

◆ News of Christ Church  
Away Day at Lee Abbey  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
- see page 16

# The Messenger

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

**Christ Church Methodist/URC**  
Barnstaple March 2019

**What is God's  
Mission for us at  
Christ Church?**

**How are we  
called  
to serve?**

LIFE SAVING DEFIBRILLATOR  
HEART RESTARTER



Defibrillator  
Heart Restarter



**See pages 3-5**



◆ News of Norah Bellot  
Court- see page 7

◆ Amigos Kira Farm  
News -see page 8

◆ Presbyteral Synod  
-see page 11

◆ Fair Trade Fortnight – see  
page 14

## Calendar

### March 2019

Fri	1st	10.00am	- 11.30am Hobnob celebrates St David's Day	see page 10
		2.30pm	World Day of Prayer at Barnstaple Parish Church	see page 4
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	<b>Rejoice!</b>	
Mon	4th	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	7th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Sylvia Jones
Sat	9th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Ron Howell
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev Robert Hurley - Speaker from Christian Aid	see page 6
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	11th	7.30pm	Friendship Group - Painting on silk with Michael & Karen Watkins	
Tues	12th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	14th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Peter Edwards
Fri	15th		<b>Last day for contributions to the April Messenger</b>	
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister - family service	
		6.30pm	Martin Reardon	Communion
Mon	18th	2.30pm	3rd Monday House Group at Saw Mill Court	
Wed	20th		Presbyteral Synod (All rooms - all day)	see page 11
Thur	21st	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Mary Byham
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Don Macalister	
Mon	25th	7.30pm	Friendship Group - 'My Time as a Surgeon' with Gavin Haigh	
Tues	26th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	28th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Bring & Buy)	- speaker Rev Jonathan Froggatt
Fri	29th		Nigel Brooks Concert	
Sat	30th	7.30pm	ND Choral Society, Dvorak - Stabat Mater	see page 8
Sun	31st		MOTHERING SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Rev Jonathan Froggatt	
		6.30pm	Oasis	

**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 6.

### Dates for your Diary

<b>April</b>	Saturday 6th - Away Day at Lee Abbey 10.00am - 4.00pm, see page 16
	Thursday 18th - Maundy Thursday Communion 7.00pm
	Friday 19th - Good Friday Service 10.30am
	Friday 19th - Stainer's Crucifixion, mixed choirs see page 7
	Sunday 21st - Easter Sunday, Family Service with Communion
	Saturday 27th - Quiz
<b>May</b>	Wednesday 15th - Church Meeting at 7.00pm
<b>June</b>	Saturday 8th - Step out for Children - A4C Walk. Note the date - details next month
<b>July</b>	Saturday 13th - Coffee Morning 10.00am - 12noon at the home of David & Ronnie Wilson

## Message

### **"Christ Church seeks to express the love of Christ for everyone."**

Dear Friends,

As the scaffolding remains on the front of the church you may well be wondering just what is happening to address the issues we have with the building and potential costs of at least repairing, if not improving the beautiful church building we have. I think it is important that you are kept informed as it is a subject that will soon come to the Church Meeting as we seek together the way forward.

There have been discussions in the Elders' Meetings about how best to tackle the issue and especially how we as a church respond to this challenge in a way that is positive and helps us to discover and define God's mission for us in the years ahead.

And so it was that we held an Elders' Day on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> February when we had time to give the matter some serious thought and we are very grateful to David Wilson for hosting the day at his offices.

The day centred around our Mission Statement (at the top of this letter) and after a time of worship led by Rev. Sue Macbeth, both Dawn from "Action for Children" and Rebecca from "Live at Home" spoke to us about their experiences of working in the local community and in particular the needs of young families and the elderly. We also had to hand a wealth of information and statistics provided by David about the challenges our community is facing.

We then looked at what we and other churches in the town are already doing, recognising that no one church can do it all, but that each church is called to do that part that God calls us to do and it was good to hear what other churches are doing. It was an encouraging day in many ways, not least because it reminded us once again that we are already doing a great deal, especially given the fact that other than myself and Jo everyone else involved is a volunteer giving their time so generously through their own sense of commitment.

The final session of the morning was led by David who extremely helpfully and clearly outlined some of the key ways in which the town centre is changing and will continue to change in the coming years, with direct implications on the needs of our community. This was especially helpful in enabling us to consider the church's mission not simply as a reaction to what is already happening but to plan for flexibility and be ready as things change.

During a lunch provided by David and Ronnie (thank you so much, it was lovely!) we were joined by Rev. Dr Nigel Dilkes, the Minister of St Mary's Pilton who stayed with us for a time of worship and reflection beautifully led by Sue. After hearing about his church's exploration of many of the same issues Nigel left us and we began to focus in on what we felt the key areas of Christ Church's mission may lie now and in the years to come.

It was an exciting and encouraging process, recognising and celebrating what is happening and the relationship we have with our community that can be built on

as well as considering possible ways in which we can provide the resources needed without having to place even greater demands on the time of those of you who are already doing so much.

A final huge note of thanks goes to Ruth O'Donovan from the Catholic Church who agreed to act as our facilitator for the day and who was so helpful in being able to look at things from an external perspective and brilliantly summarised our thinking.

We now need to take time to reflect and pray and pray and pray as we get ready as a church to take the next step on this exciting journey as we continue to seek to express the love of Christ for everyone.

God bless,



## **Prayers for March**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Every day, loving Lord, may I feel your holiness, hear your guidance and be encouraged and strengthened by your love. Amen.

**10<sup>th</sup>**

Lord Jesus, you refused to turn stones into bread although you were hungry. Give us strength when we are tempted to look for an easy way out. Give us faithfulness when we are tempted by a quick fix.

Give us wisdom to see the big picture. Help us to see how we can work with you to feed the hungry by our giving and our living. Amen.

**17<sup>th</sup>**

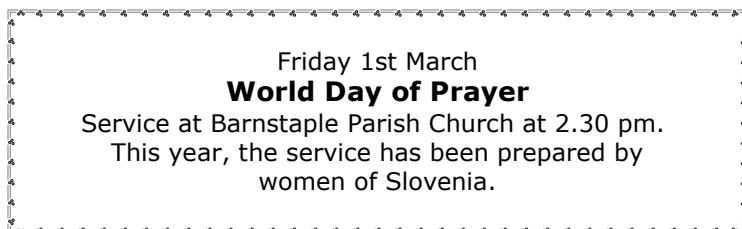
Give me strength and give me courage;  
give me patience that I may wait on you,  
and know the wonders of your love. Amen.

**24<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for anybody that you know who is going through a rough time at present. Pray that God will be with them and give them healing, strength and peace.

**31<sup>st</sup>**

Thank you, God, for loving me. Forgive me, God, for turning away.  
Thank you, God, for welcoming me back. Amen.



# Christ Church Elders' Day 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The Purpose of the Day was to begin defining the future mission of Christ Church. We started from our mission statement but focussed on:

"Who are our neighbours and what are their spiritual and practical needs?"

We learnt about who lives next to us in Central Ward, our neighbours at Christ Church, and the challenges they are facing.

"What changes are happening for our community? What is changing in society and the town?"

"How are we and other churches already responding?"

We learnt from Dawn more about the work of Action for Children and the needs of our community



We can't do it all so, in light of the previous sessions, what particular needs should our mission focus on in the coming years?

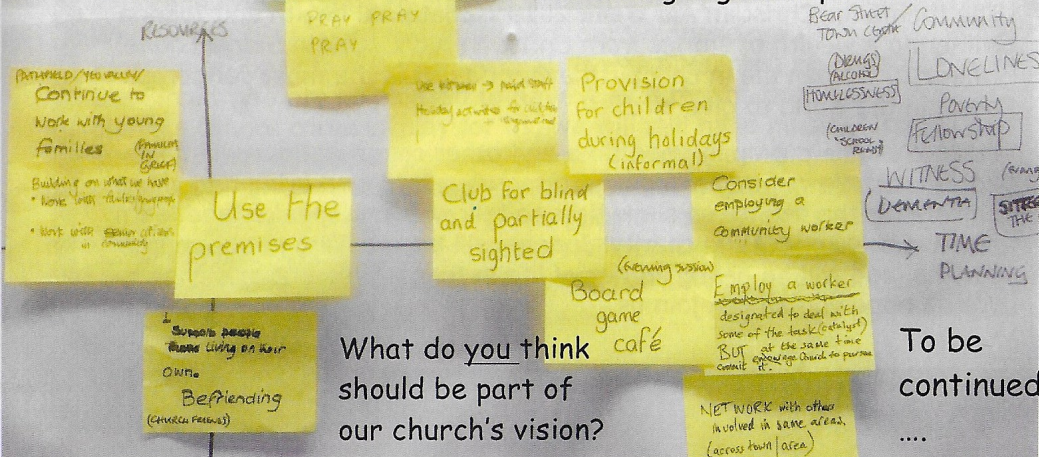
We heard more about the Live at Home scheme and all the activities promoted by MHA for senior citizens locally from Rebecca

How do we resource our responses (volunteers/paid staff/external organisations)?

Towards a vision for work with young families and older people...

Christ Church seeks to express the love of Christ for everyone

As you can see plenty of ideas were forthcoming- some longer term than others, all building on the contacts and work going on at present



## Lent Groups 2019 'Who is the Christ?'

If you haven't signed up for a Lent group, but would like to come along for one or more of the sessions, you will be very welcome! Some people are also using the course material on their own at home – we can get extra copies of the booklet if needed.


The Thursday afternoon group at Sticklepath, and the Thursday evening group at Christ Church both began on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, will NOT meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> but will then continue through March and into April, with the final session on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Friday morning group will begin the course on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and will run through until April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sticklepath: further details from Joan Cole (326348)

Thursday evenings 7.30pm in rm. 4: Marilyn Tricker (830869)

Friday mornings 10.30am in rm. 4: Shirley Baxter (375560)

Marilyn



### 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.

David and Ronnie.

Come and sing or listen to

**Stainer's 'CRUCIFIXION'**  
**on Good Friday, 19th April,**

at Christ Church in Barnstaple.

There will be a rehearsal at 4.00 pm followed by  
the performance at 7.00 pm.

If you would like to sing in the choir please tell  
Ian Allen by Sunday, 17th March.

Copies of the music will be available for those  
who do not have their own copy.

Otherwise, come and hear this uplifting work  
which is so suitable for Good Friday.



Reverend Robert came to **Norah Bellot Court** on  
Wednesday (6th February) to present our Wednesday  
Worship group with a Digital Hymnal. It was presented on behalf of  
the Circuit. We are so pleased to have it as it means that if ever our  
pianists cannot come to play for us, we will still have music. Also, it  
opens up our worship opportunities and will allow us to have modern  
music worship, services aimed at residents living with dementia and  
anything else people want. We are very excit-  
ed by the possibilities it offers us and would  
like to thank everyone concerned.

Sally



North Devon Choral Society

## **DVORAK**

### **STABAT MATER**

Saturday 30th March 7.30 pm  
Torrington Parish Church  
Conducted by John Hobbs

Tickets cost £15 (children and students free) and are available from  
Jennifer & Ian Allen and Rev Marilyn Tricker, or at the door.

### **A Golden Opportunity**

#### **Francisco starts his journey on Kira with joy**

*Last year, full of admiration, we joyfully followed the life-changing and transforming journey of Prossy Nakabira on Kira Farm in Uganda. This year we have the same opportunity and privilege to sponsor another young person and to hear from them as they make a similar journey...*

*So it is with great pleasure that we introduce Francisco Olanya. He is 23 years old and comes from a district called Kitgum in the Northern part of Uganda. He is described as a quietly spoken, hardworking, young man with the responsibility of taking care of his mother and siblings weighing heavily on his shoulders.*

*When younger, Francisco managed to earn the necessary funds to pay his school fees until he reached Year 8. But then he left school so he could help his younger siblings with their school fees. Culturally, this would be expected of him as the eldest son.*

*His family own 28 acres of land and grow cotton, sim sim (sesame), sorghum, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, cassava, pumpkin and okra to eat and sell. Francisco has one ox, one cow and 15 chickens. He has a good head for business. Last year he earned £1,300 by selling the cotton and sesame he had grown. He's left the money with his mum to look after everyone throughout the year while he is at Kira.*

*Francisco is settling in well and is very happy to be on Kira Farm and soak up*

*everything on offer. He has already sent the following letter, full of excitement, gratitude and hope...*

'How are you doing my dear friends? Hope all is well with you. I received some good news yesterday that you will be supporting my training on Kira Farm. I have been overwhelmed with this news, life is getting better every day that I have so far been on Kira. From getting this opportunity of being selected for the training, to now having a sponsor. Wow, I am really so happy.

Back home I stay with my mother, one sister and two brothers. I enjoy having them around as they are very good people. My father, however was taken away by the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group responsible for taking so many lives in Northern Uganda. I have never seen him since I was 6 years old.



As a family we have six grass thatched mud huts in our compound, which provide sleeping spaces, as well as a kitchen. I built my own as well where I sleep on a grass mat on the floor with a blanket. As a child I grew up wanting to become a doctor because there was need for more doctors in Northern Uganda.

Coming to Kira Farm is the best thing that's happened in my life! I am already learning more farming skills and also skills in carpentry and building and I thank God that I was selected. Kira's maize looks very well planted. I believe this is the right place to learn about farming. In the future I would like to get married and have two children, become a carpenter and be the best father and farmer in Kitgum.

I am looking forward to fully utilizing this opportunity. I have seen a number of youths coming back to our village fully transformed through Kira training. I believe I am not going to be any different from them, hopefully just being better.

You will be hearing from me during my all stay on Kira. Hopefully I will also hear from you so that I get to know you more.

Yours,

Francisco.'

## **Thanks Liz**

Our neighbours in the shop next to the Church called the Fire Brigade when they thought they could smell burning and see smoke coming from the Church.

One fire engine and the big turntable ladder came with blue lights and sirens which caused quite a stir in Bear Street.

Some quick phoning by Liz and some quick driving from Jack meant that the Church door didn't need to be broken down, and thanks to John they didn't have to break in to the boiler room either!

The firemen checked the whole building - they were surprised how big it was - and gave the all clear.

Many thanks to the Fire Brigade and our neighbours for their care.

(You'll be glad to hear the firemen made good use of the scaffolding!!!)



## **St David's Day Hobnob.**

On Friday 1st March  
10.00 am until 11.30 am  
and will include delicious  
traditional Welsh baking.

Proceeds for  
our church charities,  
Go North Devon  
& North Devon Hospice.

Jennifer and Ian

## **Greetings cards**

Just a reminder that Church  
Greeting Cards are available  
from Faith at Hobnob  
on Friday mornings or from  
me. Easter cards are now  
on sale.



A big thank you to all who  
bought Christmas cards and  
also for the returned cards  
which allow me to make  
more!

Anne Roberts



## ***'Presbyteral Synod' Comes to North Devon***

What is Presbyteral Synod I hear you ask!

Some years ago, it was decided that, to avoid confusion over the use of the term 'minister' to describe someone who has been ordained by the church, ministers would be split into two groups – deacons who are ordained into the Diaconate, and presbyters who are ordained to the role of word and sacrament. That caused confusion then and it causes some confusion still today!

Each year, the District presbyters (those who are active and those who have retired from active work) gather together to share in a time of fellowship, mutual support and to consider any matters that the Church has referred to the meeting. It is an important gathering for all presbyters as it gives the opportunity to reflect upon and renew our ordination vows. The day is one of worship and discussion, but also has the responsibility to give permission to those presbyters who are asking the Church to be able to 'sit down' (that is to retire from active ministry), to affirm and recommend the progress of probationer presbyters and to reflect upon the lives and ministry of those who have been taken into glory over the last year. For all presbyters, this is an important and meaningful gathering.

This year, our Circuit here has the honour of welcoming the Presbyteral Synod and providing that time for around 130 presbyters from across the District, to gather and share together. The meeting is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March and will be hosted at Christ Church Barnstaple.

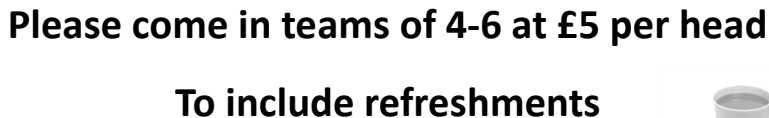
Events such as this always need those who can provide support on the day. As the hosts of the event, we are asked to provide hospitality to our visitors. That means providing tea/coffee and biscuits at the start of the day as people arrive; to be around to direct folk to the nearby car parks and to welcome them into the church; to provide teas/coffees at lunchtime (the visitors will bring their own lunches to share); to offer tea/coffee and cakes at the end of the meeting before people head off home.

If you think that you could offer any support on the day to help out, then please contact either Eff Poole who is co-ordinating things at Christ Church Barnstaple, Meg Jeffrey in the Circuit Office or myself.

The Circuit is grateful for the co-operation of Christ Church Barnstaple in enabling us to host this event as it means that their regular activities will be disrupted, but it is our way of offering our thanks for the work and ministry undertaken by the presbyters in our District.

Should anyone have any further questions about the day, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Every blessing,  
Robert.



**Hearing Aids and Spectacles:** Specsavers collect any unwanted hearing aids and spectacles. If you want someone to take them for you, simply give them to Ronnie Wilson at any service. If you can't spot me, I am sure that if you give them to the Elder on duty, they will give them to me.



Many thanks for your help, Ronnie

## BARNSTAPLE STREET PASTORS

An activity on our premises that not everyone will know about is the Street Pastors, who meet every Saturday, 9.00pm to 2.00am (yes, 2.00am the following day!), and are a presence in the town centre streets. Two of them came to our church meeting on 20 January to tell us about their work. Here is what they said....



**Roger Bartlett** thanked Christ Church for making their premises available to the Street Pastors as their base on Saturday evenings from 9.00pm to 2.00am. The movement had begun in London and had arrived in Barnstaple some ten years ago. The Street Pastors are a non-judgmental presence in the town centre streets at that time and are supported by Prayer Partners at the base. Their ministry is to the homeless, those who had drunk too much, and people abandoned by their mates and who are not well enough to get themselves safely back home alone. All, whatever their state, are precious in God's eyes. If there is a fight, they do not dive in to sort it out, but observe, and are a calming presence. Their aim is not to evangelise. The police have noted that through their presence crime has plummeted. The prayer ministry is the 'engine room' of their work. People such as church members can be involved: as actual street pastors, as prayer partners at the base, or as friends. Forms are available on which people can sign up, indicating the level of support they are prepared to give.

**Gareth Owens**, who lives in South Molton, described how he had become involved. He noted that three quarters of those they deal with have no church links at all, and for them the street pastors provide a positive image of the church, in contrast to the unfortunate image of the church often given in the media. 'Where would Jesus be?' He would be there with people, walking alongside them. Two Bible texts in particular were their inspiration: [people] 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd' (Matt: 9:36); and 'let your light shine' in the darkness (Matt: 5:16). He had been nervous when he had first begun to work as a street pastor, but 'God has given me the tools for my self-growth.'

If anyone is interested in supporting the work of the Street pastors as an actual pastor, a prayer partner or a friend, Shirley Baxter has details.

Tony Coates

## **Fairtrade Fortnight - Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March**

Fairtrade Fortnight is the highlight of the year for the Fairtrade movement in the UK. It is when individuals, groups and companies come together to celebrate the people in developing countries who grow our food but who are often underpaid and exploited. Fairtrade is also celebrating 25 years of Fairtrade in the UK.

This year the focus of Fairtrade Fortnight is on cocoa, women and living income. Cocoa prices have dipped to crisis levels over the last few years. Many farmers, men and women, are underpaid and exploited so they can't earn enough for the basics most of us would take for granted such as education, housing and food, simply because they don't earn a living income. The situation can be even worse for women as they are often overlooked and under-represented and often receive even less money for their crop.

£1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day, which falls far short of what is required to meet their family's needs. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty. Incomes are low and uncertain.

For women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market, but often with fewer rights than men.

This is why the Fairtrade Foundation are campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If we can all work together with governments, chocolate companies and retailers to make the commitments and policies necessary, then we can make it happen. It is very sobering to think that even though the price of cocoa on the world market has fallen, we still pay the same if not more for our bar of chocolate. This means what we pay for a chocolate bar is being shared among others in the supply chain, and the share going to farmers continues to slide. At present only 8% of chocolate bars sold in the UK are Fairtrade certified.

A living income means enough money to live a simple but dignified life, paying for essentials such as clothing, medicine and schooling. They are not luxuries, but a human right for everyone.



So this Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 the campaign is about telling the story of cocoa farmers through women : 'She Deserves a Living wage'. 'She Deserves running water'. 'She Deserves a doctor'... By recognising what they do, we can create a platform for the amazing and inspiring women farmers across the Fairtrade network. They are leading the way in changing attitudes, behaviours and, ultimately, their communities – supported by Fairtrade and its push for women's empowerment.

So what can we as individuals do?

**Buy Fairtrade Chocolate!** Perhaps one of the simplest ways to support cocoa farmers around the world is by buying Fairtrade chocolate and cocoa. While this doesn't immediately solve all the issues, keeping up the demand allows farmers to sell more of their cocoa on Fairtrade terms thus increasing their income. NB. The Co-op chocolate confectionery range is 100% Fairtrade.

**And sign the Petition!** Fairtrade is calling on the UK Government to make sure that our trade with developing countries puts poverty reduction first, delivering living incomes for all. The petition opened for signatures on Monday 25 February. Postcards to sign are on the display which will be in the vestibule during the Fortnight.

Whatever you do to further Fairtrade, it will make a difference. More ideas and details are on the Fairtrade Foundation website.



## **DAA** Dementia Action Alliance

Did you know that there is a group of people interested in supporting those living with dementia and their carers in Barnstaple and surrounding areas? The BDAA (Barnstaple Dementia Action Alliance) was formed in 2014 and the South Molton Dementia Alliance more recently. They are made up of individuals and representatives of various organisations and meet monthly. The BDAA aims to promote awareness of dementia and seeks to improve the lives of those living with dementia and their carers, it is open to all. If you or someone you know is interested in knowing more about dementia or the BDAA why not come along to their next meeting: their AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Barnstaple Library in the Henry Williamson Room at 6pm. You would be very welcome.

The BDAA is a friendly group with a casual approach who are actively seeking further support to develop the group. Committee positions will be available for management of the group.

BDAA can help signpost to support activities locally and can also arrange free 'Dementia Friends' awareness sessions for individuals or organisations. So come along on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, get involved and support your local Dementia Action Alliance, find out what is going on to support local people living with dementia or share ideas of what more you think needs to be done.

For more details please contact:  
barnstapledaa@hotmail.com or 07516879418

# Christ Church Barnstaple

## AWAY DAY 2019

### Together with God

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 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, are available in the vestibule.



***The closing date for booking is Sunday March 17th at midday.***

Sue and Brian Macbeth want to **thank everyone** who has enquired after his well-being recently. As you may have become aware Brian has spent much of the time between September and January in hospital. He came home mid January and feels on the mend even though it will be a long process. Thank you too for keeping us in your prayers.

What a joy it was to see four past members of Junior Church at the Carol Service in December. It was really heart-warming to see them - all obviously home to spend Christmas with their families. I know that we see them at other times, which is wonderful, but four at one service was indeed a joyful occasion.

Jenny Newman



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday 9th March  
at 8:30am  
speaker Ron Howell



Tuesday coffee rota




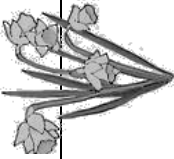
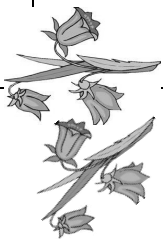

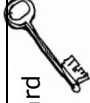
Mar	5th	Joy & Andy	April	2nd	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Mar	12th	Ena, George & Rose	April	9th	Pam & Rose
Mar	19th	Tony, Celia & Lorna	April	16th	Joy & Andy
Mar	26th	Pam & Gordon	April	23rd	Ena, George & Rose
			April	30th	Tony, Celia & Lorna





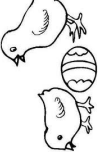




Our family matters  
Christ Church Family News

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.

SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd March	10th March	17th March	24th March	31st March
Coffee 	Sally Blackmore	Jennifer Allen	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Jennifer Allen	-	-	George Hopkins	-
Projector 	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson	Gordon Pearce
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Jenny Newman		
Serving Communion 	Elaine Stevens Liz Seymour Norman Tucker David Wilson				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Elaine Stevens Jenny Newman	Liz Seymour Allison Cairns	Ian Allen Shirley Baxter	Jack Neville Eff Poole	Ronnie Wilson Anthea Coates

SUNDAY ROTAS	7th April	14th April	21st April	28th April
Coffee 	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 	Pauline Dawson	Pauline Dawson	-	Joy Morley
Projector 	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Ronnie Wilson	
Serving Communion 	Gill Greenland Kathy Jeacock Rosemary Cole Mary Ruhleman			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Gill Greenland Jenny Newman	Elaine Stevens Alison Cairns	Liz Seymour Shirley Baxter	Ian Allen Eff Poole



Our Café Church in February was on the story of the Prodigal Son



We made 'Love one another as God loves us' heart plates!

## Young Families Work

Great fun has been had in Toddler Praise over the past few weeks with the themes 'Jesus Calms the Storm', 'The Prodigal Son', 'The Lost Sheep' and 'God's Amazing Love'.

In Sunday Club we have a wide age-range of children from one to sixteen years old who are an interested and committed group. They are very good at caring for one another and bring a lot of joy into each other's lives - and ours too. In our recent planning meeting we discussed how we could best meet the changing needs of our Sunday Club children.

We are looking forward to welcoming Yeo Valley School children from Year 3 and Year 5 to Christ Church for 'Experience Easter' on 26<sup>th</sup> March. This is a wonderful opportunity to help them better understand the Easter Story and to further their spiritual development in an interactive and creative way.

Thank you to everyone who helps regularly with the children's work on Wednesdays and Sundays – the teamwork here is brilliant! Many thanks also to those who pray for our Young Families Work. The care and support of you all is heart-warming.

Love and prayers,  
Jo

### **Oasis on Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6.30pm**

The Oasis service of healing and wholeness takes place when there is a fifth Sunday in the month –but because of the way dates have fallen the last Oasis service was back in September!

Every act of Christian worship celebrates the grace and power of God. But in a service of healing and wholeness we bring to God our own frailty or anxiety – all the burdens which weigh us down. We also bring our concerns for others and for the world. We come to God who knows our needs before we ask, and whose love revealed in Jesus Christ is stronger than suffering and death (from the Methodist Worship Book).

Sometimes our morning worship at Christ Church can feel very busy – often for all sorts of good reasons. So the team planning an Oasis service seek to offer a quieter, less rushed, space for reflection and prayer; a time to listen to God and to receive from him. So do make time to come and join us on March 31<sup>st</sup>!

Marilyn Tricker

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Monday</b>		<b>Short Mat Bowling ...</b>	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		<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 - 7.00pm		<b>Brownies ...</b>	contact Heather Collins 07803841000
5.30pm - 6.30pm		<b>Rainbows ...</b>	contact Nicola Wilkins
7.00pm - 8.30pm		<b>Guides ...</b>	{ tel 07813620615 or 01271377154
<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

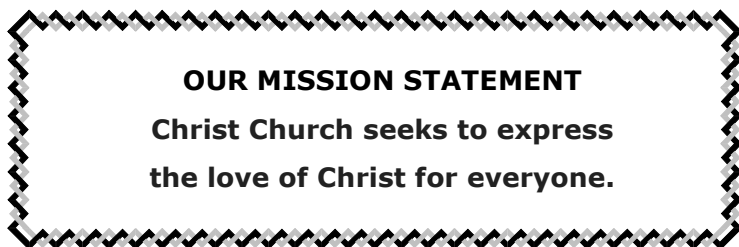
### All at Christ Church Barnstaple are committed to the following Safeguarding Principles:

- \* 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 2019

		<b>Cash</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>
<b>Jan</b>	6th	£	£
	13th	£	£
	20th	£	£
	27th	£	£

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Currently this offertory is £ per month. *If you are a tax payer* and would like the church to claim back the tax on your giving or if you change your address or other details, please contact Judith Smith on 01271 345019 or speak to a serving elder - Thank you.



*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	

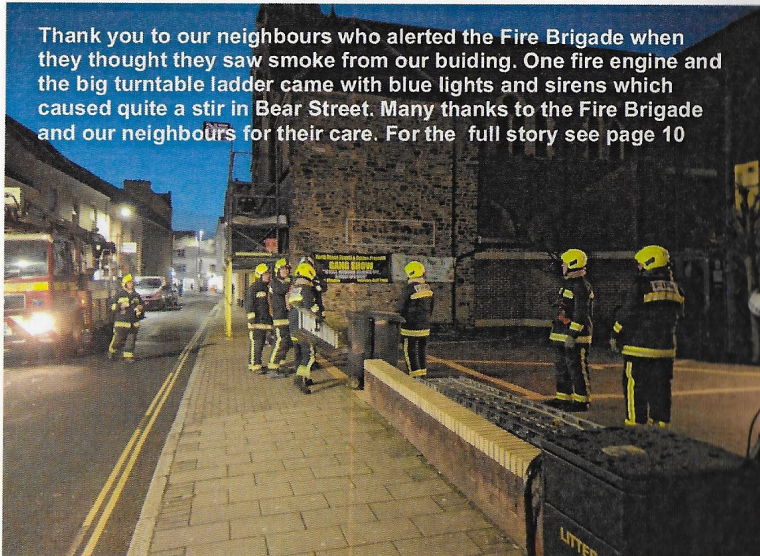
#### Telephone Directory (01271)

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

#### Editors:

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 our neighbours who alerted the Fire Brigade when they thought they saw smoke from our building. One fire engine and the big turntable ladder came with blue lights and sirens which caused quite a stir in Bear Street. Many thanks to the Fire Brigade and our neighbours for their care. For the full story see page 10



## Two Bridges Café



Why not come along 10.15-11.30 Thursdays? All welcome!



**Sunday Club:**  
sharing  
music  
and  
prayers

