

The Messenger

Christ Church

Methodist
United Reformed Church
Barnstaple
www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

Dec 2017 Jan 2018

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Together in
Barnstaple- news of
Christmas events
See page 10

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News of the Family
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Glory to God in
the highest, and
on earth peace,
good will toward
men. Luke 2:14

Christ Church on the move-
What's going on?
See page 16-17

Calendar

December 2017

Look out for the church's internal Christmas card systems and make a donation to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal - see pages 6&7. Support Christ Church as well with Anne's cards.

Fri	1st	7.00pm	Light up a Life service at Christ Church	
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	"A journey throughout Advent" led by Shirley Baxter with the Worship Band.	
Thur	7th	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café <i>Last one this term</i>	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship & Barnstaple Longbridge Townswomen's Guild United carol service - Rev Don Macalister	
Sat	9th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Pastor Kenny
		10.30am	Follow that Star	see page 10
		7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev Richard Martin	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	11th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- speaker Maureen Body, Flowers for Christmas
Tues	12th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out' - only one this month	
Thur	14th		No Two Bridges Café until next term - hopefully Thursday 4th January	
		12.30pm	- 4.00pm Ladies Fellowship 'Christmas Social' afternoon at Christ Church - change of programme	
Sat	16th	11.00am	Nativity Trail	- see page 10
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister Family Service	
		6.30pm	Carols	<i>No Communion</i>
Sun	24th		CHRISTMAS EVE	
		10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		4.00pm	Crib Service	
		6.30pm	<i>No service</i>	
Mon	25th		CHRISTMAS DAY	
		10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
Sun	31st	10.30am	Rev Tony Coates	
		6.30pm	<i>No Service</i>	

Not much information available for January yet - please check the weekly notice sheet.

January 2018

Sun	7th		<i>'Rejoice!'</i>	
Tues	9th & 23rd		Sound it Out - see page 15	
Sat	13th		Men's Breakfast	- speaker Dr David Hudson
Fri	19th		<i>Last day for items for the February Messenger</i>	
Mon	22nd		4th Monday Bible study group begins again 'Journeying with friends - exploring community.'	

Bible Study -

Monday January 22nd, starting again, Fourth Monday group - Beginning the study 'Journeying with friends - Exploring Community'.

The Thursday evening group will take a break during December and January and will meet again for the Lent Course, starting on Thursday 15th February - see page 7

The Friday morning Bible Study in Room 4, led by Jonathan Richards will not meet during December or January but will resume again on Friday 2nd February, 2018.

If you need further details for the Thursday or Friday Groups get in touch with Joan Cole, Marilyn Tricker or Don - and for the Monday Group, Tricia Kent.

Message

Dear Friends,

The year that is so rapidly passing is the 500th anniversary of Luther's action that kick started the Reformation. Thirty-four years ago, on the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the progress of ecumenism with these words: 'We seem to sight from afar the dawn of the advent of a restoration of unity'. Take a moment to re-read those words and perhaps even as members of a united church you, like me, may be struck both by the hope and by the sheer scale of the separation that those words implied.

And yet here we are at the beginning of an even greater advent. An advent that is not just about ecumenism and the restoration of Church unity but the renewing of God's relationship with humanity, and the hope of healing of differences as we focus on the revelation of God we that find in the birth of the Christ child.

In a world of differences, of global tensions between peoples, nations and religions and of local tensions between individuals, perhaps it is only when we focus on the promise and hope of a new born child that other differences are put into their proper perspective.

I'm sure we've all experienced the effect of a baby on a room full of people. The way in which all eyes are drawn to the child, the way that the child becomes the focus of conversation.

As we move through advent towards Christmas Day and the celebration of the birth of Jesus may we put this tiny but powerful image of God's love at the centre of our lives and discover the restoration of unity between ourselves and God, and between all peoples in the face of such grace.

Eddy joins me in wishing you every blessing this Christmas. May this season and this coming year be a time of reconciliation, joy and peace for us all and for the world.



A message from Maisie: -

Thank you so much for your financial support which allowed me to go to Kira Farm in Uganda. I had a wonderful inspiring time, met many new friends and learnt a lot about development and justice. I especially enjoyed visiting the children at orphanages, where we gave them gifts including footballs and bubbles. The Kira Farm project will always be close to my heart and I have now pledged a life-time commitment to the Amigos Charity.

P.S. My mum was really pleased to have very little washing to do when I returned home, as I left most of my clothes with my friends on Kira Farm!

Prayers for December

3rd December

Lord, I give you my todays and my tomorrows to use and to bless. I offer my 'nows' for you to shape and strengthen. I bring myself as I truly am, rejoicing that you have called me to be your disciple through all the challenges and changes of life. Amen.

10th December

Lord, my God, just as a single flame can light a whole room, may this single prayer bring light into the dark places of the world, hope in the despairing places, comfort in the suffering places, and beauty in the wild places. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

17th December

We praise and adore you, O God, for your urgency and passion. We thank you for choosing John the Baptizer to be your prophet, and for blessing him with words that stir our hearts, and humility that transforms our lives.

May we look deep within ourselves, and not be afraid to name the good, and persevere at the frustrating. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

24th December

Dear God, remembering Mary, we pray that in humility of spirit and willingness of heart, we may, like her, entrust ourselves to your purposes, and be bearers of Christmas joy amid all the confusions, dramas and messiness of our lives. May our minds race, our hearts sing, but may we find also a stillness that is your presence, leading us on to Bethlehem, where our spirits can soar towards the light of eternal love, revealed in the baby Jesus. Amen.

31st December

May God, the Lord of the years,
help us to carry this year into the next,
to hear the voice of his Son, calling us forward,
and to know the power and blessing of his Spirit. Amen.

Prayers for January

7th January

With those I love, with those I meet,
and within my heart, may I bring your peace, Lord. Amen.

14th January

Here I am, Lord.
Speak, for your servant is listening.
Act, for your servant is waiting.
This week, I want to be attentive to you;
I am listening, watching, waiting for you.
Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

21st January

God of change and challenge,
you call us to follow you into the new creation;
help us to see your kingdom changing us
and bringing life to our community and our world.
Where your Spirit is at work, may we bless what we see.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

28th January

We pray for ourselves in our weakness,
for the commitment to serve you and others,
for the desire to serve you and others,
for delight in serving you and others.
Lord, hear our prayer
and give us your strength. Amen.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER 2017

AT 7PM.

AN EVENING OF



MUSIC, POEMS & READINGS.



The **Events Committee** would like to **thank** everyone
for their support during 2017.

The Winter Fair raised £855.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



Christian Aid Christmas collection.

Thank-you to the Elders and Rev Don for agreeing to a collection over Christmas for Christian Aid.

Their appeal will be explained on the Christmas poster; it describes how the collection is mainly for

Sub-Saharan Africa and directed to families who are suffering from severe malnutrition. For every pound that we give, the U.K. government will match this donation - a good deal!

Christian Aid has recently launched appeals for those refugees from Myanmar, but it does work in this country too.

Eff was particularly enthusiastic about a collection for the charity this year, in remembrance of Vera who worked hard for the charity for many years.

Thanking you in advance,
Carolyn and Ronnie.

Enough for everyone this Christmas with Christian Aid



At Christmas, we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Food is found at many celebrations in the Bible, so it feels entirely appropriate that it is at the heart of our festivities when we celebrate God's only son coming into the world.

Colette lives in Burkina Faso, West Africa, with her husband, young daughter and baby. Colette's Christmas is not dissimilar to ours. It starts with cooking delicious food and then getting her children ready for church. She prays for her children, and asks that God will give them health and everything they need. When Colette gets home, she greets her neighbours and they share food. They gather together and show their joy by dancing and singing. Like us, they eat special food on Christmas Day. For Colette and her neighbours, this will be rice, goat and spaghetti!

But life has been hard for Colette. She was forced to work at a gold mine every day to earn money to feed her family. Colette spent days at the mining site without finding any gold to sell. She made so little money that she was not able to buy nutritious food. Her daughter Eulalie was very ill and weak, and was diagnosed with malnutrition.

However, Colette found hope through a market garden project supported by Christian Aid. She and her husband were trained in how to grow crops and were provided with tools and seeds. She produces nutritious food to eat and sell, and can work with her children close by. Eulalie is now four years old and has recovered, and her little sister Ornela has, thankfully, never been malnourished. Colette sells some of her vegetables to pay for healthcare and clothes for her girls. She plans to extend her garden to pay for her children to go to school.

Colette's story shows that a family can be saved from the horrors of malnutrition. Landlocked Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries,

with almost half of its 16 million inhabitants living below the poverty line. More than 30% of children under five years old have stunted growth. Christian Aid works with its partners to reduce malnutrition and ensure reliable access to healthy food for those in need, such as women of child-bearing age and young children.

Colette's Christmas is in many ways like our own, filled with generosity and the enjoyment of delicious food. We enjoy and look forward to our special Christmas food and often have too much. Isaiah 58:10 shows God's love for the hungry and oppressed. Jesus revealed this by feeding the hungry many times. When we respond to the hungry and needy, we reflect the light of Christ.

We all probably know the foods we buy that no one really likes, and those that we buy far too much of. Join Christian Aid's Enough for Everyone Christmas Appeal by committing to not buying at least one thing that you know would be wasted. You can turn that pledge into a donation to Christian Aid's work providing life-saving aid and long-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

If you save just £13, that could be turned into a village nutrition demonstration in Burkina Faso, teaching more than 25 mothers about nutrition for their children. Together, we could raise £170 to train a nutrition committee to run regular porridge demonstrations and educational sessions in a village like Colette's.

Will you join thousands of others helping to ensure there is enough for everyone this Christmas? You can make a donation when you use our church's internal Christmas Post - in lieu of card &/or postage.

Twice the impact! For every pound you give, the UK government will give a pound more.* That's double the support for people living in poverty.

* Donations made to the Christmas appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. We will use your donations for projects such as those featured. The UK Government's match will fund our work in South Sudan.



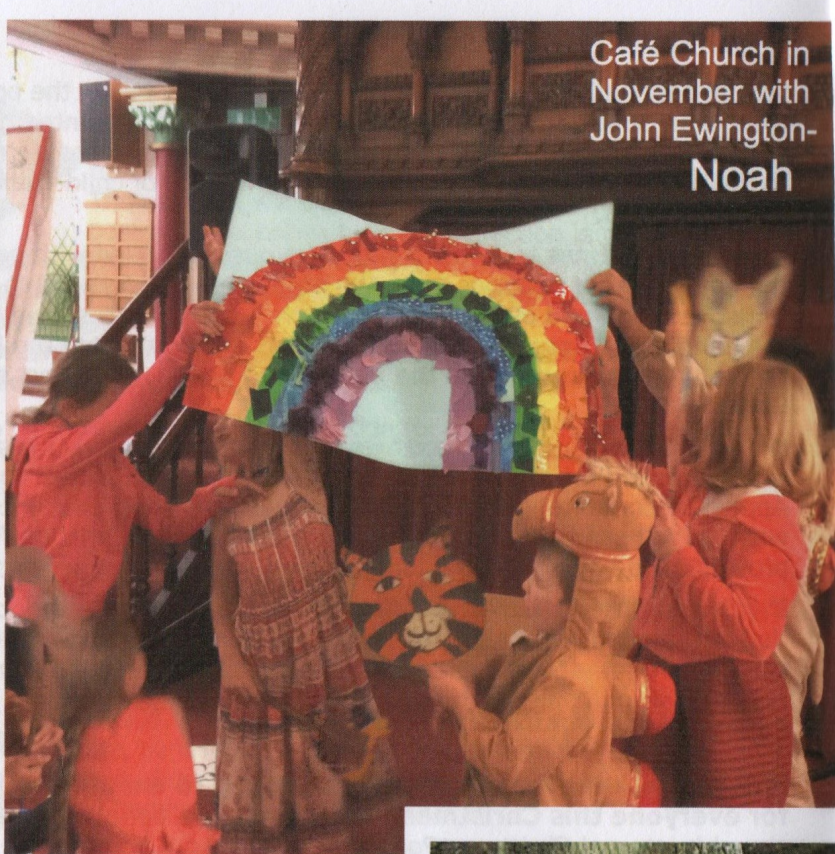
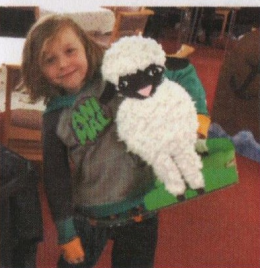
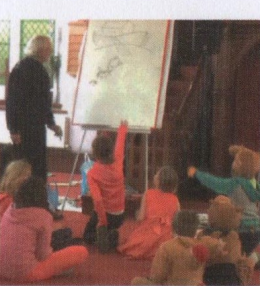
Looking ahead to Lent 2018

Ash Wednesday next year is on February 14th, and this marks the beginning of Lent; Easter Sunday will be on April 1st.

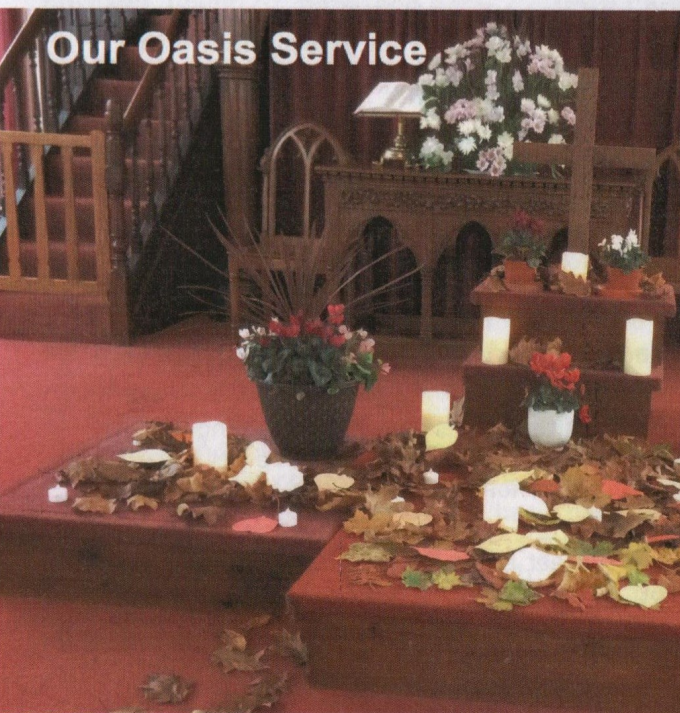
We expect several Lent groups to run, as this year, meeting weekly for the six weeks of Lent; exact details and topics have yet to be decided, so please watch out for more information in the New Year.

If you haven't been part of a study group before, Lent is an ideal time to start! The group will meet again for the Lent Course, starting on Thursday 15th February.

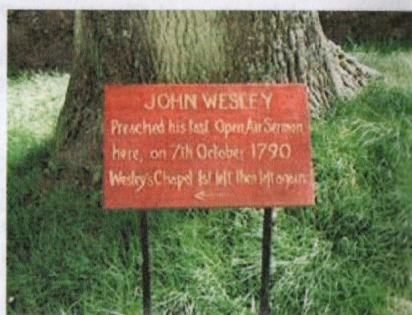
Marilyn



Café Church in
November with
John Ewington-
Noah



Our Oasis Service



Young Families Work

The children in our Toddler Praise and Parents and Toddler groups are all becoming excited about Christmas! They are looking forward to their outing to Quince Honey Farm on 6th December. Their Toddler Nativity will take place on the following Wednesday 13th December at 1:30pm.

Our Sunday Club children are busy preparing for the Nativity Family Service on Sunday 17th December at 10:30am. Our Tuesday Adult Singing Group will also be taking part in this service. The Crib Service to which all are welcome will be as usual on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm.

The 'Open the Book' teams from local churches will be meeting at Christ Church this month to share news and ideas, and plan for next year. We are sorry to lose Pauline Salter, Colin Salter and Louise French from our team, but thank them very much for their amazing commitment over several years. They have been a great asset to our assemblies at Yeo Valley School.

Our November Café Church was great fun with John Ewington. He transformed the children into a parade of animals to illustrate the story of Noah's Ark. The crafts and afternoon tea were much appreciated by everyone, as always. We look forward to the next Café Church which will be led by Don on 10th December. This will be a Christingle Service with associated crafts.

Love and prayers, Jo

John Wesley's Tree.

A few weeks ago we were visiting some long lost relatives in Winchelsea, which is an old port on the south Kent coast. Opposite my relatives' house is a large tree on the edge of a small green; it was very interesting to read that this tree was a descendant of the one under which John Wesley preached his last open air sermon in 1790. He was 87 years old.

According to Winchelsea's website, John Wesley wrote in his Journal: "I stood under a large tree and called to most of the inhabitants of the town 'The kingdom of Heaven is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel'. It seems as if all that heard were at the present almost persuaded to be Christians".

I think we can all admire John Wesley's faith and commitment to spread the Gospel - if we didn't before.

Ronnie

Our October Oasis service was shortly before All Saints' Day, and we took the opportunity to remember with thanksgiving loved ones who have died and realise how Jesus shares our pain and loss. With a display of autumn leaves and lit candles before us, we reflected on how Jesus comforted Mary and Martha on the loss of their brother Lazarus, and how he himself was deeply affected. 'Jesus wept' (John 11:35).

We wrote the names of loved ones who have died, and other prayer requests, on paper leaves and placed them with the other leaves on the display. We moved on to the hope we have for the future. We were reminded of the words

of Julian of Norwich, 'All shall be well...'. We sang the hymn 'When peace like a river... it is well with my soul', which the author wrote after a devastating experience of loss, and finally heard of the inspiration that led to the founding of the Children's Hospice South West, in Fremington.

Coincidentally, there will be a Light Up a Life Service for the Children's Hospice in Christ Church at 7.00 pm on Friday 1st December. Open to all.

Tony Coates

Churches Together in Barnstaple – Christmas events

On Saturday the 9th December, beginning at 10:30 Will be FOLLOW THAT STAR carol singing starting from inside Green Lanes and moving outside if the weather is appropriate.

We will be joining with the Salvation Army band at some point.

There will be individual leaflets listing Christmas worship from churches represented and some general tracts and booklets for enquirers.

At the end there will be refreshments at the Baptist Church.

Everyone is very welcome to come along and join in the singing.

Stewards for this event are needed. If you feel that this is something that you would like to be a part of, please contact Shirley Baxter.

The Nativity Trail on Saturday 16th December from 11:00am to 1:00pm is organised this year by Jo Grant & Joan Cole and concludes with refreshments here at Christ Church. A Clovelly donkey has already been booked to appear! Volunteers are needed for this event to dress up as Nativity characters or to help with the refreshments. Please see Jo if you would like to help.

Christmas Meal. On Christmas Day lunches will be provided at two venues, Grosvenor who can accommodate up to 90 people and Bishops Tawton Methodist Church who can accommodate around 30 people.

Volunteers would all be welcome. Once again, if you would like to be involved or know of someone who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day please contact Shirley Baxter, transport can be arranged for those who need it.

Church cleaning Day in October.

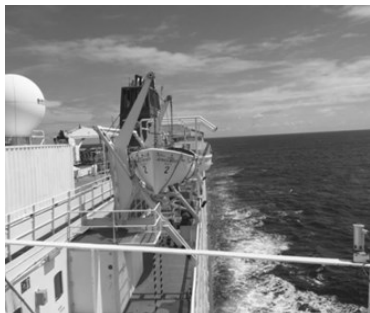
The place buzzed with cheerful activity as we all cleaned the church and its various rooms one Saturday morning in October. The church is generally cleaned by Bowdens, a cleaning company, and they do a marvellous job but annually we try to have a bit of an extra clean in those areas which are difficult to get to routinely, such as the large light shades in the vestibule etc..

Thank-you to Rev Don for the cups of tea and coffee, to the Property committee for organising the morning, but especially to all those hard workers who did a sparkling job!

Some excerpts from Rachel's emails from Cameroon:-

HI everyone,

2nd Sept 2017



Well it is just over a month since I left home for a new adventure in Cameroon. We are finally here after a 2 week sail. The sail was pretty smooth, not much went crashing to the floor! But it certainly seemed a long 2 weeks without seeing any land. We had some real treats on the way with some amazing dolphins who accompanied us for a while playing on the bow wave.

We arrived 2 and a half weeks ago now. Our first 4 days here were still spent mostly on-

board, as there was no shore leave granted except business! I have never been so happy to do airport pick-up duty! ☺

This is our new home for the next 10 months. One great thing about what I have seen in Cameroon so far is it is very green. The reason for that is ... rain! I think this may be one of the wettest places in Africa! It has rained every day since we have been here, but it makes me feel so at home. ☺ I will be bringing wellies back with me next time. ☺

All the nurses are now here. We have spent an intense first week setting up and cleaning the hospital. Everything from scrubbing on hands and knees, setting up beds, stocking supplies, setting up equipment etc. I believe it is now one of the cleanest hospitals in the world! The last week was orientation for the 42 new nurses, and now we are ready!

After so long, we were all on countdown until the first patients arrive! ☺

We got to see patients last week, as they were screened on the dock and came in for investigations. We were so excited. Then we heard there were 2 patients who needed medical attention and couldn't wait until our opening day (!) so we opened the hospital 4 days early, thanks to nurses volunteering to work the weekend. An interesting start! Our first patient was also the lightest! - A 3 month old baby boy (with a cleft lip and palate) who weighed 2kg!

I haven't seen too much on land at the moment but look forward to exploring. Being a new country to Mercy Ships, we have much exploring to do.

One of the most exciting things this last week was to see our site for the women's health clinic, which we are going to set up temporarily this year. We are using a local hospital which is currently only utilizing 30%. The



officials we met this week were very welcoming and very keen to help us however they can.

Well I look forward to sharing about patients next time.

Praying people – please pray that:

The right people come to the screening.

That all 42 new nurses settle in quickly and the 30 who have also been before.

The women's health clinic – looks promising but so much to do still and so much unknown.

That we make good relationships with the locals and government so that we can work well together and help them in investing in their future better.

Pray that as the wards and dental clinic open tomorrow things will go well and they will become areas of healing and joy! (Monday 4th September).

Missing you all!

Love Rachel ☺

Newsletter October in Douala

October 29th 2017

After 2 months, things are in full flow. We have already completed our orthopedic program. The joy of seeing bent legs made straight has finished for Cameroon, but we still see them coming daily to rehab with their casts on and managing to get around amazingly well with both legs in casts. Next week plastic surgery starts. This will be mainly burns victims. This will be our heaviest work-load on the wards as many will have a lengthy recovery process. We look forward to seeing that ward full of life again.



I still spend one day a week back on the max-fax ward. Here is one of our patients: Valerie, who had a parotid tumour.



The women's fistula clinic has been open for the last 3 weeks. On Monday it will open for the post-op women. The first 8 patients will be transferred from the ship to the clinic for the

remainder of their recovery. It is an exciting venture, although not an easy one. There are many challenges involved with having a mercy ship's site not within the ship. For the nurses working there, it is very different to having the comfort of working on the ship, where we are well set up in medical and surgical support. They are a great team however, and show excellent attitudes with the challenges they face. They are also required to live in a house off the ship, which also has its own set of challenges!

Some ship-related challenges we are also experiencing includes the delay in our supplies arriving. I never thought that the Hurricane Harvey in the US which delayed the ship leaving with our container of supplies, would have such an effect here! We still have bed frames and mattresses in the container for the women's clinic that opens Monday! Also the feed that we use for the tube feeding for patients, we currently only have 1 days supply, amongst many other things! So we learn to be patient, and we learn to be creative! And we learn to pray more! Amazingly despite the lack of galley supplies, they have managed to feed us well and we haven't noticed any lack of food!

I try and get off the ship once at a weekend and once in the week if possible. It is easy to forget there is an outside at times! It's often for a swim somewhere or going out for coffee. We can't go far right now as there has been some unrest in some of the places near to Douala. We have therefore had a lot of places that are no-go areas for crew. Hopefully these will be lifted soon and we can travel a bit further than just within the town.

That's it for news I think. Thanks for all your support, without which I would not be here! Whether financial, encouraging emails or praying. Thank you!
Love Rachel

'what is she thinking'

'What was she thinking'.....this week I had one of the most random of all journeys! I ended up transporting one of our potential patients from our accommodation center to the ship to be assessed to see if she was a suitable patient. She was a beautiful lady, probably in her late 20s, dressed in bright yellow and green, and a big bright smile that lit up her whole face. The interesting thing about this journey was that she spoke only Fulfulde language, not a single word of French or English. I don't know a single word of Fulfulde! During the journey across the city to the ship, I kept trying a bit of French as I thought she might know a few odd words. She just smiled and giggled and then said a few things in her own language. This happened



several times on our journey. I loved hearing her little giggle. I couldn't help but wonder 'what is she thinking'. She was from a very remote area out in the country, at least one day's journey from the ship. I had no idea if she had ever been to a city or seen a ship, or even the sea. What amazing trust, or was it desperation (?) that enabled her to trust me to drive her in the Land Rover to somewhere she could not imagine. Did she even know where I was taking her? She gasped when we got through the port gate and the ship came into view. As I parked the car and opened her door, she beamed and said

'merci beaucoup!' - she did know some French!
I prayed as she went into the screening tent
that we would be able to help this precious
lady, and that on her next journey may she
have a healed body.

This is not the lady who I brought to the ship,
it is one of the other ladies who is celebrating



successful

healing
from a fistula. I long for this for my
travel companion too. She is due to be
admitted to the ship today, then hope-
fully surgery tomorrow!



Mike and Judith sent this in as they wanted to share it with you:-

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year at Christmas I go and take a look
And that is when I realize that these names are a part
Not of the book they're in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they become the rhythm of the rhyme.

And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you has shaped my life much more than you can think.

For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you
It's because you're on the list of folks that I'm indebted to.

For you are but a total of the many folks I've met
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget,
And whether I have known you for many years or few
In some way you had a part in shaping all the things I do.
For every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,
The biggest gift that life can give is meeting folks like you.

By Helen Steiner Rice

*(There seem to be a few different versions of this around with different
authors and anon.)*



REJOICE
 SING WITH US
worship
prayer & praise
CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTAPLE
 SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY
 6.30 – 7.30PM



SOUND IT OUT

Coffee, Cake and Chat together
 with Singing and Music too!
 NO musical talent required.

'Sound It Out'
 is a fortnightly group, particularly aimed
 at supporting people with memory loss
 and their carers.

Tuesdays (fortnightly)
10am - 12 noon
January 9th, 23^d
February 13th, 27th
March 13th, 27th
April 10th, 24th

Christ Church
 Bear Street
 Barnstaple

To find out more, talk to:
 Sally Blackmore: scheme.barnstapleschaplain@mha.org.uk
 Rebecca Bartlett: rebecca.barnstaple@mha.org.uk
 Marilyn Tricker: markertmj@gmail.com
 Telephone: 01271 321574
 Main sponsors: The Bridge Trust & Barnstaple Rotary Shop Grant

Christ Church
 Methodist & URC

MHA

2018 'Flower' and 'Pre Service Hymn' Charts.

Thank you to all those who have given this year's Church Flowers and also to those who have chosen a Pre Service Hymn.

If you would like to donate flowers for Church on a particular Sunday in 2018, maybe close to a Birthday or Anniversary or perhaps in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the chart in the vestibule. Someone will of course purchase and arrange the flowers for you if required.

There is also a 'Pre Service Hymn' Chart for anyone wishing to welcome the congregation at 10.25am and introduce a hymn of your choice as we prepare ourselves for our Sunday morning worship. Perhaps you have an old favourite you wish to share with us or maybe there is a less familiar hymn you would like us to sing.

Your contribution to our worship is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks, Gill Greenland



Tricia Kent sends warmest appreciation for all the kind messages, thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, notice sheets and visits she has received. She is on the mend and looks forward to being back with you before long.

International Aid Trust

Dear Sylvia and friends,

450+ filled shoeboxes
£556.00 donation
200+ blankets

A personal 'Thank you' to Sylvia for all you do, not only at this time but throughout the year!! Your enthusiasm for not only encouraging others to fill shoeboxes but your concern to involve so many people and enabling them to socialise is so important. Many friendships must have blossomed as a result. Thank you on behalf of the International Aid Trust for your amazing contribution of 450+ shoeboxes for needy families, also the generous donation of £556.00. Many people enquire – where do the shoeboxes go? Throughout the year International Aid will distribute about 100,000 shoeboxes to countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, India, Mexico, Nigeria and Cuba alongside humanitarian and medical aid. Your shoeboxes, after leaving our home will go to Lancashire on 10th December so that every time a lorry/ container leaves for these countries, shoeboxes will be part of the consignment.

There is so much more to the Christian Mission of International Aid, so why not go on the website and see what wonderful things are happening. Again, thank you everyone.

*'In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth'.
(John Oxenham.pseud.)*

Adrian and June Redfern
UK Sponsorship Secretaries
International Aid Trust

The Tale of a Shoebox

I'm just a humble shoebox
I'm not worth very much,
But wait and see me in a while
I'll have a loving touch!
I could have been discarded
And simply thrown away,
But now I've been recycled
And cared for day by day.

So many little toys and gifts
Are snugly packed within,
And when I'm really filled up tight
Adventures will begin.

I'll soon be wrapped up neatly
In paper shiny bright,
And I'll be feeling very proud
So full of love and light.

Then soon I will be travelling
To many distant lands,
And children will be waiting
With eager, stretched out hands.
So don't discard your shoebox,
Just think what you can do,
God bless those folk who work so hard,
God bless the children too!

Iris Hesselden



Christ Church 's
magnificent response
to the Shoe Box Appeal 2017
International Aid Trust



Men's Breakfast

Saturday 9th December at
8:30am

Speaker - Pastor Kenny



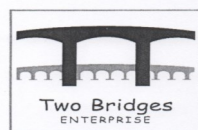
Tuesday coffee rota



Dec	5th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
Dec	12th	Joy & Andy
Dec	19th	Ena, George & Rose
Dec	26th	No Coffee Morning
Jan	2nd	No Coffee Morning
Jan	9th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Jan	16th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon
Jan	23rd	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Jan	30th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
Feb	6th	Joy & Andy
Feb	13th	Ena, George & Rose
Feb	20th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Feb	27th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon

Two Bridges Café

The Two Bridges Café has got off to a very happy start this past term. The students working in the café have learnt so much and greatly gained in skill and confidence. They are providing a very popular regular venue for people from both Pathfield School and the church to come and chat and relax, and to sample their delicious cakes and morning cream teas! The café has become a regular part of our church life on Thursday mornings and both the staff and students look forward to welcoming existing customers and newcomers both on December 7th and then when it re-opens on Thursday January 4th.





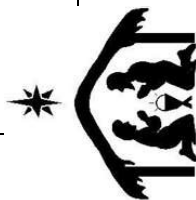














Our family matters









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.

SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd December	10th December	17th December	24th December	31st December
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Pam Topham	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Hilary Iley	Louise & Chris French	George Hopkins	Christmas	Christmas
Projector 	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday No Evening Communion	Gordon & Pam Pearce				
Serving Communion 	Gill Greenland Kathy Jeacock Rosemary Cole Mary Ruhleman				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Gill Greenland Sylvia Jones	Elaine Stevens Shirley Baxter	Liz Seymour Eff Poole	Ian Allen Anthea Coates	Jack Neville Sylvia Jones

SUNDAY ROTAS		7th January	14th January	21st January	28th January
Coffee		Sally Blackmore	Diana Snell	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers		The 2018 flower calendar is ready on the notice board in the foyer, please sign up for the dates you would like to donate flowers - see page 11.			
Projector		Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday		Gordon & Pam Pearce		Eff Poole	
Serving Communion		Ronnie Wilson Gill Greenland Mike Smith Andy Morley	 		
Vestry Steward Morning Evening		Ronnie Wilson Shirley Baxter	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Elaine Stevens Anthea Coates	Liz Seymour Sylvia Jones

SUNDAY ROTAS	4th February	11th February	18th February	25th February
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	The 2018 flower calendar is ready on the notice board in the foyer, please sign up for the dates you would like to donate flowers - see page 11			
Projector 	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Sylvia Jones	
Serving Communion 	Ian Allen Elaine Stevens Celia Huxtable Reg Symons			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Ian Allen Shirley Baxter	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Elaine Stevens Sylvia Jones

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...	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 Offertory for October 2017

		Cash	Envelopes
Oct	1st	£	£
	8th	£	£
	15th	£	£
	22nd	£	£
	29th	£	£

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:

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



Christ Church Winter Fair 2017

Thank you for everyone
who came and supported
the event. We raised £855
for church funds.
Well done to all those
involved!



Thursdays 10.00-11.30 Two Bridges Café
-tea, coffee, home made cakes and scones

We will be pleased
to see you!

