



Our Church picnic
- see page 6

The Messenger Christ Church

Methodist / United
Reformed Church
Barnstaple



**News of
Holiday Club**
- see page 7

September 2017



'Sound it out'
next meets
Tuesday 12th at 10am

New Beginnings-
see page 3

Harvest Festival
Sunday 1st Oct

**'Best Sunday
For Ages'** see
page 7

**News of our
Church Family**
-see page 8



Calendar

September 2017

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Rejoice!	
Mon	4th	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	7th	10.30am	No Two Bridges Café - opens on Thursday 21st	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Peter Price
Sat	9th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Staveley Dawson
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev Marilyn Tricker	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	11th	1.00pm	- 1.30pm Friendship Group at the Merry Harriers for shop & lunch	
Tues	12th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Wed	13th	7.00pm	Church Meeting	
Thur	14th	10.30am	No Two Bridges Café - Church used as polling station for by-election	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mr Gary Reed
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev Robert Hurley - Family Service	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	Communion
Thur	21st	10.30am	- 1.45pm Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mr David Worden
Fri	22nd		<i>Last day for items for the October Messenger</i>	
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev John Robinson	
		6.30pm	Mr Geoff Harding	
Mon	25th	2.30pm	4th Monday House Group at Port Mill Court - info Tricia Kent 324254	
		7.30pm	Friendship Group at the home of Wendy Wilkins	
Tues	26th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	28th	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- Harvest, Mary Burgess
Sat	30th	6.00pm	for 6.30pm 'Harvest Teddies'	
			(For townies that's jacket potatoes)	see page 5
Sun	1st		HARVEST FESTIVAL	

The Bible Study Groups start again in September - if you need details for the Thursday or Friday Groups get in touch with Joan Cole, Marilyn Tricker or Don - and for the Monday Group, information from Tricia Kent, 4th Monday House Group, as above.

Further ahead:-

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 7th	Church Spring Clean from 9.00am - see page 9
	Saturday 21st	Christ Church Variety Show - see page 5
Nov	Saturday 11th	9.00am - 12.30pm Church Winter Fair
Dec	Saturday 9th	December 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Message

Dear Friends,

The most obvious time of new beginning is on January the 1st, at the start of the new calendar year. A time for celebrating, or recovering from over celebrating for some.

Then there is the new beginning of Easter and the celebration of resurrection and new life. This is followed by the celebration of the new beginning of Pentecost and the gifting of the Holy Spirit to the Church and its power and guidance.

For some there will have been the renewing experience of a good rest and break from work of a summer holiday, and the perhaps the slightly less welcome new beginning of return to work afterwards.

And now, as we begin September, there is the return to studies or teaching for some of us.

I have vivid memories of long hot summer holidays of my childhood, exploring the countryside, lazing on the beach, swimming in the sea. It was great and maybe I'm strange but by the end of the holiday I was ready to get back to school to be with all my friends, making new ones and yes, even getting back to learning.

The great thing is it's never too late, we can keep on enjoying that experience of new beginnings in learning again, getting together with friends old and new.

On the 7th September two Bible Study Groups held on Thursdays will be restarting, on one held at Sticklepath Methodist Church at 1pm, the other here at Christ Church at 7.30pm. Both groups will be looking at the second half of the book of Acts.

If you would like to know more please speak to Joan Cole, Marilyn Tricker or me, or just come along and see. It's always exciting to discover where the conversations will take us as we discover more about God's activity through his Word.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prayers for September

3rd

Thank you, God, that you listen to our prayers.

Thank you, God, that you answer them.

Thank you, God, that in joy or suffering, you are always with us.

Show us ways in which we can help others. Amen.

10th

Wherever I am, whatever I do, when I am obedient and when I stray from God's will, when I am seeking you and when I am avoiding you, when I am praising you and when I am asking for guidance:

help me to know that you are with me, that you will strengthen me, and support me – every day, everywhere. Amen.

17th

We are sorry, Lord, for the times we have been judgemental of others, or made decisions about people without considering how they feel, or taken the moral high ground and ignored our own faults and failings; remind us that we all need forgiveness, and let your love bring healing and renewal. Amen.

24th

Loving God, sometimes we feel that things are not fair.

Some have plenty; others have nothing.

Some can do what they want; others have to do as they are told.

Some people find everything easy; others find that life is a struggle.

May we always work and pray for justice, but also be thankful, and celebrate your generous love to us. Amen.



"Thank you to everyone who kept in touch with me and sent messages while I was very unwell recently. This meant a great deal to me.

Rosemary Cole"



Saturday 30th September

6:00pm for 6:30pm

'Harvest Teddies'

Tickets £6 available from Elaine or Eff

Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings,
choice of pudding & Tea/Coffee

Proceeds will go to W.O.R.K. our church charity



EVENTS - Good news!

The Concert **'The Spice of Life Talent Show'** will go ahead.
It will be held on Saturday October 21st at 7pm.
Donations for Church Funds. Light refreshments.



Dates for your Diary:-

Saturday 11th November 9am-12.30pm- Winter Fair.

Saturday 9th December at 7pm - Carols by Candlelight.

Andy Morley
(Events Committee Secretary)

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Monday 20th - Tuesday 28th November 2017

I would love to take you to the Holy Land, I have been very privileged to lead a number of Pilgrimages to this amazing land and have led other tours to Turkey and Jordan. Also over a period of 6 years my wife and I worked at the Garden Tomb.

I love to share in the friendship and fellowship of a pilgrimage and watch people grow in biblical and spiritual awareness. It is a wonderful experience for all who join us and we bring many stories with us and take new ones back to our friends and Churches.

A number of people are coming from North Devon and it would be great if a few more joined us. I am looking to encourage another 6 people to come along.

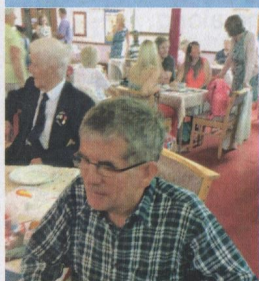
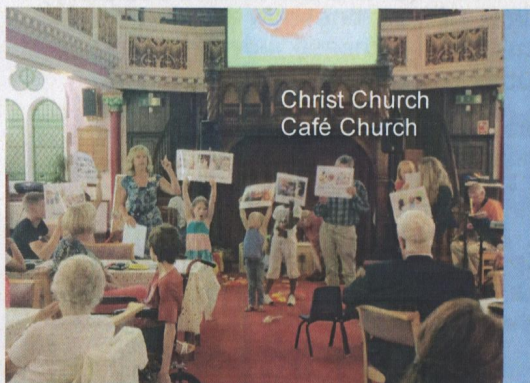
Take care, love in Christ, God Bless, Peter and Ann

Email contact for details - peter.annwhatton@gmail.com

*(For those of you who do not go back that far -
Rev Peter Whatton was a minister in this circuit some years ago)*



**Church Picnic on August 13th
– exercise (physical and mental!),
good food and good company!**



Young Families Work

Our 'Jesus Calms the Storm' Holiday Club during the summer holidays was wonderful, thanks to all the adult and teenaged volunteers. The two days were followed by a Holiday Club Service and fish finger lunch, which was greatly enjoyed by the families.

Our next Café Church service is on Sunday 10th September at 4:30pm and will be themed on 'A Celebration of our Connections with Africa'. There will be a planning meeting for this service on Tuesday 5th September at 11:30am in Room 1. On Wednesday 6th September at 3:30pm, there will be a rehearsal for musicians who would like to join the 'Café Church Band'.

'Open the Book' rehearsals resume on Tuesday 5th September at 10:30am. Our Action for Children 'Community Stay and Play' starts back on Wednesday 6th September from 9:30am. On the same day, 'Toddler Praise' begins at 1.00pm and our 'Parents and Toddlers' playgroup also re-begins at 1:30pm.

On Tuesday 12th September at 4pm there will be an African drumming rehearsal for those who would like to be in the 'Christ Church Drumming Group' at Barnstaple Carnival. Please see Jo if you are interested in this.

On Thursday 21st September at 7pm, there will be a planning meeting in Room 1 for everyone interested in participating in the Barnstaple Churches Together Nativity Trail.

My sincere thanks for your ongoing prayers and support for all the young families connected to Christ Church.

Jo

'Best Sunday for Ages' – Befriending Age

It was a real pleasure to welcome friends from Norah Bellot Court to our Café Church in July. The theme, as above, was about looking at ways in which we can support older members of our church and society. With a great mix of ages there and, with the help of gadgets, objects and pictures from former days as well as from today, everyone chatted happily together sharing thoughts and memories. The children particularly enjoyed decorating and designing butterflies – a symbol of dementia care. The worship focussed on how we can care for, and be there for, one another, as we remembered the Greatest Commandment – Love one Another.

Please update your church directory:-
 Ian Allen's new email address is
 ianallen065@gmail.com



Tuesday coffee rota

Sept	5th	Wendy, Anne & Gill	Oct	3rd	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Sept	12th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia	Oct	10th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon
Sept	19th	Joy & Andy	Oct	17th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Sept	26th	Ena, George & Rose	Oct	24th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
			Oct	31st	Joy & Andy



I would just like to say a huge **Thank you** to everyone who supported the sponsored walk and following tea and cakes at Instow afterwards. It was a wonderful day and thanks to Sally and Mike who initiated it all and for all who went on the walk. It was a beautiful day and very enjoyable. I am very blessed to have so many supporters in Christ Church!



With grateful thanks!
 Rachel

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.

With sadness we report the deaths of Ann Squires and Peter Morris last month and send condolences to their families and friends. Ann was a thoughtful person who enjoyed thinking of others, often to be seen helping out where extra hands were needed. Peter joined the Short Mat Bowls Club and was a member of our congregation until he and his wife, Valerie, moved to Ilfracombe.



Church Cleaning Day **October 7th 9:00am onwards**

***Don't miss the social
event of the year!!***



Any time you can spare during
the morning will be useful -

there are short jobs and long jobs
and of course making the tea!

Please bring along your own
favourite cleaning kit.



Since the July/August Messenger we have raised :-

For our church project (Widows & Orphans in Rural Kenya): -

£520 Chris & Maureen's Celebration Ceilidh

£487 Schools' Summer Concert - Jo and friends

£200 Ian's Open Garden

For the Children's Hospice SW

£404.26 from the Circuit Men's Breakfast

For Pastor Kenny through Vision for Asia

£346 from a retiring collection at a circuit service

For MHA

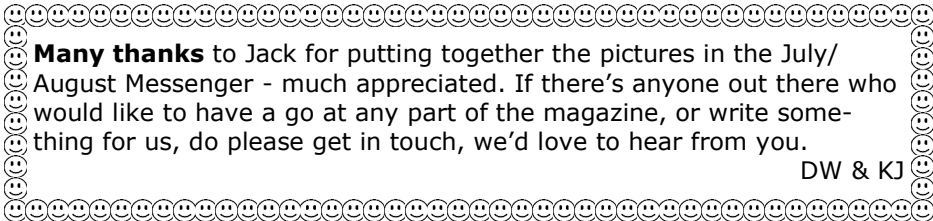
£109 from the envelope collection

For church funds

£200 from Ronnie & David's coffee morning

Thank you to so many people. Our current total for WORK is £1976.77.

Congratulations to Maisie and Callum who have completed their fund raising and will be leaving for their visit to Kira Farm next month - we look forward to hearing all about it.


Many thanks to Jack for putting together the pictures in the July/
 August Messenger - much appreciated. If there's anyone out there who
 would like to have a go at any part of the magazine, or write some-
 thing for us, do please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.
 DW & KJ

Some Pictures from the summer months

Schools' Summer Concert with Jo and Yazzy

Jo and Yazzy after the delightful and successful Summer concert arranged by Jo at the end of June which featured Yazzy and Nikki, Sticklepath and Bishops Tawton school choirs, Nikki's Irish Dancers and the young Sunday Club children also performed. The concert raised the sum of £487 for Christ Church's current project, WORK, about which Pat Wright gave a short talk.

Oasis with boat and team

At Oasis on 30th July we, the Oasis team, thought of 'Calm in the midst of life's storms'. We inherited the boat, made by Guy and Mary Byham, from Holiday Club and in a calmer atmosphere than in Holiday Club, we thought of the many storms in the world and in our own lives. We then thought of Jesus' presence in the midst of it all. After singing the modern version of the 23rd Psalm ('I will trust in you alone'), we sat quietly and then went on our respective ways.

Betty Hughes 105th birthday

Betty in the garden of Norah Bellot Court on the occasion of her 105th birthday, holding a special cake lovingly made by one of our church friends.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We will be organising the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal again this year, on behalf of I.A.D. (International Aid Trust) a Christian charity showing compassion to a hurting world.

If you are able to participate in any way it would be very much appreciated. All boxes should be completed and given to me at the end of October if possible.

The shoe boxes, blankets, knitted garments and donations of money to help with transport costs, will be collected from Christ Church on Thursday 9th November at 2:30pm. Everyone welcome.

If you need any help or further information please contact me on 01271 346607.

Thank you so much, Sylvia (Jones).






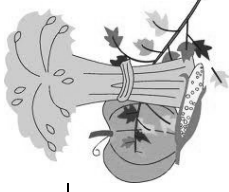













**To the left: Yazzy and Jo
after the summer concert**

**'Calm in the midst of
life's storms'- the Oasis
team below:**



**Congratulations to
Betty Hughes
on your 105th
birthday.**

SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd September	10th September	17th September	24th September
Coffee 	Elaine Stevens	Diana Snell	Sally Blackmore	Muriel Symons
Flowers 	Pauline Dawson	Sylvia Jones	Elaine Stevens	Hilary Iley
Projector 	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Kathy Jeacock	
Serving Communion 	Jack Neville Gill Greenland Celia Huxtable Reg Symons			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter	Liz Seymour Sylvia Jones	Ronnie Wilson Eff Poole	Elaine Stevens Anthea Coates

SUNDAY ROTAS	1st October	8th October	15th October	22nd October	29th October
Coffee 	Pauline Dawson	Joy Morley	Gill Tucker	Pam Topham	Nicola Wilkins
Flowers 	Hilary Iley	Pauline Dawson	-	-	-
Projector 	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Anthea Coates		
Serving Communion 	Ian Allen Elaine Stevens Jack Neville Norman Tucker				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Ian Allen Sylvia Jones	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates	Elaine Stevens 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 June & July 2017			
		Cash	Envelopes
June	4th	£	£
	11th	£	£
	18th	£	£
	25th	£	£
July	2nd	£	£
	9th	£	£
	16th	£	£
	23rd	£	£
	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
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Room Bookings	343218
Circuit Administrators	379116

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Email contact to site	webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk	



Ian Allen's with friends and helpers at his Open Garden event in Sticklepath on July 23rd



The event was a great success, and raised money for North Devon Hospice and WORK, our church charity