



The Messenger

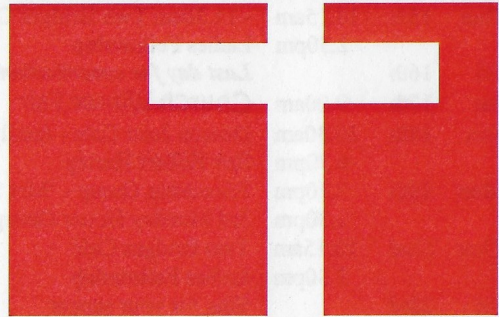
November 2018

Christ Church

Methodist / United Reformed Church

Barnstaple

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



Our Remembrance Day Service: November 11th 10.30am

On this day of remembrance ,
come and be still before God,

As poppies sway in the breeze
of the fields of Flanders,

Scattering seeds in the soil,
so may we, wearing our
poppies of remembrance,
be scatterers of hope,
compassion,
and peace

Amen



Calendar

November 2018

Thur	1st	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mrs Rene Chitty
Sun	4th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		1.00pm	AGM & church meeting preceded by a bring and share lunch	
		6.30pm	Rejoice!	
Mon	5th	6.00pm	for 6.30pm Elders' meal	
Thur	8th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - collection of Shoe Boxes, everyone welcome	
Sat	10th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Peter Edwards
Sun	11th		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Rev Sue Macbeth	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Tues	13th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	15th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- members music afternoon
Fri	16th		<i>Last day for contributions to the December/January Messenger</i>	
Sat	17th	9.00am	Church Winter Fair	
Sun	18th	10.30am	Deacon Joan Cole - family service	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	Communion
Mon	19th	7.30pm	Friendship Group - 'Mrs Smudgers Kitchen'	
		2.30pm	3rd Monday House Group at Saw Mill Court	- see page 7
Thur	22nd	10.15am	Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- Stowford Meadow Singers
Fri	23rd		Sing for your supper	
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Richard Martin	
Mon	26th	12.30pm	Friendship Group - Pre - Christmas Lunch at The Williams Arms.	
Tues	27th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	29th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship - Planning for Carol Service (bring & buy)	
Fri	30th		Special St Andrew's Day Hobnob. Come along and sample some delicious Scottish recipes and help support our church project - Go North Devon & North Devon Hospice	

Bible Study - there are four Bible study groups, two in Christ Church Barnstaple on Thursday evening and Friday morning, one in Sticklepath on Thursday lunchtime and one on Monday afternoon. Currently Reg & Muriel in Saw Mill Court are hosting the Monday afternoon Port Mill Court group, which meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm. A date for the Thursday evening group to resume has not yet been finalised. If you need further details for the Thursday or Friday Groups get in touch with Joan Cole for Sticklepath, Marilyn Tricker or Don for Thursday at Christ Church, Shirley Baxter for Friday and Sue Macbeth for the Monday Group.

Dates for your Diary

December	Sat 1st Frances Bell Concert
	Thurs 6th Ladies Fellowship/Townswomens Guild Carol Service
	Thurs 13th Carol Singing in the Town
	Light up a Life Service
	Fri 14th Macmillan Concert
	Sat 15th Nativity Trail

Message

Dear Friends,

When I was a child in the 1960s my parents were members of St George's Presbyterian Church in Southend-on-sea. It was a congregation largely made up of Scots living in that part of Essex as St George's was the closest thing they could find to the Church of Scotland many had grown up in.

So it was that my family, my wife's family and many others with family roots in the cities and hills of Scotland, came to worship at what would later become St George's United Reformed Church. And so it was too that I came to know an elegant gentleman I only ever knew or addressed as "Mr Murray".

Mr Murray must have been in his seventies when I first met him but even at a young age there were things about him that impressed me and that I remember clearly to this day.

The first thing I remember is that he was tall, upright and always extremely smart. With a beautifully pressed suit, stiff white collar and tie and smart black shoes that were polished to perfection and in the winter a smart dark grey wool coat.

The second thing I remember is that he was extremely kind and caring. He would speak to everyone as an equal, including me as a child. I don't remember what profession Mr Murray had before he retired. In a church full of business people, accountants, civil servants and lawyers I have a feeling he may have been a bank manager but whatever it was he had no airs and graces and was genuinely interested in and cared for everyone.

The third thing I remember are some of the conversations my father would have as my mother, sister and I sat in the back of the car, Mr Murray in the front passenger seat as my father drove him home after church.

I'm sure Mr Murray told us lots about his life, his work, his family, but it is the description he gave of serving in a Highland Regiment in the First World War that still stays in my mind.

I must have been about ten years old at the time so this would have been around fifty years after the end of the First World War and now, fifty years later, we come to the centenary of the end of that war and I still remember Mr Murray and his description of living and fighting in a mud caked kilt full of fleas. Actually, Mr Murray said very little about the fighting, just living and surviving were hard enough without spelling out the full horror.

There is no one now alive who fought in the First World War so, although some may feel a hundred years is enough and its now time to stop

remembering and move on, I am glad and grateful to remember Mr Murray and the friends who served with him.

I do not know what regiment Mr Murray was in nor what rank he held but I do have a tiny inkling of the horrors he faced in the honest belief that he was doing his duty and fighting for a better world.

The miracle for me is that he and so many others came through that horror not only with their humanity intact but determined to make a better world. Which in Mr Murray's case meant playing his part in building the Kingdom of God.

As we pause to remember the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War we know, as Mr Murray knew all too well 50 years ago, that the peace it brought didn't last. We can also know that God calls each and every one of us to keep on trying, playing our own part in working to build God's Kingdom.

May we never forget.

Prayers for November

4th November

Loving God, help me draw closer to your word,
that I may draw closer to others.

Help me listen to your promptings in my heart,
that I may serve others.

Help me build a rhythm of prayer,
that I may uphold others.

And help me to live out my days, and set my words to the music of your
love and grace,
that I might inspire others – in Jesus' name. Amen.

11th November

On this day of remembrance, come and be still before God.

As poppies sway in the breeze in the fields of Flanders,
scattering seeds in the soil, so may we, wearing our poppies of remem-
brance, be scatterers of hope, compassion and peace. Amen.

18th November

God of all the world, when I get overwhelmed by the enormity of suffering –
strengthen me;

when I lose faith in your love for the world – forgive me;

when I struggle to believe that your hands hold me – reassure me; when I
collude with the negativity of the world – uplift me;

that I may be a voice for peace and bringer of hope to those who are afraid. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

25th November

Lord Jesus, you appeared powerless before Pilate, and yet in you is all power and all truth. Help me to discern your truth in my own life, and in the life of the world, that I may be confident, compassionate and committed to the causes of justice and peace. In your name, I pray. Amen.

This poem was written into my Grandmother's 'Forget-me-not'/'Memory Album' on the 11th November, 1918, it was probably copied from a daily newspaper.

As this year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War, I thought that you would all like to see it .

Love and blessings – Shirley B.

Deliverance 11th November, 1918.

*At last, the end! Forth to the city street
The thronging people make their eager way,
Wild cheering and the sound of eager feet
Dispel the gloom this grey November day.*

*Yet once again, from out the bitter strife
See freedom's banner proudly raised on high,
For whose dear sake our noblest gave their life,
Passing in glory, as the brave should die!*

*England, - forget not, as the years unfold,
The warrior sons who yielded all for thee!
Write high the record as with pen of gold:
"These died that we for all time might be free."*

Churches Together in Barnstaple –

Carol Singing

This year, Churches Together in Barnstaple have been invited to join with Harmony Choir under the leadership of Garry Reed to sing carols in Green Lanes on Thursday evening the 13th December when there is late night shopping.

There are three rehearsal dates and they are all on Mondays -

They are the 5th and 19th November and the 3rd of December all taking place at the Salvation Army Hall in Oakleigh Road between 7:15 and 8:15pm .

If you would like to be involved you will need to attend at least two of the rehearsal dates.

So that we are aware of numbers please contact Shirley Baxter on 01271-375560 or shirleybaxter@gmx.co.uk.

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you there – Every blessing Shirley.

Christmas Day Lunch

Once again on the 25th December, Grosvenor will be hosting, under the banner of Churches Together in Barnstaple, a Community Christmas Day Lunch.

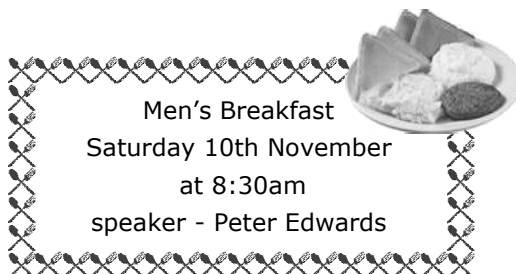
Members of churches across Barnstaple will be serving a free traditional Christmas dinner to anyone within our community or church who for whatever reason, may find themselves alone or without the company of loved ones.

Grosvenor church will be open from 12noon to 3:00pm with lunch served at 12:30pm.

There will be friendly conversations, a quiz and other entertainment. Transport will be available for those who need it.

All will be very welcome. If you would like to be involved in this special event or would like to know more please contact Shirley Baxter 01271-375560.

An advert for this event will be in the December issue of the Messenger



Third Monday Bible Study at Port Mill Court

Meeting on **Monday 19th November at 2.30pm** at the home of Reg and Muriel and looking at an Advent theme: coming to God.

We take on board the saying: it is better to light a small candle than to complain about the darkness. So look for places of light in preparation for Advent. We shall look at the life of an anonymous woman from the ancestry of Jesus found in Matthew 1:1-18, the wife of Uriah. We shall also touch on two other rarely mentioned women and see what they can tell us of the Good News for today, Ruth and Esther.

In preparation we shall read Matthew 11:2-11, 2 Samuel 11:1-21,26, Esther 5:1-8 and possibly excerpts from the book of Ruth.

Loosely based on David Adam's book Candles in the Dark and Thom Shuman's The Jesse Tree.

Rev Sue Macbeth

St Andrew's Day HOBNOB

Come and enjoy an extra special treat on Friday 30th November. At the usual Hobnob we are celebrating St Andrew's Day with a selection of delicious Scottish Baking. The money raised will be shared equally between North Devon Hospice and Go North Devon, two local charities which Christ Church are supporting this year.

Jennifer Allen



Harvest Gifts

Our harvest gifts once again this year went to local outlets.

Together with Sticklepath, who regularly donate to the box in the vestibule, we were able to give 194.85 Kgs. of varied items to the Foodbank.

I was intrigued and had to ask - and yes, they keep track of all donations by weight. So thank you to those who give all year on a regular weekly basis and thanks to those who made a special effort for harvest, it is appreciated.

KJ

The second rains have come

More excerpts from another happy update from Prossy on Kira Farm....

I always look forward to the opportunity of updating you with joy...

I have been so glad to hear about your harvest festival. I think that is so great to thank God for what comes out of our gardens. I never knew that it was important not until I got on Kira Farm where I have been taught to thank God even in farming.

Glad to know that your weather is back to normal. We are happily receiving the second rains on Kira and everyone is busy planting their second crop. I have planted maize and beans and I have done crop rotation so I know my garden will do so well...

I am counting almost two months to come to the end of my training but I know I am greatly ready for the life after Kira.

About the trees to plant in my community, I am planning on promoting fruit trees because they will provide fruits to the community but also most of them produce flowers which would be very good for bees.

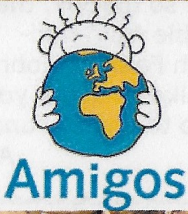
Please know that you are greatly loved and it is always a joy and a blessing hearing from you.

Yours,
Prossy.

Great News

We are delighted to tell you that Christ Church now proudly displays a five star Food Hygiene Rating on our front window. Thanks to Pathfield's Two Bridges Enterprise Café we received a visit from a representative from the Food Standards Agency. He was not only impressed by the Café and the way the students work in it, so carefully following the health and hygiene regulations, but also by our beautiful kitchen which he remarked on several times. The occasion was made even more special for the students as their Interim Head Teacher was with them when they received the excellent feedback. How fortunate the students are to have their two such committed teaching assistants from Pathfield bringing them along and working with them every week. Together, they skilfully guide and teach the students the many skills of working in a café. Anyone who comes on a Thursday morning always feels very welcome and well looked after. The students are delighted to see them.

So do please come along and enjoy a nice hot drink and a delicious piece of home-made cake (by the students), and even a freshly cooked egg and bacon roll should you feel hungry like some of our regular customers do! Whatever your age you are welcome. The toddlers particularly enjoy the chocolate brownie - as we all do!



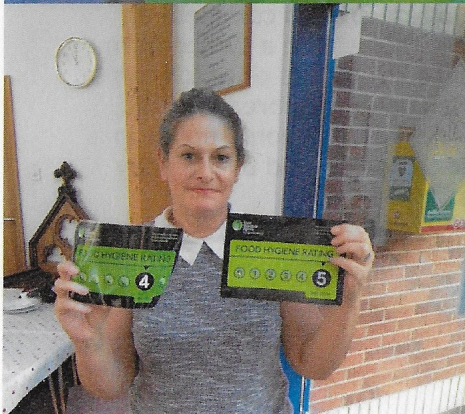
Food
Standards
Agency
food.gov.uk/ratings

This scheme is operated
in partnership with your
local authority

FOOD HYGIENE RATING



VERY GOOD



At present the Two Bridges Cafe is open from 10.15 to 11.15am every Thursday during Term Time. And once again this term we are hoping that there will be a Christmas brunch one Thursday. Details will be in the Church notices.

Looking forward to seeing you....

Church Greetings Cards



Just a reminder with the time passing so quickly, that Church Christmas cards will be available from mid-October. The cards will be on sale with Faith at Hobnob (Friday morning) or see me. I would like to thank you for your support, as usual all proceeds go to church funds.

Anne R

Sing for your Supper, Friday 23rd November 2018 at 7.00pm

It's Sing for your Supper time again! Do come along and join us for an evening of joyful singing and good company. We will be celebrating Advent and of course also getting ready for Christmas – singing some of our old favourites and learning some new ones. And there will be one or two of those hymns included that we have found somewhat challenging over the past few months! Please let Jo or Anthea know beforehand any of your favourites on the theme of Advent or Christmas, particularly any you would like to introduce us to.

As always, for those who would like to stay on afterwards to complete an enjoyable evening, supper will follow at 8.15pm. This will be a choice from the Silver Cod menu (fish, pies, sausages, chips etc – details of which can be provided if requested), or if preferred, vegetarian soup with bread or roll. Please mention any dietary requirements. In order to book your supper in good time, please let Anthea Coates know your choice of food by Tuesday 20th November (01237 471740). Many thanks.

A reminder will be published in the weekly notices.

The Worship Group



Church Cleaning Morning.

Thank you very much on behalf of all the congregation to those who cleaned the church, both up and downstairs, the little chapel, vestibule and other areas in the church. We know there were some parts which weren't started, but these will be completed by the end of the month. It is a large area to buff up, clean and polish, so again, a sincere thank you. Our reward was a splendid breakfast from Stavely, as promised. And completed by Apple cake from Jennifer, which was as always, really delicious.

The Congregation and The Building Committee.



A huge **thank you** to you all for your prayers and support for both Roger and I since my fall in Cornwall at the beginning of October which resulted in just a tiny fracture of the patella. My life of leisure with my leg in a brace is set to continue until the middle of November. Your concern and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Gill and Roger



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to those who have already brought in shoe boxes. If you still have a completed box to contribute, please bring it in as soon as possible as these boxes will be collected by the charity 'International Aid Trust' on Thursday 8th November at 2:30pm.

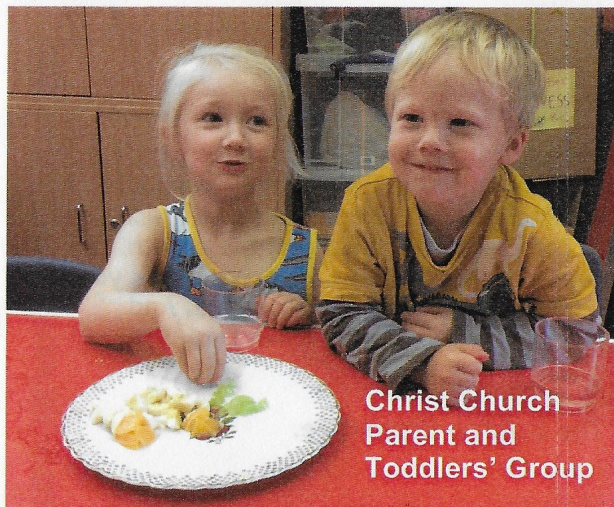
Everyone is very welcome to come along to this event -

so if you can, do join us for the afternoon. It will be a good opportunity for us to meet, see all the shoe boxes, beautiful knitted blankets and large variety of other items we are able to donate.

A sincere thank you to you all, for your co-operation and generosity. It is greatly appreciated.

Sylvia Jones





Christ Church
Parent and
Toddlers' Group



Toddler's Praise :
Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolour Dreamcoat

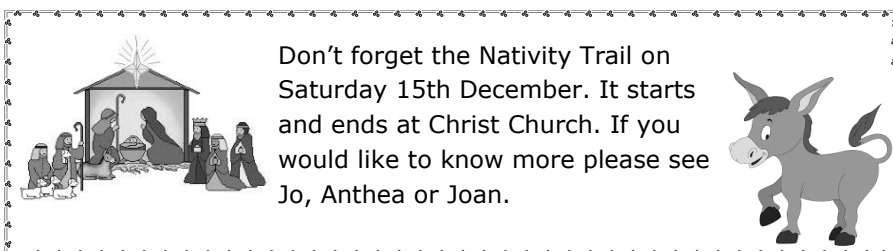
Young Families Work

In Sunday Club, we have been encouraged by the steady increase in numbers and the progress of the children on their individual church journeys over the past year. We appreciate the support given by others from the church when the need has arisen to have extra help – the children thrive when given appropriate support. We have followed our commitment to hold quarterly leaders' meetings which have given focus for planning activity and we appreciate the continued provision of 'Roots' guides which give detail for the Sunday morning sessions, but also flexibility to meet the children's needs. On the second Sunday of the month, our activities link with those planned for the monthly Café Church. **If you enjoy singing, we hope you will be able to join us at church on Tuesdays at 6pm to learn new songs to be sung during the Sunday Club Nativity Service on 16th December.** Please see Jo or Anthea for more information.

X-Site was a great success at Christ Church in October. Children from many different schools in Barnstaple came along with their friends and enjoyed a programme of activities focussing on Jeremiah. There were crafts, challenges, discussions, refreshments and songs which were led by the X-Site band. Lots of fun was had!

Also in October, many families had a lovely happy time at Café Church. The theme was 'helping hands' and it was great to have so many helping hands at the end to tidy up! The next Café Church is on 11th November at 4:30pm and will be themed on 'Remembrance Day'.

Love and prayers, Jo



Don't forget the Nativity Trail on Saturday 15th December. It starts and ends at Christ Church. If you would like to know more please see Jo, Anthea or Joan.



CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE WINTER FAIR



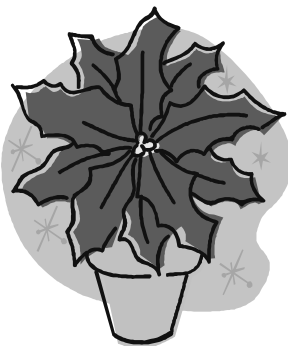
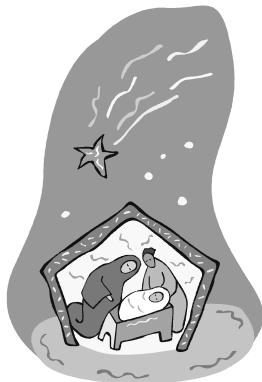
SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER
2018



9am-12.30pm.



STALLS / REFRESHMENTS



EVENTS

Winter Fair Saturday 17th November.

The date of the Winter Fair is getting nearer so please continue looking out donations for the stalls. There will be a special Christmas Themed Gifts Stall this year, so if you have any appropriate good quality items for that stall, then Liz Seymour will be pleased to receive them.

As we did for the Spring Fair, we will be listing Sunday dates for items to be handed in to church so look out for details of those dates in the Sunday Notices.

The remaining dates are: -

November 4th Toiletries and knitted goods.

November 11th Tins, jams and kitchen items.

If you missed the earlier dates you can still bring in books, Christmas gifts and good quality bric a brac on any Sunday.

Stalls will be set up on the Friday 16th November, between 5pm-7pm, so this will be your final chance to hand things in.



Andy Morley.

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 at prayer meetings, but not currently used in Sunday services while we consider the implications of new legislation around data protection.






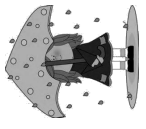
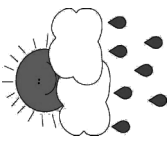
If you would like your name to be added to the list in the Prayer Book, please speak to the duty elder on a Sunday.






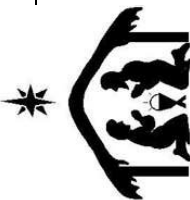



Tuesday coffee rota

Nov	6th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon	Dec	4th	Ena, George & Rose
Nov	13th	Wendy, Anne & Gill	Dec	11th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Nov	20th	Pam, Rose & Sylvia	Dec	18th	Sylvia, Pam & Gordon
Nov	27th	Joy & Andy	Dec	25th	-



SUNDAY ROTAS	4th November	11th November	18th November	25th November
Coffee 	TBA	Sally Blackmore	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers 	Gill Greenland	Pauline Dawson	Joy & Andy Morley	Pauline Dawson
Projector 	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Elaine Stevens	
Serving Communion 	Liz Seymour Elaine Stevens David Wilson Mary Ruhleman			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening	Liz Seymour Anthea Coates	Ian Allen Sylvia Jones	Ronnie Wilson Alison Cairns	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter

SUNDAY ROTAS	2nd December	9th December	16th December	23rd December	30th December
Coffee 	Jennifer & Ian Allen	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Pauline Dawson	Hilary Iley	George Hopkins	Christmas	Christmas
Projector 	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Gill Greenland		
Serving Communion 	Gill Greenland Ronnie Wilson Rosemary Cole Jenny Newman				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Gill Greenland Eff Poole	Elaine Stevens Sylvia Jones	Liz Seymour Anthea Coates	Ian Allen Alison Cairns	Jack Neville Shirley Baxter

Weekly Meetings

Monday		Short Mat Bowling ...	contact Hilary Iley tel 375554
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 - 7.00pm		Brownies ...	contact Heather Collins 07803841000
5.30pm - 6.30pm		Rainbows ...	contact Nicola Wilkins
7.00pm - 8.30pm		Guides ...	{ tel 07813620615 or 01271377154
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			
8.30am		2nd Saturday of each month - circuit event	
		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 September 2018

		Cash	Envelopes
Sept	2nd	£	£
	9th	£	£
	16th	£	£
	23rd	£	£
	30th	£	£

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church, Barnstaple (Methodist/United Reformed) seeks to be an ecumenical, town centre church, bearing witness to the evangelical and social justice traditions of the Christian faith in its expression of the love of Christ for people of all ages. One church, one faith, one Lord.

*If you are visiting Christ Church today we extend a warm welcome.
Please take a Messenger home with our good wishes.*

Christ Church Minister
Rev Don Macalister
8 Kestrel Way,
Westacott
Barnstaple EX32 8QN

tel. 01271 345313
dasmacalister@icloud.com

Young families worker
Jo Grant

jogrant-christchurch@outlook.com
tel 07450 582414

Elders

Ian Allen

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

374085

Circuit Administrators

379116

Editors:

David Wilson

374020

david.devon@mac.com

Kathy Jeacock

373555

kjeacock@hotmail.com

Website

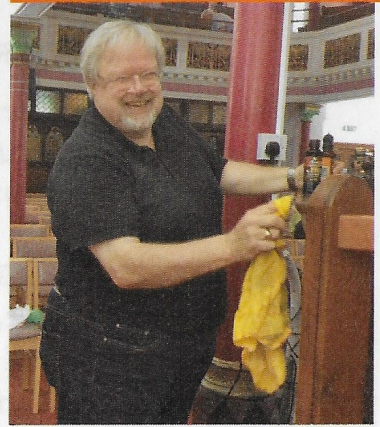
www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

Circuit website

www.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk

Email contact to site

webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



Thank you to everyone who helped on our autumn church cleaning morning!



Café Church – the orchestra

This is from our last family service – a story about learning to swim without actually going in the water!



After our service, celebrating eldership and membership