

December 2018
January 2019

The Messenger

Christ Church Barnstaple

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

✱ See page 6 for details of
Sound it Out

✱ Thank you from
International Aid Trust for
our amazing 450+
shoeboxes, money
collected and over 30 bags
of knitting – see page 8 and
back page

✱ Two birthdays
at Parents and
Toddlers
– see page 12

✱ News of a Community Christmas
lunch Churches Together in
Barnstaple – see page 11

Letter from Northern Devon
Foodbank
– see page 10

✱ Young families work
– see page 13

December 2018

Calendar

Sat	1st		Frances Bell concert	
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Rev Marilyn Tricker - Journey into Advent	
Mon	3rd	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	6th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship & Townswomen's Guild Carol Service at Christ Church	
Sat	8th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Rev Alan Telfer
Sun	9th	10.30am	Martin Reardon	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	10th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- Braunton Handbell Ringers
Tues	11th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	13th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- final meeting TBA
			Carol Singing in the town	
		7.00pm	Light up a Life Service at Christ Church	
Fri	14th		Macmillan concert	
Sat	15th	11.00am	Nativity Trail - start & finish at Christ Church	
Sun	16th	10.30am	Sunday Club Nativity Service - Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Jonathan Froggatt	Communion
Mon	17th	2.30pm	3rd Monday House Group at Saw Mill Court	
Thur	20th	10.15am	Two Bridges Café (unlikely as this is the last week of term - check first)	
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Don Macalister - Carols	
Mon	24th	4.00pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	
Tues	25th		CHRISTMAS DAY	
		10.30pm	Short Family Service	
Sun	30th	10.30am	Rev Tony Coates	
		6.30pm	No Service at Christ Church	
Mon	31st	4.30pm	New Year's Eve Party	see page 14

January 2019 - dates that we know of so far

Thur	3rd	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Don Macalister
Mon	7th	7.15pm	Elders' Meeting	
Tues	8th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	10th	10.15am	Two Bridges Café - might start again today but check first	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mary Burgess
Sat	12th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Rev Jonathan Froggatt
Mon	14th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- Pies, Puds, Poems & Prose
Thur	17th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Marilyn Tricker
Fri	18th		Last day for contributions to the February Messenger	
Sun	20th	1.00pm	Church Meeting	
Tues	22nd	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	24th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Brenda Prentice
Mon	28th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- Walking the Pyrenees, Sue & Ivan Godfrey
Thur	31st	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- members afternoon

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 the third Monday afternoon of the month at the home of Reg & Muriel. All will take a winter break so 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.

Message

Dear Friends,

In my report to the Annual Church Meeting I looked at our place in the world.

Through all the activities that take place, whether it's the children enjoying activities in Holiday Clubs and youth events, the young parents needing support and advice, the bowlers bowling, the singers giving a concert, the ladies enjoying a talk and tea together and the men enjoying a fried breakfast.

It is thanks to those of you who support these activities in so many ways that they can happen at all. It is thanks to those of you who organise speakers and rotas, who open the building and welcome people in, maintaining the facilities used by so many so regularly. And all that is just the tip of the iceberg of what happens during the week, every week, with prayer and Bible Study and meetings... always so many meetings! But it's good, actually, it's great.

And then comes Sunday with musicians, technicians, welcomers, readers, prayers, preachers, Sunday Club leaders, tea makers and servers, tidyuppers... notice sheet producers. And still there are more, many more - magazine producers, website controllers, committee members, chairs and co-ordinators, secretaries, treasurers, Event organisers, Church Friends, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Church Friends co-ordinator, Young Families Worker and team. If I have left you off the list please understand and forgive me because, of course, there are more, many more. Each playing your part in the life of this church and how we respond to God's call to us to welcome all, the young, the old, those who are joyful or under a heavy burden.

The world is invited into the life of the church and this year, in a rather strange way, this church has broken out into the world! In a little pile of rubble on the pavement in Bear Street.

When that was first discovered my heart sank. It sank because I feared that it would force us, for a while, to focus some serious attention on the building. I feared that might take our attention away from our place in the world and we would be forced to focus too much in on ourselves. But in the last couple of months that is not what I have seen happening, quite the reverse in fact.

I truly believe that in a completely unexpected way that little pile of rubble will prove to be a blessing for us, it certainly is turning out to be for me. It is a blessing because it has re-emphasised to me our place here in this

community. We truly are at the heart of the community we serve and witness to here in Bear Street.

This is a God given opportunity to look again at our place in this community and the ways in which we can shine as a beacon of hope and light, how we express our commitment to our neighbours, how we live the good news in ways that can't be missed. It will be a challenge, we will need to think and plan and reflect, and above all we need to pray about this together as we seek God's will on how we fulfil his mission for us in this place.

And that is good, it's exciting, and as we approach the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year we are reminded too that, through Christ, God is with us and always will be as we faithfully respond to his call.

May you and your loved ones know joy and peace this Christmas.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a flourish and a period.

Prayers for December

December 2nd

Lord Jesus, on you the past and the future hinge.

You open the door to past wisdom and to future knowledge.

You are the kingdom among us and the kingdom yet to come.

May this Advent be as a new beginning in my walk of faith.

And, inspired by all those who have gone before me, may my steps be bold, faithful and just. I ask this in your name. Amen.

December 9th

Eternal God, you called John when he was in the wilderness, to prepare the way for your Son. Speak to me in my wildernesses of tiredness, anxiety and longing, and prepare a way in my heart, that I may receive the forgiveness, the healing, and the peace that your Son delights to give. Amen.

December 16th

Lord, when I am weighed down with tiredness, when I feel trapped by things I cannot change, when my list of cards to write, presents to buy, and people to visit is longer than the hours in my day, help me to use your winnowing shovel to separate the crucial from the cosmetic, and not always to be trying to do more, but to do less, better. Amen.

December 23rd Timeless God, sometimes it is easier to be critical than to be joyful, easier to complain than to rejoice, easier to hold back than to enjoy. Lord Jesus, fill my heart with wonder, hope and peace that I may rejoice in you my God and my Saviour this Christmas (day) and every day. Amen.

December 30th

Loving God, may the best that I have learned from the past, enrich my future; may the mistakes I have made in the past not mar my future; may your truth from the past be my truth for the future; and may I grow in faith and maturity day by day, moment by moment, and know that yesterday, today, tomorrow and for ever: you are my God! Amen.

Prayers for January

January 6th

What shall be the star to guide me, Lord,
and what shall be my dream?
Speak to me as you will,
so I may walk in your ways and lay the gifts
of my heart, mind and soul at your feet. Amen.

January 13th

Cleanse me in the depths of your love, O Lord,
that I might emerge to glimpse heaven.
Brush me with the wings of your grace,
and lead me from the wilderness to fullness of life. Amen.

January 20th

I do not ask for the spiritual gift I would have, Lord,
for I am not a magician seeking powers.
I am a follower of Christ
seeking to know what you would have me do.
Therefore, I know that through the Holy Spirit,
the gift will choose me,
and I will be grateful.
Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

January 27th

I pledge myself to play my part in your plans, O Lord.
I immerse myself in the belonging of your body, the Church.
I will not withhold the gifts I have, however humble,
but serve willingly and well in the work of your kingdom. Amen.





**Christ Church
Bear Street
Barnstaple**

**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	8 th	22 nd	July	9 th	23 rd
February	12 th	26 th	August	13 th	27 th
March	12 th	26 th	September	10 th	24 th
April	9 th	23 rd	October	8 th	22 nd
May	14 th	28 th	November	12 th	26 th
June	11 th	25 th	December	10 th only	



To find out more, contact

Sally Blackmore: sally.blackmore@mha.org.uk

Rebecca Bartlett: rebecca.bartlett@mha.org.uk

Marilyn Tricker: marke3m@gmail.com

Telephone: 01271 321574

Main sponsors: The Bridge Trust & Barnstaple Rotary Shop Grant



Christ Church
Methodist & URC



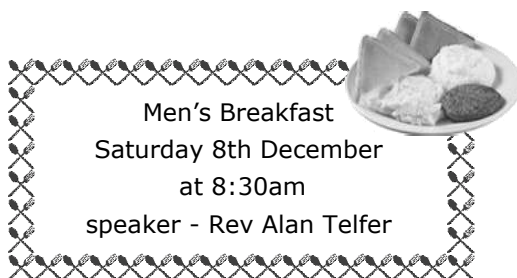
Painting & Decorating

January 2019 sees the restart of the rolling programme of painting the interior of the church building. The property committee will do their best to minimise the disturbance to all the activities that take place in the church - but please be tolerant as it will not be possible to do this without some disruption to some of you.



You can find information on the dates involved on the notice board in the corridor.

Property Committee



Christmas cards - Internal Post

This year the church's internal post will be raising funds for our church project - North Devon Hospice & Go North Devon.

Once again you are offered the opportunity to send Christmas greetings to your friends in the congregation, and support these two local charities at the same time. You are invited to either sign the 'BIG CARD' or send individual cards (see below) via the 'post table' in the corridor for people to collect. Your donations can be placed in the collection box or in a labelled envelope in the Sunday offertory or given to Sylvia.



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



Thank You from International Aid Trust

Dear Sylvia and Friends,

450+ shoeboxes and £500 cash
and 30+ bags of knitting (including hundreds of blankets).

Thank you all so much for all your efforts in so many ways, dare I list a few - those who cover boxes - those who kindly transported all the shoeboxes and knitting to church - to Don who enabled me to give the usual Power Point presentation - for the lovely and welcome cup of tea - the ladies who did the wonderful knitting - not to mention the beautifully knitted toys!

Finally - Sylvia, you have done so much under very difficult circumstances this year - you are just amazing, and I thank you on behalf of The International Aid Trust.

Best wishes and thanks to you all,
Adrian & June Redfern MBE
UK Sponsorship Secretaries for
The International Aid Trust

Good news from Hannah – she is now a fully qualified Army Aircraft Technician in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME).

She also captained the Army Ladies Fencing Team to victory over the Navy and RAF teams.

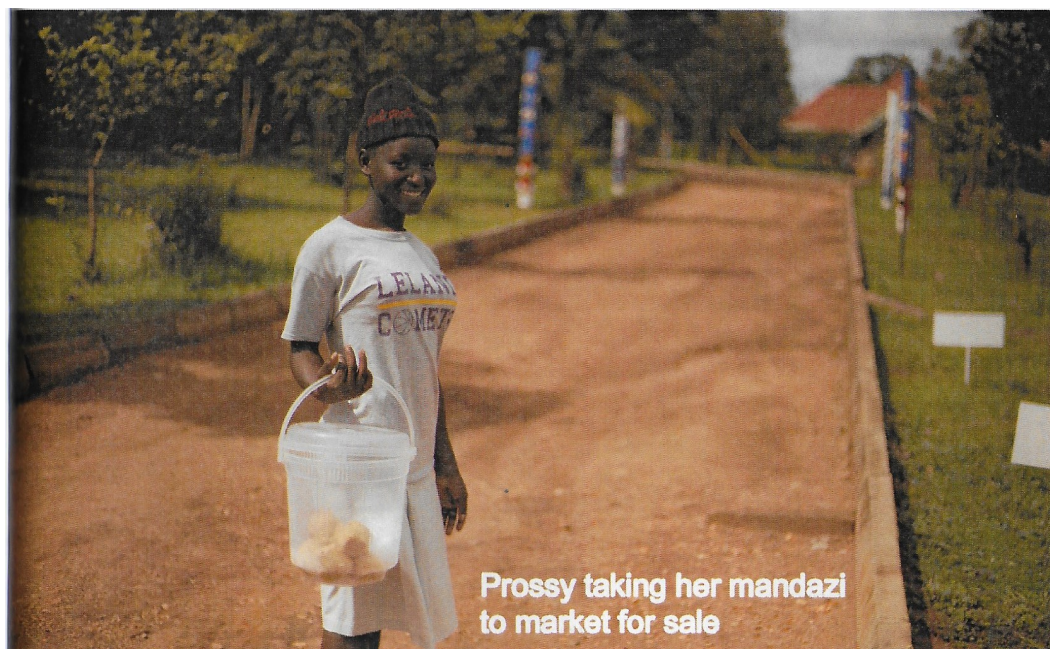
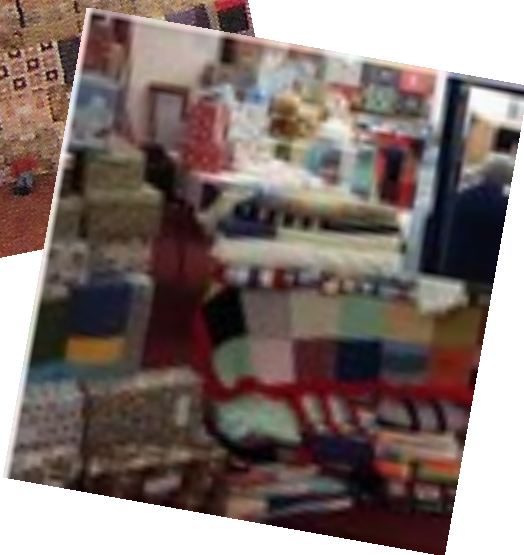
Now a Lance Corporal based in the UK she will be home for Christmas but is being posted abroad in the new year.

Learning Business Skills

And more from Prossy on Kira Farm...

It seems unbelievable the number of things Prossy has experienced and learned in the past year – and in so short a time. And there is no doubt from her many letters that her new-found knowledge, gained from the time spent on Kira Farm, is going to change not only her and her family's day to day lives, but also the life of her whole village community.

Sadly I think there will be only one more letter after this one...



Prossy taking her mandazi to market for sale

Dear Everyone

I am having a great time on Kira learning all I can in these last days.

I am so glad to let you know that we have been learning some business skills on Kira. It is really amazing for me to acquire these entrepreneurship skills because it has given me the ideas of how I can start up any business with the different skills I have learned since I joined Kira.

I never knew that with as little capital as £10 someone can start up a business. I have tried this out on Kira and it has worked so well. I have been running a donut and cake making business and as I write this email I have already paid back the £10 that was loaned to me by Amigos and I am already making a lot of profits.

Thank you so much for all the support you are giving me, which has got me this skilled.

Yours,

Prossy.



Amigos

Thanked for our donation

The following letter has come from Northern Devon Foodbank:-

05/11/2018

Dear All,

Thank you for supporting our Harvest Heroes Appeal!

We are saying a big 'thank you' for your kind donation of 194.85 kg of food to our Appeal (this is the equivalent to 46.4 meals). Your support this autumn means that we are able to continue to provide vital food and supplies to people in crisis over the coming months.

Thank you once again for your support, and we hope that you will consider supporting us again in the future.

Kind Regards

Duncan Withall, (Trustee)
Northern Devon Foodbank

Community CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Members of churches across Barnstaple will be opening Grosvenor Church on Christmas day to serve a free traditional Christmas dinner to anyone from the local community or church, who, for whatever reason, may find themselves without the company of loved ones.

The church will be open from 12noon to 3pm with lunch served at 12.30pm. The time will also include friendly conversation, a quiz and other entertainment.

At 10am there will be a 45 minute Carol Service at the church and you are most welcome to come to that and stay on for the lunch.

Anyone wanting lunch will need to book their place through the Grosvenor Church Office by phone: 01271 323725 or email: susie.brown@grosvenorchurch.org.uk
Lifts are available on request.

Please join us -you will be very welcome!



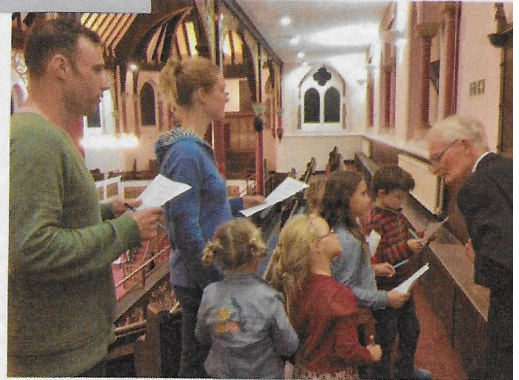
CHURCHES TOGETHER BARNSTAPLE

Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness'. John 10:10

Café Church Remembrance Sunday



We will remember them



Christ Church
Parents &
Toddlers and
Toddler's Praise



Young Families Work

'Mum oh mum, it's Café Church today' called out one of the children very excitedly last Sunday when he discovered the tables and chairs being set out ready in the church, after morning service. Such is the way that many of the young families – and others of all ages - look forward to the second Sunday afternoon in every month. There is always such a lovely warm, welcoming and relaxed atmosphere with a good mixture of things to do, lots of fun, a time of worship, and an amazing Sunday tea. And this last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – was as enjoyable and memorable as ever. Focusing particularly on this special theme, poppies of course 'sprang up' in many different places: in the word puzzles and the colouring sheets on the tables; in the thoughtful and well-illustrated worship time; and in the craft activities. Plain biscuits were cleverly iced and turned into striking poppies (but very quickly consumed!), and paper peace lanterns decorated and carefully made. The highlight though was the quiz put together by Jo which took people upstairs into the gallery - something the children have been longing to do for ages - to look closely at the three War Memorials there. They discovered the Roll of Honour for the First World War from one of our constituent congregations, listing all their members who had served in the armed services. They enthusiastically found the answers to the quiz questions, and noted that there were cases where there were several men with the same surname, presumably all from the same family.

After going back downstairs they each made a cross out of two lolly sticks and a pipe cleaner, writing on it the name of one of the soldiers they had chosen from the memorials, and decorating it with a poppy. These they then stood in the We Will Remember Them tray which was placed in the vestibule for everyone to see.

It was very noticeable and heartening during Sunday – both at Sunday Club and Café Church – how knowledgeable and interested the children were about Remembrance Day and the events it commemorates.

We are now looking forward to our Christingle Café Church which will be on Sunday 9th December at 4:30pm. You will be very welcome.

And to follow...

Our 'Parents and Toddlers' Christmas outing to the Big Sheep soft-play area will be on Wednesday 12th December at 10:30am. Then the following week on Wednesday December 19th we will be acting out the Nativity Story together, and afterwards enjoying our Christmas Party.

The Nativity Trail for families will be on Saturday 15th December from 11am until 1pm in the Town Centre. This is a popular event organised by Barnstaple Churches Together. Refreshments will be provided at Christ Church throughout this time.

The Sunday Club Nativity Service will be on 16th December. Children involved in this are asked to arrive at 10am for preparations in Room 1 before the service.

The Crib Service in church is always much enjoyed by families and children of all ages and this will be on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

Finally, we once again look forward to a New Year's Eve Party on 31st December at 4:30pm. There will be fun games, crafts and food. Please let Anthea know if you would like to come.

Love and prayers,
Jo and Anthea

Our family matters

Christ Church Family News

There are many of our church family on the sick list and some house-bound. Some are named in the Prayer Book, which is kept in the vestry and used at prayer meetings, but may not always be 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.

I would like to **thank** Christchurch Congregation for supporting me on the Mercy Ship over the last 6 years. I will now be at home for a while, but will also be working for Mercy Ships on a part time basis. I'm very grateful for the financial and prayer support I have received from the members of this church.






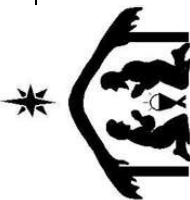

With grateful thanks
Rachel





















Tuesday coffee rota

Dec	4th	Ena, George & Rose			
Dec	11th	Tony, Celia & Lorna			
Dec	18th	Pam & Gordon			
Dec	25th	No coffee morning			
Jan	1st	No coffee morning	Feb	5th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Jan	8th	Wendy, Anne & Gill	Feb	12th	Pam & Gordon
Jan	15th	Pam & Rose	Feb	19th	No coffee morning
Jan	22nd	Joy & Andy	Feb	26th	Pam & Rose
Jan	29th	Ena, George & Rose			



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 Ian Allen 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

SUNDAY ROTAS	6th January	13th January	20th January	27th January
Coffee 	Sally Blackmore	Elaine Stevens	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson
Flowers 	Look out for the 2019 flower calendar on the notice board in the foyer, please sign up for the dates you would like to donate flowers.			
Projector 	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville
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 Eff Poole	Gill Greenland Sylvia Jones	Elaine Stevens Anthea Coates	Liz Seymour Alison Cairns

SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd February	10th February	17th February	24th February
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Look out for the 2019 flower calendar on the notice board in the foyer, please sign up for the dates you would like to donate flowers.			
Projector 	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Alison Cairns	
Serving Communion 	Ian Allen Elaine Stevens Celia Huxtable Reg Symons			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Ian Allen Shirley Baxter	Jack Neville Eff Poole	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates	Gill Greenland Sylvia Jones

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 October 2018

		Cash	Envelopes
Oct	7th	£	£
	14th	£	£
	21st	£	£
	28th	£	£

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)

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as per the Church Directory

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Email contact to site

webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



A fantastic response to International Aid Trust's appeal this year



Pictures from our Christmas Fair held on Saturday 17th November

