30pm	Bible Study...	contact Shirley Baxter tel 375560
Friday	10.00am - 12.00 noon	Hobnob coffee morning
10.30am	Bible Study...	
Saturday		2nd Saturday of each month - circuit event
8.30am	Men's Breakfast	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 April 2017

		Cash	Envelopes
April	2nd	£	£
	9th	£	£
	16th	£	£
	23th	£	£
	30th	£	£

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	

Telephone Directory (01271)

Church Secretary	as per the Church Directory
Church Treasurer	373555
Room Bookings	343218
Circuit Administrators	379116

Editors:

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Circuit website		www.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk
Email contact to site		webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



christian
aid
week
14-20 MAY



Thank you for everyone
who helped in Christian
Aid week

Thanks also for all
those who came for
breakfast to eat a
pancake with us.
This event raised
a brilliant £142 for the
appeal.

Have a look at Christian
Aid's website to see
details of their projects
across the world:

www.christianaid.org