

The Messenger

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist / United Reformed Church

February
2018



Christ Church Ladies Fellowship
Christmas lunch- see page 13



Young Families work at
Christ Church- see pages 8-9

News of Lent Groups
- see page 5

Sing for your Supper
Friday 9th March- see page 12



Rejoice- Sunday 4th March

A donkey on the premises?
See back page for the story.

Calendar

February 2018

Thur	1st	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Brenda Farley
Sun	4th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	
Thur	8th	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Christopher Punt
Fri	9th	7.00pm	Mayor's Concert	
Sat	10th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Rev Bill Perry
Sun	11th	10.30am	Deacon Joan Cole	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	12th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- speaker Fenella Boxall, Read Easy
Tues	13th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Wed	14th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday service at Bishops Tawton	
Thur	15th		No Two Bridges Café - half term	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mary Fardon
		7.30pm	Lent Bible Study	
Fri	16th		<i>Last day for items for the March Messenger</i>	
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister Family Service	
		6.30pm	Rev Jonathan Richards	Communion
Thur	22nd	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Robert Hurley
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	- Circuit Service, see page 7
Mon	26th	2.30pm	Fourth Monday House Group at Port Mill Court.	
		5.30pm	Friendship Group "Spring Fashion" at Bon Marché	

Dates for your diary:-

March	Thursday 15th safeguarding course 10.00am - 12.30pm
	Thursday 22nd Christian Aid talk
	Friday 23rd Two Rivers Wind Ensemble concert
	Thursday 29th Maundy Thursday Communion
	Friday 30th Good Friday service
April	Thursday 12th Holiday Club
	Saturday 14th Church Quiz
	Thursday 19th Bishop's Tawton School - Joseph
	Friday 27th Barnstaple Town Band concert
May	Saturday 12th Church Fair
	Sunday 20th Pentecost Service in the Pannier Market - short service at 10.00am at Christ Church
June	Saturday 9th Tea in the garden at the Seymours
	Saturday 16th Barnstaple Ladies Choir
	Friday 29th Jubilee Singers concert

Bible Study – The Friday morning Bible Study with Revd Jonathan Richards will begin again after the Christmas break on Friday the 2nd February at 10:30. We look forward to welcoming both new and old friends on Friday mornings.

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 further we travel on our journey of faith the more we become aware that our ways are so often not God's ways. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55 vv 8, 9)

So, as we travel the road to Calvary this Lent, it is a suitable time to remind ourselves of the importance of keeping our hearts and minds fixed on God's way ahead, because it is often tempting to decide on a course of action first and then look for divine confirmation. At the start of WWII someone asked a church leader "Do you believe God is with us in this struggle?" to which he replied "I'm rather more concerned that we should be with God."

The distinction between God being with us and us being with God may be a subtle one, but it has a fundamental effect on the closeness of our relationship with God. "I'm taking God into industry" was the proud boast of one industrial chaplain. "How interesting for him, where will you be taking him next?" came the scathing reply.

Perhaps we need to ask ourselves this Lent whether our relationship with God is one in which we allow him to lead us in our actions and on our journey. Our ways may not be God's ways, but we are encouraged to make his ways ours.

The journey to the Cross of Calvary, both in this season and whenever we come face to face with suffering, is a hard road to follow, but we have the example of Jesus Christ to follow and can do so in the knowledge that God will be with us every step of the way. And of course, even when we do get lost on our journey of faith and life, we can know that God will still be with us, ready to bring us back to his way, the way leading to hope, and new life.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. O.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Prayers for February

Feb 4th

In the cold dark of the morning, or by the light of the stars,
I will set aside a quiet time and find a quiet place
to meet with you today, and each day,
my Lord and my God.
Amen.

Feb 11th

Jesus, God's beloved child,
help me to listen for your voice,
and watch for your blessing,
with faith, obedience and gratitude.
Amen.

Feb 18th

Today,
I rejoice in the times and places that I have experienced your
presence...
I bring to you the sadness that I have experienced today...
I bring to you the joys that I have experienced today...
I offer you this day: be present in me and through me, in what is
sad and what is joyful.
Amen.

Feb 25th

We recognise that we have failed God and our neighbours.
We confess that we have fallen from the life that is
offered to us through the death of Jesus Christ.
We acknowledge that the love of God
is rescuing us from sin and restoring us to grace.
In testing, hardship and suffering, may we be willing
to offer all that we are and all that we have
to be followers in the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.



Lent 2018

Wednesday Feb. 14th - Lent begins with a Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at Bishops Tawton at 7.30pm.

Two Lent groups will meet at Christ Church (meetings in Room 4):

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm starting Thurs. Feb. 15th

Friday mornings at 10.30am starting Fri. Feb. 16th

Both groups will use materials from CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) based on extracts from the book **'40 Stories of Hope'** (see below). The six week course has been prepared by CWR (who produced the resources we used last year). It gives the opportunity to walk with Jesus through Lent, learning from Mark's gospel and from stories of HOPE shared by prisoners, ex-prisoners and chaplains.

Please sign the list in the vestibule so we know roughly how many course booklets will be needed.

More about the book '40 Stories of Hope'.

The organisation **'Prison HOPE'** has gathered these stories from prisoners, prison chaplains and ex-prisoners. They have been published by CWR in an attractive book, together with 40 daily readings and prayers to be used daily through Lent. Copies of the book will be available for anyone to use, whether or not they are able to join a group.

Please sign the list to reserve your copy.

Donations are invited towards the cost of Lent resources, and to support the work of Prison Hope. For more information, see:

www.hopetogether.org.uk

www.prisonhope.org.uk

ALSO: There will be a Thurs. lunch time group meeting at Sticklepath – contact Joan Cole (326348) for details, and the Fourth Monday group at Port Mill Court will continue – contact Tricia Kent (324254)

Rev. Marilyn



Looking ahead to March:

Safeguarding Refresher Course

(for those who have previously completed Foundation Training)

**Thursday March 15th 10.00 – 12.30 at Christ Church
(Room 1)**

If you haven't yet booked in, please contact Rev. Marilyn

Circuit Service – There will be a service for the admission of two new local preachers into our Methodist Circuit on the 25th February at 6:30pm here at Christ Church.

Revd Robert Hurley will lead the service for Mr Guy Byham and Mrs Sylvia Edwards.

All are welcome to this very special service.

Churches Together in Barnstaple – On Christmas Day under the Churches Together in Barnstaple banner, Grosvenor Church laid on a Christmas Day lunch for 130 people who would otherwise have been on their own or homeless.

The day went well with everyone sharing an excellent lunch. There were quizzes, crackers and, most importantly of all. fellowship.

Next Christmas, it is hoped that another venue might be available for the growing numbers of people who value sharing Christmas with others. Venues being considered are Holy Trinity or Christ Church.

On the 18th January Revd. Andy Dodwell who is the vicar at St John's in Newport and St John's in Bishops Tawton was commissioned as Rural Dean for the Barnstaple area.

Sing for your Supper, Friday 9th March 2018

Do come and join others for an evening of joyful singing and good company.

A great opportunity to sing some of our favourite hymns and songs and to learn some new ones ready for Easter.

Supper will be served at 8.15pm for those of you who would like to stay on to complete a happy evening. There will be the usual choice from the Silver Cod menu (fish, pies, sausages, chips etc) or, if preferred, vegetable soup and a roll. Special diets catered for. In order to book your supper in good time, please let Anthea Coates know your choice of food by Tuesday, 6th March (01237 471740). A reminder will be published in the weekly notices.

Should you have a new hymn or song that you would like to introduce to everyone, or you have a particular one that you would like to include in the evening's singing, please let Anthea know (details above).

We look forward to seeing you!

The Worship Group



Christmas at Christ Church 2017

Our Christmas Family Service

The Wise Men's Story
at Café Church



Young Families Work

Happy New Year to everyone and my sincere thanks for your ongoing prayers and support for all the young families connected to Christ Church. Activities during the week continue in their success and development. Our Community Stay and Play group with Action for Children was busier than ever on Wednesday morning. There were 30 toddlers and babies, 24 parents/carers and 8 helpers. Toddler Praise was also well attended and the families are looking forward to the mock church wedding next week. Photos will follow.

We are currently planning for three classes from Yeo Valley School to come to church on Thursday 24th May for 'Experience Pentecost'. We have a new link with Bishops Tawton School, as the children will be performing 'Joseph' on Thursday 19th April at 6:30pm. Posters advertising this will be displayed in February and tickets will be available from Anthea and myself. Pathfield School are looking forward to their Easter Service at our church on Thursday 29th March at 10:30am. You are very welcome to attend this service, as there will also be access to the balcony.

Café Church on Sunday 11th February at 4:30pm will be led by Joan Cole. She has invited some of the Royal Marines who spent time in the Caribbean during the aftermath of the hurricane, helping people to bring order out of chaos. Not to be missed!

Don's Family Service/All Age Worship on 21st January was enjoyed by all. It focused on worship and on the reading 'Footprints in the Sand'. Children from Sunday Club sung and danced around the church with colourful ribbons. Special mention must go to the 3-year old twins, Samuel and Francesca, who sung beautiful solos and also to the siblings, Hunnie and Alex, with their touching rendition of 'Come on and Celebrate'.

Christ Church is a wonderful place to be and a great place to share our worship and fellowship. I recommend Christ Church to everyone, no matter what your age, as it is such a welcoming and spirit-filled place of worship.

Love Jo

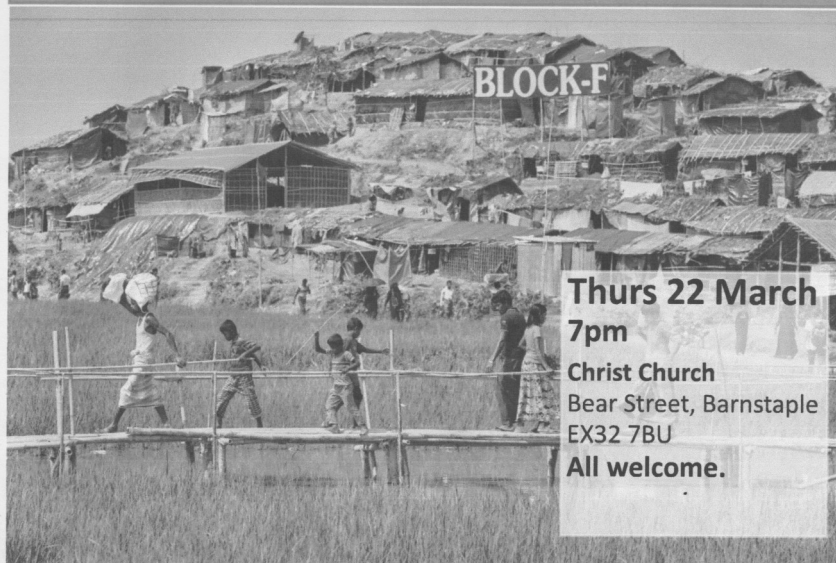


Keep our building safe!

The Property Committee are updating the Fire Risk assessment which means inspecting all our fire exits, routes, stairs and means of escape out of the building. This is timely as we have several concert bookings that might mean that we are at full capacity with over 300 people in the building! To assist with this, and to help keep our building safe, can you all please ensure that nothing is left out in corridors or stairways and that anything that is not needed in the building is removed. Thanks for your cooperation!



From Burma to Haiti—*Far from home*



**Thurs 22 March
7pm**

**Christ Church
Bear Street, Barnstaple
EX32 7BU
All welcome.**

An evening exploring issues around displacement.

Featuring stories for Christian Aid Week from Haiti, and the opportunity to view our new photographic exhibition, 'Uprooted'

A chance to meet other Christian Aid supporters and share tips and successes.

And special guest speaker, Madara Hettiarachchi.

Madara, Christian Aid's Head of Humanitarian Programmes, will share experiences from a recent trip to Bangladesh where Christian Aid is working with the displaced Rohingya people.



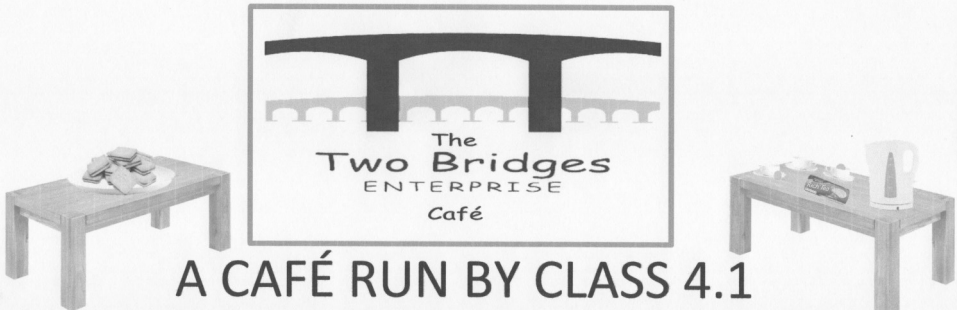
Christian Aid is a registered charity no. 1105851 Company no. 5171525 The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid

Christmas Christian Aid Appeal.

The government has promised to match donations made to the appeal up until early February, therefore our collection of £483.39 will be doubled to £966.78. I believe there may be an increase to the final sum, which will be reported on the notice board.

Thank-you to the church for supporting this collection, which of course included the money donated for Christmas cards. Vera would have been proud!

You will see the notice about a talk on Christian Aid on 22.3.18, which should be very interesting, and so we look forward to seeing you all there.
Ronnie & Carolyn




A CAFÉ RUN BY CLASS 4.1

We have savoury tea (with cheese & chutney), cakes, biscuits and flapjacks handmade by the students of **Class 4.1!**

The café can be found at **Christ Church on Bear Street in Barnstaple**. It's a beautiful place, lovely atmosphere and they are very friendly too!

Come and See Us!
Open Every Thursday during term time
At 10.15_{AM} - 11.15_{AM}



The Two Bridges Cafe is up and running again and along with our other regular customers, it is always lovely to welcome different classes from the school who walk down regularly to visit us.

The poster has been designed by Kye Brown, one of the students from the Pathways Class of Pathfield School.

???

EVENTS

Quiz - Saturday 14th April at 7pm. Put this date in your diary now and look forward to another round of questions from your very own popular Cornish Quizmaster, Mr Dave Stevens. Another night of fun, laughter and oh, some questions to ponder on is promised.

Spring Fair - Saturday 12th May 9am-12.30pm.

Andy

Aivia 100 Cabinet for Public Access Defibrillator

I am pleased to advise that the defibrillator storage cabinet is now fully operational, including the lighting. [When delivered the instructions omitted to say where the battery pack should be connected. Subsequently I had been waiting for information from the suppliers about this.]

I am now organising ordering of a stainless steel cabinet (as advised by South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust). There are two brands suitable – AED Armor and CE-TEK. Pricing will be the key to purchase.

Maureen Thomas Safeguarding Officer
23.01.2018

Please note - previously, after dark, the indicator light flashed with a white light, now the indicator light flashes with a red light. This is normal and is not a warning of a fault.

The Good Samaritan

At our toddler praise each week we have a biblical story with actions. It really is amazing just how much the children learn. Joan who leads the story has a talent for talking to them and when she asks questions, although the age group is new born babies to 4 years old, she always gets the right answer.

This week I met Jack, a young 4 year old who has just started school and who was one of our toddlers, with his sister in her pushchair and his mother. They had just been around town to give each homeless person in the street a bar of chocolate for Christmas.

I am so proud that the people of Christ Church are spreading God's word around and showing everyone his love.

Mary Ruhleman



**Ladies Fellowship
Christmas lunch**


**Father Christmas came
to Sound it Out**



**Broken
Defibrillator?
We have our
best man
on the job!**



**Two Bridges
Café at Christ
Church every
Thursday!
10.15-11.15**





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, 23rd
February 13th, 27th
March 13th, 27th
April 10th, 24th

**Christ Church
Bear Street
Barnstaple**

To find out more, talk to:
Sally Blackmore: scheme_barnstaplechaplain@mha.org.uk
Rebecca Bartlett: liveathome_barnstaple@mha.org.uk
Marilyn Tricker: marker3mj@gmail.com
Telephone: 01271 321574
Main sponsors: The Bridge Trust & Barnstaple Rotary Shop Grant

Thank you for the books and magazines.

A huge thank you to everyone who gave me books and magazines for the patients at North Devon District Hospital. They have been much appreciated and it has really made a difference to the service out volunteers provide. I am happy to take any further donations of books or magazines if people are happy to let me have them. Even one or two will be useful. Just give them to me at church.

Thank you so much.
Alison Cairns.



Tuesday coffee rota



Feb	6th	Joy & Andy	Mar	6th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Feb	13th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia	Mar	13th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
Feb	20th	Tony, Celia & Lorna	Mar	20th	Joy & Andy
Feb	27th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon	Mar	27th	Ena, George & Rose

Money raised over the last couple of months:-

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal £478.39

W.O.R.K. £635.40

(Making the total over 12 months £2612.22)

Children's Hospice £20.00

Go North Devon / North Devon Hospice £121.80

Little John House (Circuit Men's Breakfast) £150.96

(Making the total £)

Amigos £500.00

(Following the success of raising enough money to sponsor a student at Kira farm last year various donations have enabled us to sponsor another student this year. Hopefully we will be able to tell you more next month - all we know at the moment is that the student is female.)









Our family matters





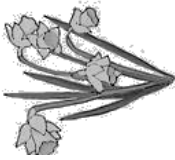


Christ Church Family News

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.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Tina Matthews, who died at Christmas time, and Pam Topham and the family and friends of Derek, who died in January.

SUNDAY ROTAS	4th February	11th February	18th February	25th February
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	George Hopkins	-	-	-
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

SUNDAY ROTAS	4th March	11th March	18th March	25th March
Coffee 	Sally Blackmore	Diana Snell	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers 	Jennifer Scott	-	-	Mary & John Ruhleman
Projector 	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Ronnie Wilson	
Serving Communion 	Liz Seymour Kathy Jeacock Rosemary Cole Jenny Newman			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Liz Seymour Alison Cairns	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates

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 all adults.
- * the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- * the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
(Methodist Safeguarding Guidelines, online: www.methodist.org.uk)

Sunday Offertory for November & December 2017

		Cash	Envelopes
Nov	5th	£	£
	12th	£	£
	19th	£	£
	26th	£	£
Dec	3rd	£	£
	10th	£	£
	17th	£	£
	24th	£	£
	31st	£	£

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

Telephone Directory (01271)

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

Editors:

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



The Nativity Trail started from our church including the donkey! Lots of families took part in town, finding the nativity characters & coming back for refreshments.

