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The

Messenger

Christ Church Methodist/URC Church Barnstaple May

2017

Our Easter Holiday Club -see pictures on back cover

News of follow up to Lent Groups – see page 5

914

Churches Together in Barnstaple Pentecost Festival- see page 10

News of a fundraising meal for our Church Project- page 15

Come to our Church Spring Fair Sat 6th May am

News from Benin – see page 12

Calendar

			Cultinuur	
May 2	2017			
Wed	3rd	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	4th		Church premises used for local election	18
			Two Bridges Café closed due to election	ons
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Phil Pugsley, Amigos
Sat	6th	9.00am	- 12.30pm SPRING FAIR	see page 11
Sun	7th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Rejoice!	
Mon	8th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- AGM & Summer Programme
Tues	9th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Wed	10th	7.00pm	Church Meeting	
Thur	11th	10.30am	 1.45pm Two Bridges Café 	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Miss Heather Bolt
Sat	13th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast, 3rd Anniversary	- speaker Rev Don Macalister
Sun	14th		Start of Christian Aid Week	
		8.0am	- 8.00pm Sponsored table tennis event	see page 9
		10.30am	Mrs Brenda Prentice	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
		6.30pm	Circuit Service at Sticklepath	- Martin Reardon
Thur	18th	10.30am	 1.45pm Two Bridges Café 	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- members' afternoon
Fri	19th		Last day for items for the June Messe	
Sun	21st	10.30am	Ladies Fellowship Anniversary Rev Ly	
		6.30pm	MWiB Circuit Easter Offering dedicati	on service at Fremington
			No evening service here	
	22nd	2.30pm	Fourth Monday House Group - info Tr	ricia Kent 324254 see page 5
Tues	23rd	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	25th	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - Rev Don Macal	
Fri	26th	6.00pm	- for 6.30pm Elaine & Eff cook dinner	for you see page 15
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Jenny Newman & Eff Poole	
Vario	us Rihl	e Study Gro	uns meet during the week - see nage 5 f	or details

Various Bible Study Groups meet during the week - see page 5 for details

Further ahead:-

June	Sunday 4th June - Pentecost Festival. A CTiB event in the Pannier Market at 11.00am. Morning Service at Christ Church will start at 10.00am and will finish in time to allow people to get to the Pannier Market for 11.00am. No Communion (or coffee?) at this service.			
	Friday 23rd Jubilee Singers Concert Friday 30th Safeguarding Training Evening			
July	Sunday 23rd 2.30 - 5.00pm Gardens open for charity - see page 5 Sunday 23rd Circuit service - speaker Pastor Kenny			
Sept	Saturday 23rd 6 for 6.30pm 'Harvest Teddies' (For the townies that's jacket potatoes!) Sunday 24th Harvest Festival			
Oct	Saturday 21st Christ Church Variety Show - see page 10			

Dear friends,

With all that's been happening in the last few months the world can seem a confusing and unstable place.

We've had the Brexit referendum, the resignation of one Prime Minister and the installation of another as well as the result of the Presidential Election in the USA and all the resulting strangeness that has brought.

And now? Now we have a surprise General Election added to the mix.

I know, because I've been told occasionally, that some believe religious faith and politics do not belong together. However, I believe that there is nowhere in our lives or in the life of the world that our faith does not belong.

It is our faith, our desire to follow Christ in all we do, that has a fundamental role to play in informing and influencing all we do, incuding our personal use of our time and resources, the way we work and live our lives and yes, the way we vote.

Before anyone gets too upset with me I am talking about the way we vote, not who we vote for. So what is the difference? The difference is about how we prepare ourselves to vote.

It's not going to be easy and by the end of the process we will all feel tired and fed up and just wish it was over. We will be flooded with news over the coming weeks, we will have manifestos presented and analysed and discussed and counter arguments made. We will probably have scandals and words taken out of context. And we may well be presented with information as if it is the undiluted truth when in fact it is either misleading or even untrue.

So how are we to vote?

Every Sunday we pray to God asking that his Kingdom comes. I am sure, or at least I hope, that we will find in every political party's manifesto signs of the values of God's Kingdom; caring for the poor, the sick, those on the outer edges of society, justice, grace, love. So how are we to vote?

You may disagree but I intend to do the following.

Firstly, I will make sure I do vote, in person or by post, because I believe I have a responsibility to exercise the right to vote that we have.

Secondly, I will listen, carefully, for what rings true and where I can find God's Kingdom's values expressed and assured.

Thirdly, I will pray, hard. I will pray for those standing for election, for the way in which the election campaign is conducted, and ultimately I will pray for God's guidance and wisdom as I vote that his will is done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

God bless,

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Prayers for May

7th May

We praise you, Lord Jesus, for being the voice of peace when we are angry, for being the voice of hope when we are afraid, for being the voice of love when we feel rejected, and for being the voice we can always trust at every stage of our life. Amen.

14th May

Lord Jesus,

when I feel alone and the road is long – be my companion; when I feel on the outside of things and doors seem closed – grant me courage;

when I see others struggling – may I be a companion to them; when I am tempted to keep others out – grant me your loving heart. Make your way, my way, and enable me to bless others as you have blessed me. Amen.

21st May

Holy Spirit,

give me the strength to speak out when I see injustice, the courage to speak up for those denied a voice, and hope that my words can make a difference; help me to witness to your love for your world. Amen.

28th May

Dear God, sometimes I come to you in prayer with words already formed and answers already assumed. Lord, lead me gently to the foot of the cross, to look and to listen again to the prayer of your Son. Help me simply and quietly to live generously, and to love, as he did. Amen.

Circuit Easter Offering service

Sunday May 21st 6.30pm at Fremington

There will be a Bring and Share tea from 5.00pm – do come and share fellowship with others from around the Circuit.

The theme of this year's service is 'Shine like Stars'. We shall hear about people serving the Church in their own country, funded by the Methodist World Mission Fund – stories of people working to bring the light of the risen Christ into challenging situations.

The Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) on behalf of the World Mission Fund.

Follow-up to Lent Groups

Around 50 people joined in the six-week Lent group course 'At the Cross' – with groups meeting at Christ Church, at Sticklepath, and also Port Mill Court. The opportunity for fellowship and conversation, as well as time for listening and reflection was much appreciated.

Having had a break over Easter, all groups are starting to meet again, though not necessarily every week. Do ask for details!

- Thursday evenings 7.30pm in Room 4 starting May 11th (contact Marilyn Tricker: 830869 or Rev. Don)
- Friday mornings 10.30am in Room 4 starting April 28th (contact Shirley Baxter: 375560)
- Thursday lunchtime/early afternoon at Sticklepath (details from Joan Cole: 326348)
- Fourth Monday House Group, 2.30pm at Port Mill Court, meeting monthly (2nd session of study of 2nd book of Corinthians on May 22nd details from Tricia Kent: 324254)

All groups will be looking at fresh topics, so if you haven't been along to a group before, this could be a good time to start!

Marilyn

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



Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

Since Christian Aid Week began 60 years ago, volunteers from churches have collected house-to-house. Together they delivered more than seven million envelopes last year, each one sending a message about Jesus' love and justice.

Every envelope delivered is also a chance to start a conversation, to introduce the local church. It's an act of witness, proclaiming Jesus' good news to the poor. It's a sign of his kingdom, visible to the whole community, and it's a clear demonstration that Christians won't stand by while our neighbours are suffering.

Home fundraising can help support refugees



For refugees like Nejebar, your support is more vital than ever. Nejebar fled terrible violence in Afghanistan, where a family member was brutally killed and the Taliban threatened to murder her husband. Now she and her family are staying in a refugee camp in Greece. They thought they would only stay for 10 days, but they've been there six months now and there's no end in sight.

Former refugee Theodor supports Christian Aid Week

Theodor knows just how Nejebar feels. He's 91 now and lives in Scotland, but after the Second World War he was a refugee in camps in Europe just like Nejebar. He says he owes his life to the work of Christian Aid supporters. 'It was Christian Aid who sent us care packages. It was Christian Aid who fed us. I feel I owe my life to the cause.' Theodor volunteers every Christian Aid Week because of the vital support he received when he was a refugee. Will you help support refugees like Nejebar now?



You can help with the street collection that is being carried out by Christ Church this year. From our church we are also coordinating collections from churches all over North Devon and trying to carry on this 60 year record of Christian charity.









Café Church 9th April: The Easter Story





Experiencing Easter-

Some of the stations arranged for the visit of Yeo Valley School exploring the story of Easter week



Young Families Work

On Sunday 14th May, there will be a Table-Tennis Sponsored Event in Room 1 to raise money for W.O.R.K. (Kenya) and Amigos (Uganda). The ball will start bouncing across the table at 8am and will continue until 8pm! Please feel free to sign yourself up for some time on the table tennis table with a friend or member of your family. The timetable is on the notice board outside the vestry.

A big thank you to everyone who helped at our Easter Holiday Club. Photos are displayed on the noticeboard. Our next Holiday Club will be on Thursday 1^{st} June and will be themed on Pentecost.

Open the Book training will be held at Christ Church on Saturday 20th May 10am – 12noon. XSite at Grosvenor Church is on 17th June and there will be an XSite Extra at the Pilton Green Man Festival on 15th July. We are also looking forward to a Barnstaple Schools Summer Concert at Christ Church. Details will follow on this.

Love and prayers,

Jo

International Donation of Painkillers for a hospital in the Lunghi District of Sierra Leone.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to an urgent request for painkillers for a hospital in Sierra Leone. The final count of tablets from your church and friends, (yes I did count all the tablets!), was as follows:-

Aspirin	972
Paracetamol	5536
Ibuprofen	<u>3214</u>
	9722



We will never meet all those unknown people who will benefit from the painkillers, but we have the knowledge that we are working out our faith in practical ways! Thank you.

June and Adrian Redfern Sponsorship Secretaries – International Aid Trust

СТіВ

Pentecost Festival 2017 – This year's Pentecost Festival is on Sunday 4th June, we at Christ Church will be joining with other churches in Barnstaple for a service at 11:00am in the Pannier Market.

In the lead up to Pentecost Sunday the Churches in Barnstaple will be joining the prayer initiative `*Thy Kingdom Come 2017'* which is a global wave of prayer movement between Ascension and Pentecost (25^{th} May – 4^{th} June) that calls Christian communities to pray for people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Last year more than 100,000 people joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray. There were many stories of people who responded and had their lives turned around.

This year, Churches Together in Barnstaple are joining together at the House of Prayer in Church Lane, to pray during the 10 days, which lead to Pentecost.

At Christ Church we will draw up a rota to pray at ...

the House of Prayer between 8:00am – 10:00pm on Tuesday 30th May.

A rota will be put up shortly for people to sign up for a prayer slot.

On Pentecost Sunday we hope to have stewards covering many different duties before, during and after the service in the Pannier Market, if anyone would like to join the team, please speak to Shirley Baxter ~ Thank you.

Events Mariety 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. We feel sure that there is a wealth of talent within our church family that has, to date, not been recognised. Some may have thought, "I could do something like that". Well - here is your chance. 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. Andy Morley. (Events Comm Secretary)





CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 6 MAY 9 A.M. – 12.30P.M.

STALLS & REFRESHMENTS





If you still have any items to contribute to any of the stalls - books, bric a brac, toiletries, knitted goods, tins, jams, kitchen items, plants or other things for the garden - please bring them in and give them to one of the events committee.

From Rachel's April news letter from Benin...

Hello all at home Hope you are all enjoying spring! Definitely a season I will appreciate very much one day, when I get to spend a whole spring season at home!

Here on the ship we have just completed 5 weeks of women's fistula surgery (fistulas cause incontinence following obstructed labour). What an amazing speciality this is. I am always a little bit biased, as maxillofacial surgery will always be special to me, but I was very moved when I spent a day on the women's health ward and met some of these brave women. As I read through their notes, most of them had the terrible word 'still-birth' written next to their pregnancy history. The length of labour is not in hours, but in days! When you look at these ladies, you can only begin to imagine what it might have been like to walk through the pain of losing a baby, often a husband, and their place in society due to their incontinence. There are still some of these ladies on the ward, but most have been successful surgeries. I attended one of the OBF ceremonies last week. It was such a powerful celebration, and the joy of the women when they gave their testimonies, cannot be put into words, only read on their faces. Many tears of joy. These women will soon return home and have a chance to start a very different life. They will always carry the pain of what they have been through, but they will have a very different future, one that is full of hope.

The blind will see....

Another new experience for me was the 'celebration of sight' for the kids who had cataract surgery in the last 2 weeks. Most of the eye surgery has been for adults, but we did 2 weeks for kids. What a special time that was. All were invited to attend the celebration. It was great to see these kids in their shades (now they have the cataracts removed, the light is too bright). One story I heard recounted how a child kept trying to pick something up off the floor, eventually the parent realized it was the child's shadow, she had never seen it before!!

There are 4 children in one family, 3 of them had cataracts. The mother actually had cataract surgery on the Anastasis! (previous ship). The eye shields are worn for 2 days just to protect them from damage. When they get removed, their eyes get tested.

Sowing the seed.....

Another less known initiative of the ship is the agricultural project. One of our crew members runs an agricultural school here on the land of Benin. The students are taught principles and effective ways of farming and then they graduate and teach others these things. Last week 30 or so local farmers graduated from the class. Some of the initiatives they started up included pineapple juice, and rabbit breeding.

An unexpected visit.... Last month we had an unexpected visit from a



VIP. Nelson Mandela's former wife (and also current first lady of Mozabique) came to visit the ship. She was a great lady, and very at ease with the patients. She chatted away with them, engaging everyone in conversation, and was clearly moved by what she saw.

Sometimes I can hardly believe this life I live here, working with some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, and those who have so little, then the next minute we have the privilege to have a president's visit, first ladies and others. 2 very different worlds meet on-board and hearts are moved. A rare privilege and one that never fails to amaze me.

We have less than 2 months to go until we finish and sail away. This can be challenging with the difficulty in having to say no to more and more people. Pressure to heal quickly and have no complications. Praying people – I would value your prayers about this as difficult decisions are made.

To finish, this is just an excerpt from my blog:

When did this become normal.....

Commuting distance to work is 1.5 minutes!

My bedroom is a cabin.

The currency I use changes every 10 months.

- My home is a port.
- Left and right will now always be port and starboard.
- Patient discharge advice includes 'when can I carry things on my head'.
- My world is sometimes on a tilt (the ship lists slightly at times).
- We can never have a direct conversation with a patient, only through a translator.
- Swurfing this is our new term for a swim/surf in the ship's pool. It often involves synchronizing with small waves, created by the ship's movement. (could do with a surfing forecast 3 ft, clean or choppy).
- Watching excited and apprehensive faces of patients as they climb the gangway for the first time. Full of joy and smiles as they leave.

Summer lasts forever here...

- My daily life is shared with 400 people, from all over the world.
- Joy comes from seeing a heavily bandaged head of a patient, with a huge smile, and a toddler that grabs you by the legs as you walk onto the ward.

There is always the thought that one day I will walk down the gangway for the last time. Until then I will savour every day, the good ones and the bad. Realizing more and more the immense privileges I have in life. My life is blessed, and every day is precious.



Our family matters

Christ Church Family News

There are many of our church family on the sick list and some housebound. 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 Alec Hopper in March. He was a well known face at Christ Church until ill health dictated that he and Sylvia attend a smaller fellowship. We send our condolences to Sylvia, family and friends.

Good wishes go to Pat & John Holland, who achieved their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in April - our best wishes to you both and to many others who celebrated an anniversary over the Easter period.

SUNDAY ROTAS	7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May
Coffee Sally Blackmore Diana Snell Muriel Symons Pauline Dawson	Sally Blackmore	Diana Snell	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers	I	ı	Mary Bale	Pam & Gordon
Projector	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday No evening communion	Gordon & Pam Pearce	Ç		
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
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SUNDAY ROTAS	4th June	11th June	18th June	25th June
Coffee	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Pam Topham	Nicola Wilkins
		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 Anthea Coates	Ronnie Wilson Sylvia Jones
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Weekly Meetings

	,, comp incooning	
Monday 10.00am - 12.00 noon		. contact Mary Biederman tel 373416
2.30pm - 4.30pm	afternoon session	
1 1		
7.00pm - 9.00pm	evening session	
2.30pm	Bible Study	(4th Monday of each month)
		contact Tricia Kent tel 324254
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	Praver meeting (ex	cept the last Tuesday of each month)
10.30am	Holy Communion	
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
1 1	Guides	contact En Foole tel 5/5545
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
E	Habaab aaffaa maani	
Friday 10.00am - 12.00 noon		8
10.30am	Bible Study	contact Shirley Baxter tel 375560
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	y Offertory for March	2017
		Cash	Envelopes
March	5th	£	£
	12th	£	£
	19th	£	£
	26th	£	£

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



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

David Wilson	374020	david.devon@mac.com
Kathy Jeacock	373555	kjeacock@hotmail.com
Website	www	.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk
Circuit website		.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk
Email contact to s	site webr	naster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk













Christ Church Holiday Club on the Easter theme



