

The Messenger

Christ Church

Methodist / United Reformed Church

Christ Church
Painting and
Decorating
update
-see page 7

February 2019

See our website:
www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



Our newest member at Parent & Toddlers
-only 4 days old!

Happy New Year!

◆ Asking God to take us
'outside the camp'
- see Message page 3



Christ Church New Year's Eve Family
Party – see page 9

◆ Prossy completes her year
sponsored by Christ Church
– see page 8
◆ News of our Away day
- see page 10
◆ Forthcoming Events
-see page 11

◆ Christian Aid speaker to be at
morning service on 10th March
- see page 11

Calendar

February 2019

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Deacon Joan Cole	
Thur	7th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Captain Mark Reid
Sat	9th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Dean Roth
Sun	10th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Kendall	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	11th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- 'India' with Paula & Roger Byrom
Tues	12th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Wed	13th	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	14th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker David Symonds
Fri	15th	<i>Last day for contributions to the March Messenger</i>		
Sat	16th	10.00pm	- 4.00pm Elders' Day	
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister - family service	
		6.30pm	Rev Tony Coates	Communion
Mon	18th	2.30pm	3rd Monday House Group at Saw Mill Court	
Thur	21st	Two Bridges Café closed for half term		
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Guy Byham
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	
Mon	25th	7.30pm	Friendship Group	- North Devon Libraries with Mrs Jude Jual
Tues	26th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
			Safeguarding course	see page 15
Thur	28th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Bring & Buy)	- speaker David Worden

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. For information on the different groups and Lent Courses please see page 4.

Dates for your Diary

March	Sunday 10th - Speaker from Christian Aid, see page 11
	Wednesday 20th - Presbyteral Synod Plymouth & Exeter District
	Friday 29th - Nigel Brooks Concert
April	Saturday 6th - Away Day at Lee Abbey 10.00am - 4.00pm, see page 10
	Thursday 18th - Maundy Thursday Communion 7.00pm
	Friday 19th - Good Friday Service 10.30am
	Friday 19th - Stainer's Crucifixion, mixed choirs
	Sunday 21st - Easter Sunday, Family Service with Communion
	Saturday 27th - Quiz
May	Wednesday 15th - Church Meeting at 7.00pm
July	Saturday 13th - Coffee Morning 10.00am - 12noon at the home of David & Ronnie Wilson

Message

Dear Friends,

During the rebuilding of the Abbey on Iona George MacLeod prayed the following prayer –

It is not just the interior of these walls
it is our own inner beings you have renewed.
We are your temple not made with hands.
We are your body.
If every wall should crumble,
and every church decay, we are your habitation.
Nearer are you than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.
Our are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out in compassion on the world.
So we bless you for this place,
for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us, and your indwelling.
Take us 'outside the camp', Lord,
outside holiness,
out to where soldiers gamble, and thieves curse,
and nations clash at the cross-roads of the world
So shall this building continue to be justified.

As many will be well aware we are facing the prospect of considerable expense simply in maintaining the facilities we have - so why do it?

Coming across it again today George MacLeod's prayer is an important reminder to me that although the building may be important to us, especially as a place for worship, its call to us (its justification) is meaningless in comparison to our own continued renewal.

It is we who are to be God's temple, not the building. It is God's presence within us, closer than breathing, which works through us to renew the world and so MacLeod asks God to take us 'outside the camp', even 'outside holiness', to where there is gambling, cursing and conflict; in other words to be Christ-like.

May our church building be the place where we meet together with God in order to be strengthened in our faith and compassion and so empowered to 'be Church', both in all we do in the wonderful facilities we have and in our going out to 'be Church' in our community and to change the world.

Yours in Christ,

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

Prayers for February

Feb 3rd - Blind me with your love, Lord, that I might see – show me where your love is needed.

Bind me with your love, Lord, that I might be free – take me captive, yet release me from all fear in freely sharing it. Amen.

Feb 10th - Lord, as others have passed it on to me, help me to share the gospel. Let what is in my heart overflow into my life, so that the risen Jesus may be seen and known through me. Amen.

Feb 17th - Each day, Lord, help me to wake from sleep as I shall one day wake from death – in the knowledge of your presence and the hope of resurrection. So, may my faith shed light from another world, to lighten the cares of this one. Amen.

Feb 24th - When ailments beset me and I feel weak,
when illness knocks me off my feet,
when the years weigh upon me heavily
and my gait falters as I walk less steadily;
let me then remember, O Lord:
I shall be renewed, not just restored. Amen.

Lent Groups

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 6th March and offers a good opportunity to set aside time for reflection and study.

This year's Lent Course will be 'Who is the Christ?' – the new Cover to Cover resource. It explores different aspects of Christ's character, giving fresh insights into the person of Jesus.

Further details available soon!

The following groups will be meeting:-

Thursday early afternoons at Sticklepath starting 28th February (details from Joan Cole 326348).

Thursday evenings, 7:30pm in Room 4 starting 28th February (details from Marilyn Tricker 830869).

Friday mornings 10:30am in Room 4 – this group will continue during Lent with Jonathan Richards (probably following the same course, details from Shirley Baxter 375560).

The Monday group will also continue (details from Reg & Muriel Symons 376066).

Marilyn Tricker.

Summer Day-Trips

Following many enquiries, Mervyn Kerswell from Christ Church Braunton and Sylvia Jones from Christ Church Barnstaple, are again prepared to organise the following four day-trips through the summer months:-

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday 14 th May | - | Torquay |
| Tuesday 11 th June | - | Dawlish |
| Tuesday 9 th July | - | Sidmouth |
| Tuesday 10 th September | - | Wells (Optional visit to the Bishop's Palace) |



If you are interested and would like to join us on any of the trips please contact Sylvia for all the details on 01271 346607



Men's Breakfast
Saturday 9th February
at 8:30am
speaker Dean Roth

EXPLORE ROMANIA

Rev John Robinson is leading a visit to Romania, including the Moldavian painted churches and Transylvania for 10 days departing 24 September; a beautiful and fascinating country just being rediscovered for the tourist and Pilgrim. Spaces still available.

Full details, brochure and booking form available from
John revjohnnuc@outlook.com Telephone (01271) 813783.

General Data Protection Regulations

In May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force throughout Europe. GDPR is a regulation that requires businesses to protect the personal data and privacy of EU citizens in transactions that occur within the EU member states.

However, the General Data Protection Regulations does also affect groups such as charities, which means that we as a church have to comply with the regulations too.

GDPR means that we are no longer able to circulate our church directory to everyone as we have in the past.

In future the full directory with addresses and full contact details will ONLY be available to the Minister and Serving Elders.

For our Church Friends, they will be given details of only those who are their Church Friends.

It has been decided that there will always be a serving elder on duty in the vestibule, both before and after the morning service so that everyone will have an opportunity to share in confidence any concerns that they have.

So that everyone knows who the serving elders are they will in future wear an identity badge.

We hope that in in time the GDPR regulations will become less exacting, but for now both Don and all the serving elders appreciate your help and support – Thank you.

Report on the Churches Together in Barnstaple meeting on the 20th January

Before Christmas, under the Churches Together banner we had the Nativity Trail, including 2 donkeys. Unfortunately the weather was extremely wet cold and windy. However about 30 children took part with their parents, most of who came back here for very welcome hot drinks and other refreshments. We need to thank Anthea Coates and Joan Cole for heading up this very special event.

Also from Churches Together some of us joined with Harmony Choir to rehearse and join the choir in carol singing in Green Lanes.

I am sure that everyone will be pleased to hear that the Community Christmas Day lunch, headed by Roger Bartlett, was once again a success with almost 100 guests and helpers sitting down to an excellent lunch and entertainment. Team members came from a mix of 11 local church congregations.

In the week before Christmas, a Christmas Day meal was planned with support from the Salvation Army at Freedom for rough sleepers and those in genuine

crisis. Around 30 people including helpers attended that event.

At last weeks Churches Together meeting we began planning the Good Friday Walk of Witness in the High Street and the Pentecost celebration in the Pannier Market.

The next meeting will be on the 26th March.

Painting & Decorating

February 2019 sees the continuation 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. It will involve the vestibule and consequently access to the building through the front door and access to the Ladies & Gents toilets off the vestibule.



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

Property Committee

Money raised in the last two months.....

...towards our church charities for this year

- Go North Devon and North Devon Hospice

Ladies Fellowship & Barnstaple Longbridge TWG

Carol Service

£83.00

Ian & Jennifer Allen's

St Andrew's Day celebrations

£385.20

Christmas Day offertory

£111.33

Christmas 'Internal Post'

£158.80

Our total now stands at £1357.33



'Thanks a lot for being a huge blessing in my life... I will always be grateful'

Sadly for us, though joyful for her, it is time to bid farewell to Prossy Nakabira in Uganda now that she has returned home to her village. The good news is that she has successfully completed her year at Kira Farm, sponsored by Christ Church. It has been such a privilege receiving her letters and writing to her, and hearing the amazing progress she has made. She has proved herself to be a person of great fortitude and determination who has joyfully made the most of every opportunity that has been presented to her, and who has been extremely grateful for her sponsorship. She has now returned home from Kira with a wealth of skills that will benefit both her family and her community. We now let her go on her way with our love and prayers, and with many blessings and great hopes for her in 2019 and beyond.

Here are extracts from the last two letters she wrote in November and December – the first, as you see, responding to our written conversation about writing to one another and about Christmas, and both expressing gratitude for all she has gained.

November: Planning my future

'So nice hearing from you... For sure I am going to miss writing to you as well.

'Wow Christmas should be very exciting where you live, decorating streets? I have never seen such a thing. We do decorate our Christmas trees but only in our houses.

My time on Kira Farm is getting shorter. Next month this time I will be home so I am making plans on what to do when I get home. I am so good at tailoring and hair dressing, by the time I get home it will be Christmas time so many women will want to look good so am sure I will make some money. I am also planning on making some garments for people to buy as their Christmas wear. With the money I will get I will draw more plans for the year. I am not worried of finding any failures because I have been blessed with a lot of skills so I cannot fail to make it in at least one of the so many skills I now have.

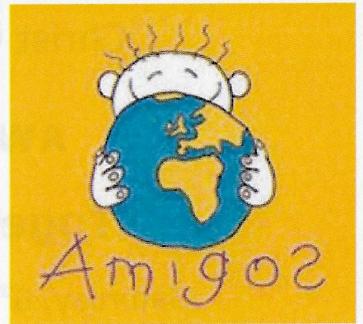
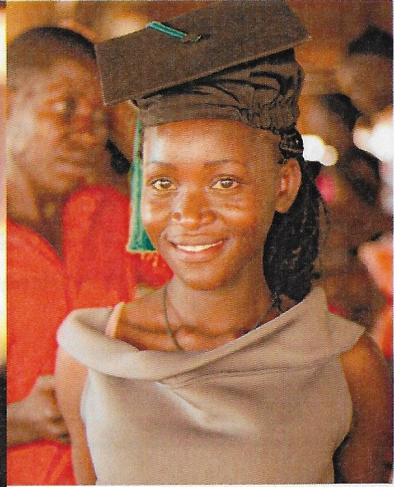
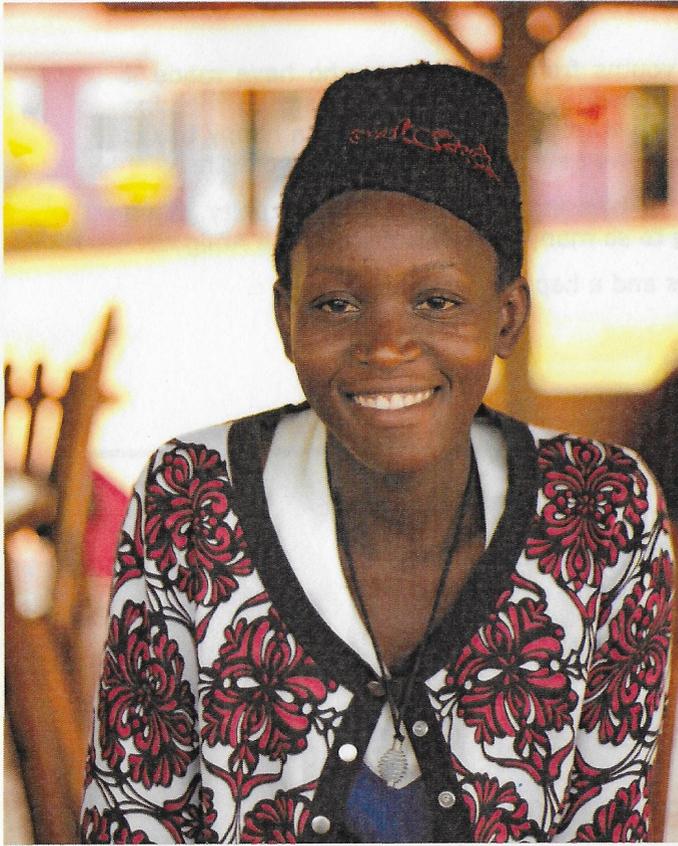
'Thanks a lot for being a huge blessing in my life'.

December: Looking forward to a new life at home!

'Greetings of joy from Kira Farm. Hope all is well with you... I am happy to let you know that I have finally come to the end of my training on Kira.

Thanks a lot for supporting my journey of transformation. I came into the gates of Kira, confused and hopeless. As I leave for home I am going back full of hope and abilities of having a better life.

PTO



Our New Year's
Eve Family Party



I have heard a number of youths from my district who have made it through after attaining the training. I am looking forward to meeting them for more advice on how to start up a new life in. I am happy this is not going to be difficult because we have been given phones on Kira.

'I will always be so grateful for blessing me with this opportunity. Hope you continue to be a blessing to so many other youths through Amigos.

'I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Yours.

Prossy.'

Christ Church Barnstaple

AWAY DAY 2019

Together with God

Saturday, 6th April, 10.00am to 4.30pm
at the Beacon Centre, Lee Abbey, Lynton

Coffee and Lunch will be provided... and tea in the Main House

We look forward to a day together with God, having time and space in this beautiful setting, perfect for refreshment and renewal. There will also be various optional activities, such as a guided walk and an introduction to Lee Abbey, as well as opportunities to be artistic and creative.

More details and a booking form, including suggested contribution towards expenses and requests for transport, will be available in due course.

Christian Aid Speaker at Morning Service



On 10th March we will have an overseas visitor from Sierra Leone. Joanna Tom-Kargbo is Christian Aid's Senior Health Programme Manager, and is a registered nurse herself.

The theme for Christian Aid Week 2019 is maternal health and Joanna will bring a wealth of stories from Christian Aid's work in Sierra Leone where 10 women die in childbirth every day. It is the most dangerous place in the world to give birth.

Posters will be put up in good time and other congregations will be invited as well. We will be arranging a bring your own or a bring and share lunch after the service to allow time to talk with our speaker and learn more of the work of the charity. Joanna will be speaking in our church service, and will be giving stories of life in Sierra Leone at the lunch too. We do hope you all can join us, and there will be more information in next month's Messenger.

David and Ronnie.

EVENTS

Start sharpening up those "little grey cells" for our ever popular Quiz which will be on Saturday 27th April 2019. Teams of between 4-6 persons are welcome, so do not worry, you will not be asked to answer all the questions on your own!

Refreshments will be provided.

Ronnie & David Wilson are kindly holding a Coffee Morning at their home on Saturday 13th July between 10-12 noon.

If you could hold a similar event at your home then please have a word with either Joy Morley or Jack Neville and they will gladly tell you what is involved. It is really simple and you do not have to have acres of space. The months of May/June/August & September are available.

Would everyone please be aware that there will be no Spring Fair, this year.

Andy Morley (Events Committee Secretary)



Christ Church Sunday Club after the Nativity service



Café Church
Christingle



Parent & Toddlers Nativity

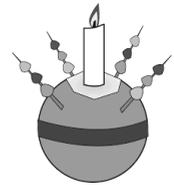


Young Families Work

The children and their leaders have had great fun over the Christmas period. We were sad that Jo was unwell during this time and missed her a lot, but were grateful for the preparations she had already made and the work already done for the many Christmas activities.

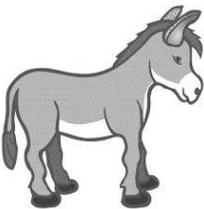
And there were lots of lovely activities happening, with the Christmas story and its message of love being heard many times over...

Café Church with the Christingles was probably one of the first, setting the mood for what was to come in the following days leading up to Christmas Day itself: the lighting of the Christingles made by the children, and the customary dipping low of the lights during worship time, which added to the overall lovely atmosphere.



The following week several of the families from Parents and Toddlers had a marvellous outing to the Big Sheep Play Area. This was a big treat, arranged thanks to Joy's negotiating skills. Father Christmas visited them there too as he/she (Joan!) does every year with a present for each child. A week later, back in Christ Church, the children acted out the Nativity Story whilst it was being told by Joan in her inimitable way, followed by a party tea and games – all much enjoyed.

And then of course there were the special services – the Sunday Club Nativity Service and the Crib Service, both seemingly chaotic(!) but undoubtedly enjoyed by everyone there whether directly involved or as part of the congregation. We heard it said so many times by families who came how much they appreciate(d) the atmosphere at Christ Church – how informal and comfortable and welcoming it is.



The donkeys from Clovelly came on their annual visit too! And what a day it was for The Nativity Trail! The skies opened up and it was unbelievably wet, but this did not deter the characters determinedly setting forth from Christ Church, or the be-tinselled donkeys and their keepers from walking up and down the High Street, or Shirley playing carols on her flute at every station. Thanks to the dedication of those who were the Nativity Story characters at each of the stations it was a great success with many families taking part. The hot soup back at Christ Church was a success too!!

Then Christmas moved into the New Year...the New Year's Eve Family Party being huge fun and very much to be repeated. The church was alive with laughter and music, with dancing and games for all ages. Do make sure you come next year!

Now we think about the year to come.... Already we have had another very full and lively Café Church in January which focussed on stars and constellations and light, inspired by the story of the Wise Men and the star with the biggest shine ever! And after a very busy 'crafty' afternoon and a wonderful tea, the children as usual just didn't want to go home(!)

At the next Café Church we will be hearing about The Prodigal Son, which will be the first of several parable stories told in this coming year.

Now, much to everyone's pleasure, all of our activities have started again and we are looking forward to a very full and active 2019.

But before then - **a big thank you to everyone who contributed** in any and every way to the Young Families Work in 2018 and to the activities mentioned above, and for all the love and support and prayers we have received from so many of you. We feel truly blessed.

Love and prayers,
Jo and Anthea



Tuesday coffee rota

Feb	5th	Tony, Celia & Lorna	Mar	5th	Joy & Andy
Feb	12th	Pam & Gordon	Mar	12th	Ena, George & Rose
Feb	19th	No coffee morning	Mar	19th	Tony, Celia & Lorna
Feb	26th	Pam & Rose	Mar	26th	Pam & Gordon



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, and indicate whether or not you would like to be included in congregational prayers in the Sunday service.



Safeguarding Training Day

Adults at risk

With

The Geese Theatre



Date and Venue:

26th February 2019 Monks Yard Ilminster TA19 9PY

Time: 10am – 4pm

Outline of what the training is about

This will not be the usual sort of training day. It will enlighten, and challenge, you – in a good way! The Geese Theatre will do a variety of drama productions, using masks, and there will be an opportunity to ask them questions both in, and out, of role.

It will have scenes dealing with Neglect and Self Neglect, Psychological, Financial, Institutional and Domestic Abuse.

It will also enable you to gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities that we all have in safeguarding adults at risk, particularly around the area of recruiting volunteers and paid staff, and how our own values, attitudes and experiences contribute to our approaches to safeguarding.

Structure of the day:- There will be a 15 minute tea/coffee break in the morning and afternoon with biscuits and cakes. Lunch is provided and will be 45 minutes.

Other essentials

Booking via Dinah Firmin at Synod Office
Secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk

A grant has been obtained for these days so there will be no charge.

SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd February	10th February	17th February	24th February
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	George Hopkins	Celia Huxtable	-	-
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	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 November & December 2018

		Cash	Envelopes
Nov	4th	£	£
	11th	£	£
	18th	£	£
	25th	£	£
Dec	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	Kathy Jeacock (treas)	Liz Seymour
Shirley Baxter	Sylvia Jones	Elaine Stevens (sec)
Alison Cairns	Jack Neville	Ronnie Wilson
Anthea Coates	Jenny Newman	
Gill Greenland	Eff Poole	

Telephone Directory (01271)

Church Secretary	as per the Church Directory
Church Treasurer	373555
Room Bookings	374085
Circuit Administrators	379116

Editors:

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The Nativity Trail

See page 13



Stars!



Donkeys from Clovelley beautifully decorated



Joseph & Mary



King Herod



Christians Together in Barnstaple ready to brave the elements and stage the Nativity trail, through the Town Centre, ending at Christ Church with a warm drink!