

♦ Prayers for March  
-see page 4

# The Messenger


March 2018

**Christ Church**

Methodist United Reformed

**Barnstaple**

[www. http://christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](http://christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)

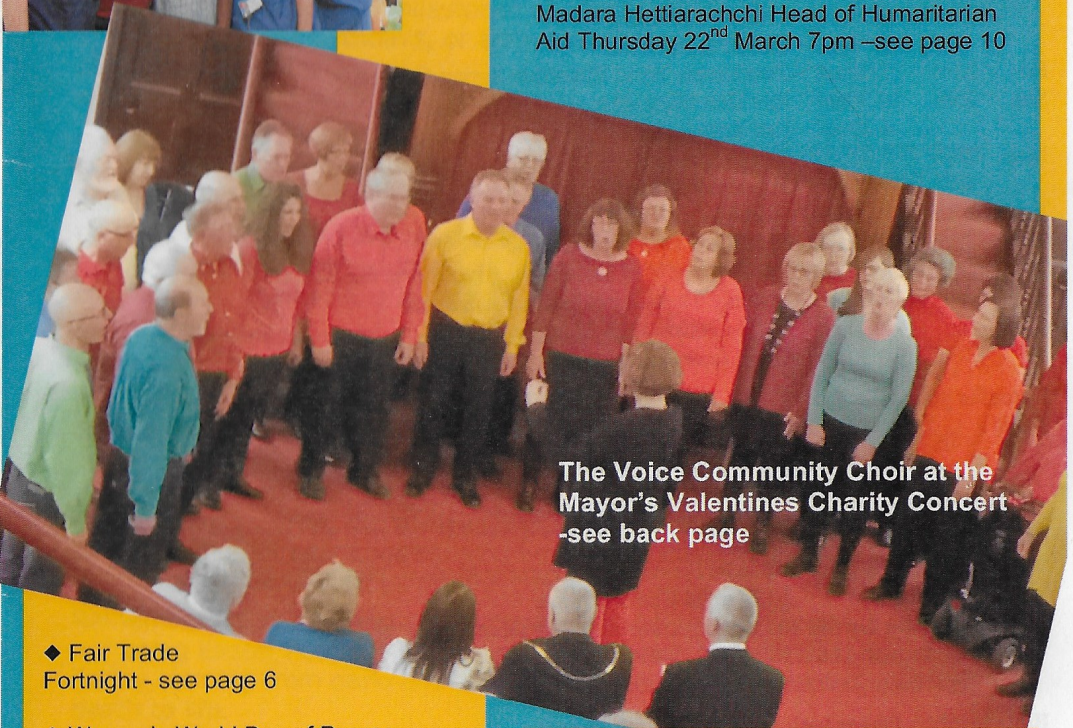


Café Church Feb  
- see page 9



Read about Rachel's  
experiences in the Cameroon  
on Mercy Ships- -see page 12

♦ **Christian Aid** speaker coming  
Madara Hettiarachchi Head of Humanitarian  
Aid Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7pm -see page 10



**The Voice Community Choir at the  
Mayor's Valentines Charity Concert**  
-see back page

♦ Fair Trade  
Fortnight - see page 6

♦ Women's World Day of Prayer  
- see page 11

♦ News from WORK project in Kenya -  
- see page 12

♦ Easter resources and services  
- see page 5

## Calendar

### March 2018

Thur	1st	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- St David's Day, Sylvia Jones
Sun	4th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	<b>Rejoice!</b>	
Thur	8th	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev John Robinson
Fri	9th	7.00pm	Sing for your supper	
Sat	10th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Graham Murch
Sun	11th	10.30am	S Kendall	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	12th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- speaker Sarah Harper, Clovelly Soap
Tues	13th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Wed	14th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday service at Bishops Tawton	
Thur	15th	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		10.00am	- 12.30pm Safeguarding course	- see page 7
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mrs Sylvia Edwards
		7.30pm	Lent Bible Study starts	
Fri	16th		<b>Last day for items for the April Messenger</b>	
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister Family Service	
		6.30pm	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
Thur	22nd	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Verity Phillips
		7.00pm	Christian Aid Talk	- see page 10
Fri	23rd	7.30pm	Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Spring Concert	
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	
Mon	26th	2.30pm	Fourth Monday House Group at Port Mill Court - Lent Course see page 7	
		7.30pm	Friendship Group	- speaker Giles Miller, Conservation of Pieces
Tues	27th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	29th	10.00am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café -	
			<i>Please check before you go as this is the last day of term</i>	
		7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship- Maundy Thursday Communion, Rev Don Macalister	
Fri	30th	10.30am	Good Friday Service	

Dates for your diary:-

April	Thursday 12th Holiday Club
	Saturday 14th Church Quiz
	Thursday 19th Bishop's Tawton School - Joseph
	Friday 27th Barnstaple Concert 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 – Please look at the details on page 7

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,

Numbers are surprisingly important in the Bible.

Jonah was in the fish for three days, Mary and Joseph found the young Jesus in the Temple after three days searching, Paul was blind for three days and of course Jesus rose on the third day.

In the stories of creation in Genesis God makes the world in six days and on the seventh day rests. In the story of the flood it rained for forty days, it was another forty days before Noah sent out the raven. Moses was on the mountain for forty days, after his baptism Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days and he appeared to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection.

In the church year there are forty days of the seasons of both Advent and Lent, the season we are now in. Forty days to prepare ourselves to remember and celebrate the good news of Easter day.

Numbers are important in the Bible and in the church year, and they can be important to us in the rest of life too. One, four, eleven, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-five, forty, fifty, sixty, sixty five, seventy, one hundred, one hundred and eighty . . . sorry, I went into darts mode for the last one! All the rest are milestones of events over years in our lives. They may be important birthdays, or anniversaries, or ages at which we gain certain legal rights.

Numbers, or what they represent, are important.

So here we are sitting within the forty days of Lent, what relevance does that have for us in the business of everyday life? As we live through the coming weeks with the regular tasks and the unexpected crowding in, perhaps the last thing we need is the church reminding us to spend this time preparing ourselves spiritually so that we will understand more deeply the meaning of what it is Jesus did for us.

And yet if we can, somehow, make some time to remember and reflect on the journey that Jesus made from his baptism to his death on a cross I'm sure God will bless us.

Bless us as we see in our minds and feel in our hearts Jesus struggling against temptation, being afraid but continuing on against rejection by religious leaders, even by his own friends. Bless us as we remember the wisdom of his words, the compassion of his actions, his acceptance and love of those who not only considered themselves unworthy but who were considered unworthy by all around them.

Remembering all that and much more will shed an even brighter light on our being Easter People, living on the Good News side of the Cross of Good Friday, coming from darkness to light, from hopelessness to hope, from death to life.

May you know God's presence with you and his blessings upon you as you continue your journey through Lent.

Grace and peace

## Prayers for March

**4<sup>th</sup> March** - Loving God, sweep into our lives and brush up the mess we make. Show us how to clean up our act and clear out the things that hold us back. Help us to declutter and be content with less. Polish away the dust that prevents us from enjoying what we have; and, above all, keep us true to you. Amen.

**11<sup>th</sup> March** - God our Creator, forgive us when we turn away from you to complain that things are not going our way, when we expect to be the centre of the universe. God our Saviour, forgive us when we turn away from you, to complain that you ask too much of us, expecting us to put you before our comfort and safety. God our Disturber, forgive us when we turn away from you, to complain that the task is too great, expecting others to do the work of mission. Draw us near to you, forgive us, restore us, empower us. Amen.

**18<sup>th</sup> March** - God of awe and wonder, as your Son turned his face towards Jerusalem, and prepared himself for trials and agony, crucifixion and death, help us in this season of Lent, to turn our hearts towards you, that we may become part of his story of change and transformation, forever mindful of his sacrifice, forever grateful for your love. Amen.

**25<sup>th</sup> March** - Lord Jesus, the people of Jerusalem went out with palms to meet you, may I meet you now with prayers and praise.  
Blessed are you, for you come in God's name!  
Blessed are you, for you inspire the deepest joy within me!  
Blessed are you, for all creation sings your praise!  
With the children who praised you on Palm Sunday, with all who cried 'Hosanna', with the crowds who welcomed you and with those who danced beside you, I offer you my joyful praise! Amen.

### Sing for your Supper, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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

### Message from Sylvia

Contacting everyone personally is rather difficult, but thanks to our wonderful church "Messenger", I have this opportunity to say a sincere "Thank You" for all your telephone calls, visits, cards, flowers, and above all your prayers, at this difficult time. As many of you know, being confined to home, not being able to come to church, is not easy for me!!!

Your love, support and prayers are so much appreciated.

Thank you.

Love and good wishes,

Sylvia

**For Easter** - The book: **'Who Do You Say I Am?'** takes readers on a journey of discovery using words and pictures which help to explain who Jesus is, why he died and what the resurrection can mean for people today.



Who do you say I am?

It is suggested that people buy 1 or more copies of this book at a cost of £1.10 each. Copies can then be given to relatives, friends and neighbours, encouraging those who are known to us to ask questions about our faith.

Two or three copies of the book are available in the vestibule for you to look at before making your decision to buy.

Then please complete the form with your name and the number of copies that you require by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March in order to receive your book/s before Easter. You will be charged for the book/s when you receive them - Thank you.  
- Shirley Baxter

### Churches Together in Barnstaple (CTB)

On Good Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, the usual CTB Walk of witness from Newport, Sticklepath, Pilton and Christ Church will take place to gather in the High Street where at 12, midday, we will observe 20 minutes of silence followed by a hymn.

People are needed to act as stewards for this event, if you feel that this is something you could do, please let Shirley Baxter know.

On Easter Sunday morning at **6:30am** there will be a Communion Service on top of Codden Hill at Bishops Tawton. That service will be followed by a bring and share breakfast.



## **Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> March**

This year, to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, the Fairtrade Foundation is asking everyone to 'come on in' to Fairtrade, to stand with and support the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries – and to help close the door on exploitation. With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world every day. Fairtrade opens doors. So...

### **COME ON IN**

And join with other campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship to show our support.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year aims to put a spotlight on trade. When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. Together we have that power, so we need to get involved and be part of the difference.

There are still millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love who don't earn enough to feed their own families. They are now coming together to demand a change. They are working hard to close the door on exploitation and they are beginning to transform their communities, supported by Fairtrade. They are beginning 'to see the face of happiness'.

**We are a Fairtrade Church** and we all know now as individuals what to do to be of some help to make this world of difference and to turn people's lives around. But just to remind and update us...

Buying Fairtrade is easy. There are now over 4,500 Fairtrade products which include our everyday purchases: coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate, bananas and flowers all available in our supermarkets, but also nuts, dried fruit, cosmetics, footballs, olive oil, fruit drinks, now more recently gold – and so much more. So when we shop, we need to look for the FAIRTRADE Mark – and also ASK! And if we don't find what we are looking for we can always go up to Fair's Fair at 17 Bear Street – an Aladdin's Cave – where Helen Durrant stocks a great variety of foodstuffs, crafts and clothes or knows where to get them! Why not visit there to look, to buy and to try something new? We can help to close the door on exploitation.

The power is in our hands!

### **So what else are we doing at Christ Church this Fairtrade Fortnight?**

**A Fairtrade Stall** at Christ Church after morning service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February with a range of products from Fair's Fair (which will already have happened by the time some of you have read this!).

**A small display** in the vestibule where you will be able to sample some of the sweets and chocolate.

**Singing for your Supper** on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at which there will be some Fairtrade cookies, chocolate and fruit - apart from the usual Fairtrade tea and coffee - as part of the refreshments.

And finally –

**A Big Breakfast** at Fair's Fair, up the road at 17 Bear Street between 8.00am and 10.30am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to which we are all invited and at which we are assured an absolute feast!

The Fairtrade Foundation has an excellent website full of information where we can find out so much more, bring ourselves up to date with Fairtrade issues, obtain resources and join in their campaigns.



## Events

We look forward to seeing you all at our popular Annual Church Quiz on Saturday 14th April. Put the date in your diary now.

Looking further in the future, please remember the Spring Fair on Saturday 12th May. For those of you putting in seeds, or potting up plants, please consider putting a few aside for the fair. Liz Seymour is also asking you to plan in advance and think about unwanted gifts that are suitable to go on the Gift Stall.

Thank you.  
Andy Morley, Events Secretary.



### **Safeguarding Refresher Course:**

Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 12.30pm in Room 1.  
(A reminder of date and time to those booked in)  
Any queries to Rev. Marilyn.

### **Lent Course: 40 Stories of Hope**

Groups continue during March (new members are still welcome!)

Thursday evenings 7.00pm in Room 4 (note the earlier time)  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – then the final meeting on  
FRIDAY March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Manse.

Friday mornings 10.30am in Room 4  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday afternoons at Port Mill Court (details from Tricia Kent 324254)  
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Plus the Thursday lunchtime group meeting at Sticklepath,  
following a different course  
(details from Deacon Joan 326348).



Café Church:

**The Hurricane in Jamaica**  
 'I can do all things through God, and  
 so I am strengthened'



**Toddlers Praise** role  
 play wedding, hearing  
 about the story of the  
 wedding at Cana and  
 learning about  
 weddings



Pancake  
 making



## Young Families Work

Café Church was great fun in February, even though the Royal Marines were unable to come on this occasion. The craft and activities were themed on 'The Hurricane in Jamaica' and Joan told the story of Gideon from the book of Judges – believing and doing - 'I can do all things through God, and so I am strengthened'.

In Toddler Praise, Joan adapted the story of 'The Stone Soup' to be themed on pancake making with a moral at the end – brilliant! The children whisked-up the ingredients for making pancakes and Jo cooked them. They tasted delicious, according to the children! Our next Toddler Praise will focus on 'God's Amazing Love'.

The next X-site event will be at St. John's Church in Newport, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The theme is 'Our Forever Friend' and we are hoping for 50 children aged 6-11 years old, 10 teenager-helpers and 20 adult-helpers from our churches and schools in the Barnstaple area. The children will enjoy large and small scale crafts, memorising a bible verse, creative prayer, the electric band on stage and of course the 'drainpipe of doom'! The memory verse will be 1 John 4:10 – "True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins". We are hoping that the following X-site event will be held at Christ Church in May.

We are also looking forward to our next Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds, which will also involve teenagers as Young Leaders. This will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 12:30pm. If you would like to help at Holiday Club, or if you know families with children who may like to come to this, please see one of the team – Don, Anthea, Maureen, Gill, Marilyn, Louise, Guy, Mary, Sylvia, Pam, Joan, Shirley, Chris, Joy, Mike, Sandy or myself.

Anthea and I will be helping at the Easter Experience for Fremington School on 20<sup>th</sup> March, as it is the first time that St. Peter's Church has organised this. Pentecost Experience will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May for ninety children from Yeo Valley School. The children and teaching staff will be coming in groups of thirty throughout the day.

Pathfield School will have their Easter Service at Christ Church on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Maundy Thursday) at 10:30am. You are welcome to attend this. Bishops Tawton Primary School will be performing 'Joseph' at Christ Church on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm. Tickets are available from Anthea and Jo at £5 for adults and £2 for children. All proceeds to Bishops Tawton School, North Devon Hospice and Go North Devon.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I am excited about so much that is going on in our wonderful church.

Love Jo



# 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christ Church  
Bear Street  
Barnstaple



To find out more, talk to:  
Sally Blackmore: [scheme.barnstaplechaplain@mha.org.uk](mailto:scheme.barnstaplechaplain@mha.org.uk)  
Rebecca Bartlett: [liveathome.barnstaple@mha.org.uk](mailto:liveathome.barnstaple@mha.org.uk)  
Marilyn Tricker: [marke3mj@gmail.com](mailto:marke3mj@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01271 321574  
Main sponsors: The Bridge Trust & Barnstaple Rotary Shop Grant





## Tuesday coffee rota



Mar	6th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Mar	13th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia
Mar	20th	Joy & Andy
Mar	27th	Ena, George & Rose

Apr	3rd	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Apr	10th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon
Apr	17th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Apr	24th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia

christian  
aid

**Thursday 22nd March 7pm**  
**Christ Church Bear Street, Barnstaple EX32 7BU**  
**All welcome**

**From Burma to Haiti—Far from home**

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.



## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

**FRIDAY, 2nd MARCH 2018 AT 2.00PM**

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, STICKLEPATH**

**Theme: "ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD"**

**ALL VERY WELCOME, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

This year's service has been written by the Christian women of Suriname, which is a beautiful country. It boasts wonderful forests and mountains with great rivers and impressive rapids. In this service the women of Suriname urge us to cherish God's exquisite gift of Creation and to commit ourselves to caring for God's world responsibly, so that we may pass it on, unspoilt, for future generations. Please come to this inspirational service, and become part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, starting as the sun rises over Samoa and ending some 24 hours later as the sun sets over American Samoa. Some 6,000 services will be taking place in the British Isles. The service lasts for an hour and refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Dot Jones



*With apologies to Anne, who sent this in for last month:-*

### Greetings Cards

A **big thank you** to all who purchased my cards at Christmas and through the year. Cards will be available at Hobnob on Fridays with Faith, otherwise please see me. Easter Cards are now available. All proceeds go to church funds.

Thanks again, Anne.



# From overseas - An update from Rachel:-

## Return to Cameroon

February 2018

After a great 2 weeks at home over New Year, back to very full on life back on the AFM! My life currently revolves around reviewing many applicants for the next country Guinea. Now we are half way through Cameroon, we are already talking about the big hospital pack-up, making summer plans and the work that needs to be done in the shipyard. When I got back to the ship, there was a big intake of new nurses who started in January. It does take a while to get to know everyone, but they have settled in and are finding their feet well now. Despite the busyness at this time of year, in preparing to finish Cameroon and preparing ahead for Guinea, my day of working on the wards is always a great pleasure to me. It always reminds me what I am doing here. We really have a wonderful team, and excellent nurses.



Yesterday we had the Minister of Health on-board. He arrived with a large group, and I had to identify patients to show him and ones that he could interact with. These visits can be a bit stressful! But this one went really well, and they were all very engaging, and interested.

Well, hope that there are some signs of spring at home. I really miss that season.

Miss you all as always. More next time.

Thank you all, for the many ways in which you support me and enable me to be here.

Love Rachel

## An introduction to Prossy:-



Amigos

We at Christ Church are very happy to announce that, following on the successful sponsorship of Ronald Oweru last year at Kira Farm, we have found ourselves able to sponsor another trainee for a year. This is thanks to the kindness and generosity of some of the church groups as well as other donations. The following profile tells us about the young woman who has been given this opportunity.

She has already written two letters full of excitement and gratitude, is in the process of learning conservational farming skills and has learnt how to use a sewing machine. She says:

*'To me being on Kira is like an open door to big dreams and a better life, I am more than willing to fully utilize this opportunity you have blessed me with'.*

**Name:** Prossy Nakabira

**Age:** 17

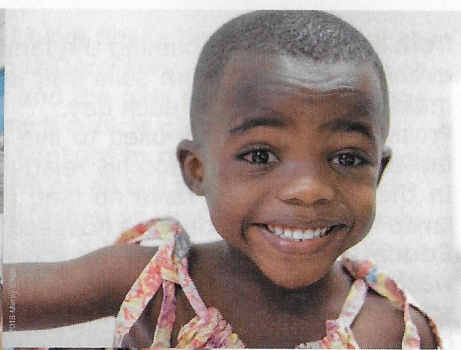
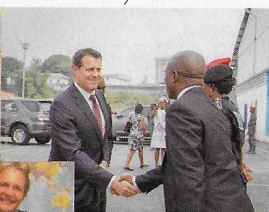
**Gender:** Female

**District:** Wakiso

**Education level:** Senior 4 (Year 10)

**Family:** Prossy lives with her mother and her big sister, who is a single mum and has two children to take care of. Prossy's sister sells secondhand clothes

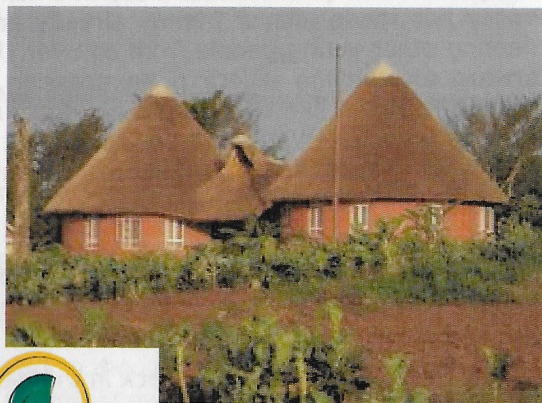




Even on the busiest days, sometimes I get to lie down!! Being able to give blood and know which patient has received it, because they are on your ward, is pretty unique.



< This was my proud moment of the month ! This was the best cabin award, for the tidiest cabin!! The hilarious thing was that I was actually at home at the time, so it hardly even looked lived in. I won't be winning that one again now I'm back!



from a small shop, enabling the family to rent a small two-room house. In the evenings Prossy's mum sells fruit and roasted maize at the side of the road, making around £1.50 each day.

Prossy and her family used to live in the west of Uganda but when Prossy's father died ten years ago his relatives threw the bereaved family off the land. In the west women have no land rights so if a woman is widowed the land lawfully belongs to the late husband's family.

**Education:** Growing up Prossy dreamt of becoming a nurse, however she wasn't able to complete her education because her sister couldn't afford the school fees once she had children of her own. Prossy says the best thing in her life was completing Year 10 and she firmly believes studying is the most valuable thing a person can do. As a child she found it very difficult when she was sent home from school because she hadn't been able to pay the fees (it's common for children in Uganda to drop in and out of school depending on funds available at home).

**Daily life:** At 6.00am Prossy wakes, cleans the compound and makes a cup of tea for all the family. She spends the morning washing the family's clothes and then prepares lunch. In the afternoon Prossy irons all of the clothes and has a rest before she prepares the evening meal. Other daily tasks involve purchasing water and charcoal and carrying it home. She tends to go to bed around 10.00pm. Prossy has never earned any money of her own, she has to ask her sister for anything she needs. For fun Prossy likes to play netball with her friends in the neighbourhood.

**Joining Kira Farm Development Centre:** Although Prossy's family will miss having her at home, they are delighted she was selected for this golden opportunity of gaining vocational skills. Prossy has settled into life quickly at Kira Farm and is appreciating the good food - and the frequency of it - three meals a day is a novelty! She says she is enjoying the comfortable beds and lovely bedrooms (the trainees sleep in small rooms in triple bunkbeds).

Prossy has made lots of friends already and is relishing the opportunity of meeting other young people from all over Uganda. She is particularly looking forward to studying tailoring, hairdressing, computers and farming. In the future she would like to set up a hairdressing and tailoring business and has plans to launch her tailoring enterprise out of her sister's clothes shop. One day, when she is financially secure, Prossy would like to get married and have two children.

***And three excerpts form the first two emails from  
Richard in Kenya:-***

.....I have had my first day back in the lab and enjoyed every minute of it. It felt really good to be demonstrating, explaining and then getting the students to do their own experiments. They are so keen to learn and understand, and so appreciative of help. Sadly I shall have to wait to show films to them as my little loudspeakers are not loud enough and the school equipment has broken irretrievably. I need to get to Webuye to try and buy a bigger system. However I am very happy teaching and things are gradually falling into place.....

.....My first full week has been eventful. I have finally been able to visit the new dormitory named after my mother – Doris Dormitory - and, compared to the older dormitories, it is airy and spacious and the girls really like it. At the moment there are 8 double decker beds in each cubicle giving them easy access. The walls are yellow and reflect the sunlight to make the whole place bright and welcoming. There are security bars on all the windows, but each cubicle has two opening windows with bars attached so that in an emergency the girls can escape through the windows, I was a bit disappointed with the ablution area. Because of the water shortage there can be no supply of water to taps or showers. What was to have been flush toilet cubicles has been converted into little wash rooms so that the girls have privacy. So now there are about a dozen washing cubicles and a set of sinks in the middle with taps which cannot function yet. The main thing is that the girls are very happy with the arrangement. A photograph and dedication to my mother was hung up on an archway at the centre of the dormitory.....

.....The shortage of water continues to be a problem. The pipeline from Mt Elgon does not bring in enough water during the night for our needs. A tractor and trailer bring in a load of containers full of water every day so that the girls can fill their bowls and containers from the trailer parked in front of the dining hall. It is a very time consuming process and a very noisy one. There is always a very colourful array of plastic around the trailer waiting for water. I visited the Primary school across the road and met the new headmaster, Mr Lupao. He has really made changes and improved the school and I was most impressed. I came to an agreement with him that money from Christ Church Barnstaple would pay for 20 new desks in each of the new classrooms. The rooms are intended for the youngest children so 3 of them can be accommodated on each desk. I just hope they can be finished in time for me to get photographs before I leave.....

..... Best wishes, Richard.





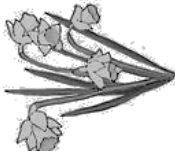


## **Our family matters**

### **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 Zoe Hudson and Nan Hart, both of whom died in February.

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



SUNDAY ROTAS	1st April	8th April	15th April	22nd April	29th April
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens	Sally Blackmore
Flowers 	Pauline Dawson	The Seymours	Pauline Dawson	Elaine & Brian Stevens	Andy & Joy Morley
Projector 	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Alison Cairns		
Serving Communion 	Elaine Stevens Ronnie Wilson Tricia Kent Norman Tucker				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Elaine Stevens Sylvia Jones	Ian Allen Alison Cairns	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter	Liz Seymour Eff Poole	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates

## Weekly Meetings

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

#### Sunday Offertory for January 2018

		<b>Cash</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>
<b>Jan</b>	7th	£	£
	14th	£	£
	21st	£	£
	28th	£	£

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Currently this offertory is £1765.80 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:

David Wilson

374020

david.devon@mac.com

Kathy Jeacock

373555

kjeacock@hotmail.com

Website

[www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](http://www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)

Circuit website

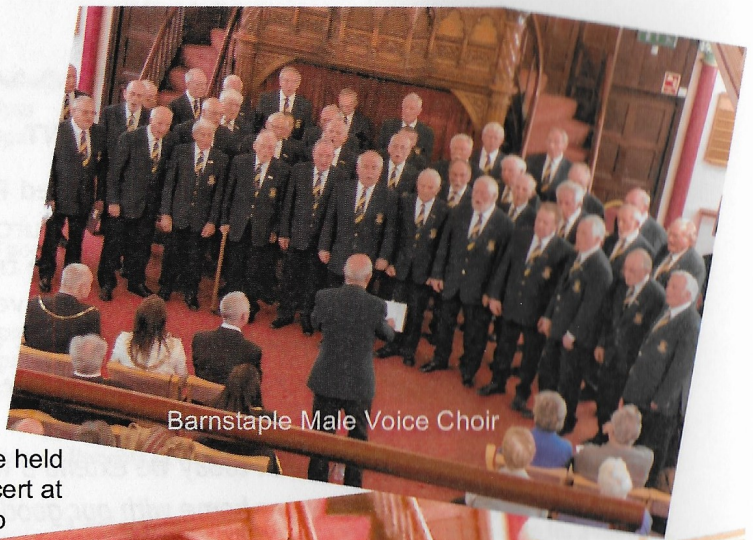
[www.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk](http://www.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk)

Email contact to site

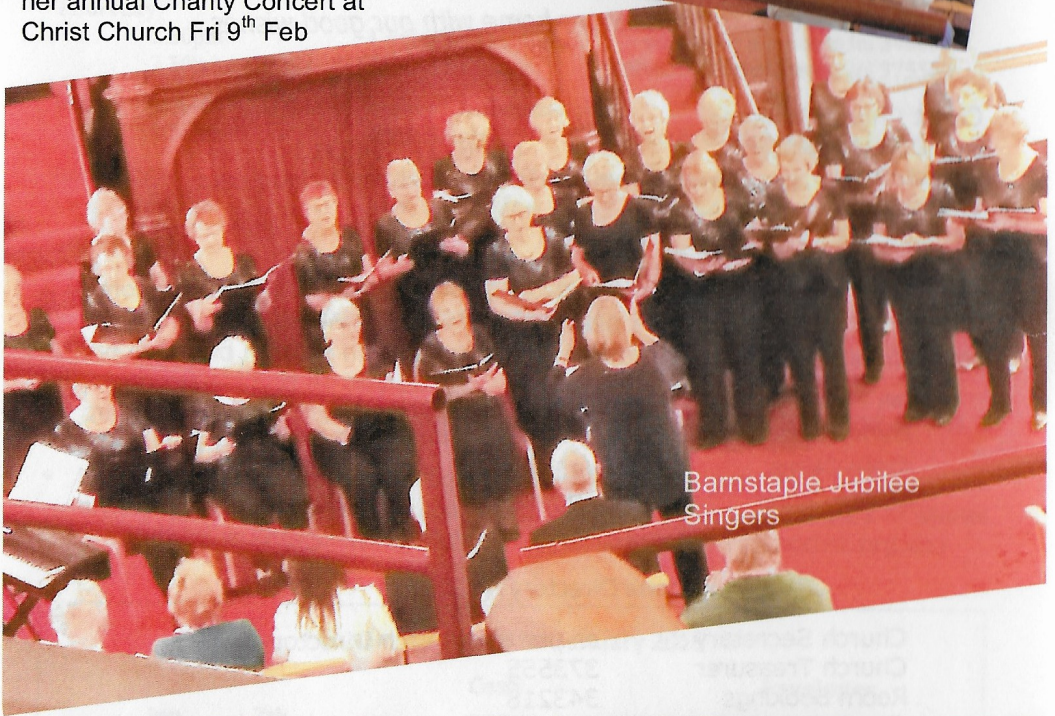
[webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)



The Mayor of Barnstaple held  
her annual Charity Concert at  
Christ Church Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb



Barnstaple Male Voice Choir



Barnstaple Jubilee  
Singers



Two Bridges Café  
at Christ Church Thursdays 10am-11.30

