

The Messenger

April 2019

Christ Church

Methodist URC

Barnstaple

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

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Hob Nob coffee
morning celebrates
St David's Day
-see back page

Calendar

April 2019

Mon	1st	7.15pm	Elders' meeting	
Thur	4th	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Garry Reed
		10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	- check first as this is the last week of term
Sat	6th	10.00am	- 4.00pm Church Away Day at Lee Abbey	
Sun	7th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		6.30pm	Guy Byham	
Tues	9th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	11th		No Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Rev Tim Sutton
Sat	13th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- speaker Martin Reardon
Sun	14th		PALM SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Rev Marilyn Tricker	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	15th	2.30pm	3rd Monday House Group at Saw Mill Court	
		7.30pm	Friendship Group- 'Seedlings school in the Gambia', Helen or a colleague	
Thur	18th		MAUNDY THURSDAY	
			No Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- Rev Don Macalister, Communion Service
		7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service	- Rev Don Macalister
Fri	19th		GOOD FRIDAY	
		10.30am	Service at Christ Church - Rev Marilyn Tricker - followed by CTiB Walk of Witness	
		7.00pm	Stainer's Crucifixion - mixed choirs	
Sat	20th		<i>Last day for contributions to the April Messenger</i>	
Sun	21st		EASTER DAY	
		10.30am	Rev Don Macalister - family service. Please remember to bring a flower if you wish to join the tradition of adding flowers to the cross. Communion	
		6.30pm	Deacon Joan Cole	
Tues	23rd	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	25th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	- check first as this is the first week of term
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- <i>No meeting</i>
Sat	27th	6.30pm	Quiz & Pasty evening	see page 5
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Circuit Service at Sticklepath	
Mon	29th	5.30pm	Friendship Group - Bonne Marché Spring Fashion Show, and afterwards back to Christ Church	

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 further information on any of the groups:-

Third Monday Group: Sue Macbeth (345445)

Sticklepath: Joan Cole (326348)

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

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

Dates for your Diary see page 6

Message

Dear Friends,

In the last century the poet R.S. Thomas said in a BBC interview: 'I am a Christian because I think Christianity is the most profound and satisfactory answer to the great problem of suffering. I don't think even in this late stage of the twentieth century there is anything more contemporary than the cross. I would not be content to find an answer to the problem of suffering which did not involve God.' That thought is as true today as it has been since the first Good Friday. In a world with pain, confusion and suffering of so many kinds the question that is so often asked of people of faith is 'Where is your God in all this?'

The shocking answer that is revealed for us on the Cross of Calvary is that God is there, suffering with the suffering, dying with the dying. God is here, with us, as we struggle to understand the nature of evil and suffering that human beings can inflict on each other. God knows, he understands human pain and fear and rejection because he's experienced it in the person of Jesus Christ, just as he experiences it in us. But of course for those of us who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that is not the end of the story. Without the resurrection we would have a God who is with us in our suffering. With the resurrection we have a God who is with us in our hope; we have a God who *is* our hope.

At the time of writing this letter the world seems politically in as much turmoil and conflict as ever. Parliament is still struggling with Brexit and we can't be sure what will happen in the short term let alone slightly further ahead. But what we can know is that on Easter Day we will be able to celebrate the fact that by the grace and power of God love conquers hatred, life conquers death, the light shines in the darkness and will never be overcome.

Let us pray this Easter for peace and healing between all God's children of every nation and of every faith. And may we live and share the Easter hope with everyone we meet.

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Don.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prayers for April

7th April

Gracious God,
help me to free myself from the power of money and things and to trust in you so that I am not afraid of the future.
Amen.

14th April

Lord,
help me to speak up, to bless your name and tell of your love; that others might be blessed.
Amen.

21st April

Holy God,
in the raising of your Son you dazzle us.
We bow before you and pray that our fear may give way to faith in the One who is risen from the tomb.
Amen.

28th April

Come, Holy Spirit,
bring peace in our world.
Bring peace in this nation.
Bring peace to my community.
Bring peace to my home.
Bring peace to my heart.
Come, Holy Spirit, come now.
Amen.

Concert on Saturday May 4th

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers rehearse in Room 1 on Wednesday evenings, and are currently preparing for their Annual Concert here at Christ Church on Saturday May 4th at 7.00pm – see details elsewhere in the Messenger. This year the proceeds from the concert will be shared between Christ Church and North Devon Hospice (the latter chosen by choir chair Maureen Sobey, who celebrates a Special Birthday that weekend!). We do hope members and friends of the church will come along to support and to enjoy a happy evening together. The choir is always happy to welcome new members (ladies only – sorry, gentlemen!) – speak to Marilyn Tricker, Gill Tucker or Alison Cairns for more details.

Marilyn Tricker



Quiz and Pasty Evening

On Saturday 27th April

1st Question at 6.30pm sharp

Please come in teams of 4-6 at £5 per head

To include refreshments



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.

Andy Morley (Events Committee Secretary)

Dates for your Diary

May	Saturday 4th - Jubilee Singers Concert at 7.00pm see page 15
	Friday 10th - Sing for your Supper at 7.00pm see page 12
	Wednesday 15th - Church Meeting at 7.00pm
	Friday 17th - Barnstaple Concert Band concert
	Saturday 18th - Christian Aid Event - Table Top sale, see page 7 for details
	Sunday 26th - Service on Prayer - Jim Ware from the House of Prayer
	Thursday 30th - Holiday Club
June	Saturday 1st - Tea in the Garden at the Seymours' home
	Saturday 8th - Step out for Children - A4C Walk.
July	Saturday 13th - Coffee Morning 10.00am - 12noon
	at the home of David & Ronnie Wilson

Stainer's 'CRUCIFIXION'
on Good Friday, 19th April,
7:00pm
at Christ Church in Barnstaple.

Entrance £5.00

Come and hear this uplifting work which is so
suitable for Good Friday.

Christian Aid

Thank-you to everyone for their positive comments about Joanna Tom-Kargbo's talk on ante-natal and post-natal care in parts of Sierra Leone at the Church Service on 10th March. She is a Nurse and Midwife from this country who has come to England before Christian Aid week (12-18 May) to raise people's awareness as to the poor and dangerous state of childbirth in



Sierra Leone, and to speak of how the charity has helped, for instance with sanitation and solar panels to supply electricity to the health centre. She emphasised the fact that many people who live in rural areas can and do supply labour and natural resources e.g. water, but they cannot buy medical help nor services such as drainage, electricity etc.

Also I would like to thank all for the collection at the Service, and after the shared lunch and to all those who helped in the above - and to those who worked in the kitchen, on the projector and who helped to restore the church for Café Church afterwards. The collection after the Church service on 10th March was a marvellous total of £135.00.



At the lunch we were asked to sign a petition "Drop the Debt", on behalf of Sierra Leone, as the country borrowed a great deal of money from foreign governments to fund treating and managing Ebola when it recently occurred there.



The Big Shift :

Mrs. Margaret Robinson from Braunton Christ Church has asked those who aren't going on the church away day on Sat. 6th April, to meet her and others outside HSBC in Barnstaple High Street to present a petition

to the bank. This is to ask HSBC not to financially back mining in Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, as burning fossil fuels is a factor in climate change; the Big Shift is trying to change attitudes of big companies to their funding policies.

Saturday 18th May:

Christian Aid Fundraising Event at Christ Church, Barnstaple.

Lastly, having spoken to Carolyn and Elaine, we would like to hold a Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning on the Saturday ending Christian Aid week. Tables will be offered at £5.00 to non Church vendors, and £3.00 to Church associates. Also the Church will be open to offer coffee and cake . We hope you can come - either behind a table, or simply to have a hot drink and cake.

Thank you very much on behalf of Joanna and Jill.

Once again, thank you very much for all the support to Christian Aid so far. Carolyn and Ronnie



Our Fair trade Fortnight display



The Fairtrade system currently works with over 1.65 million farmers and workers.

- There are 1,226 Fairtrade producer organisations across 74 countries.
- 26% of all Fairtrade farmers and workers are women.
- 1.5 hectares is the average size of the plot cultivated by a Fairtrade farmer.

Getting to grips with vocational skills:

Further news from Francisco at Kira Farm

We were introduced to Francisco in our last Messenger learning something of his background in Uganda and hearing how well he was settling down at Kira Farm, already fully utilising all that was being offered him. Now we hear more from him - where his carpentry training is already taking him, how his faith is clearly an important part of his life - and the deep appreciation he feels for the love and support he is being given every day. He writes...

... I personally greatly love carpentry, working with wood then you produce something a person can use, to me it's like growing plants and seeing them grow then you eat them.

We do not have many carpenters in my village and I would greatly admire the few we had seeing those making different things, I cannot believe that I am also getting the same opportunity of getting a skill that is already seeing me start working with wood to make different things. I have now learnt different joints and by the end of this week I would have made seed trays to use on Kira.

I have also been using my building skills together with my friends from the building class to build a two bedroomed house for a poor family in the community; this excites me that I can already use the skills I have got to give back to the community.

Thanks for asking about my farming yes we do grow spinach but not leeks actually I even do not know how leeks look like. At the moment we have grown tomatoes, onions, and cabbages.

Yes I am so happy that we start every day on Kira with Prayers, I was not used to praying every day at my home but I am finding myself becoming happier every day not worried so much because I now commit everything I am going to do to God.

We do go out every Sunday to church called Worship Harvest. It meets in a bar so for the first time going there it was a bit strange because I had never seen a church meeting in bar but people are so lovely and we all love it there.

...thanks a lot for your prayers, I greatly appreciate that. Your support and prayers are a clear indication that you do love me and greatly care for me...

Please send my love to all the kids you meet at church, I will be praying for them as well.

God bless you.

Francisco

Churches together in Barnstaple

Good Friday – 19th April - Once again Churches Together in Barnstaple are planning a Good Friday, silent witness beginning at 12noon for 20 minutes in Barnstaple Town Centre.

There will be walks of witness from Sticklepath, Pilton, Grosvenor and Christ Church. All walks need to arrive and be in position before 12, noon. The aim is that we should bunch together as one large crowd.

There will be stewards on hand and also people wearing "Ask me why?" T-shirts. If anyone would like to be a steward or wear an "Ask me why?" T-shirt please, contact Shirley Baxter 375560.

Church Friends Directories – There are some changes to the Church Friends Directory

Bruce & Audrey Clarke are on List 17 not 1.

Norah Cooke is on List 11

Paul Ellis is on List 14 not 12

Please add George & Jan King to List 9

Please add Andy & Joy Morley to List 7

Please amend your directories – Thank you, Shirley



Men's Breakfast
Saturday 13th April
at 8:30am
speaker Martin Reardon



Tuesday coffee rota

April	2nd	Wendy, Anne & Gill	May	7th	Pam, Gordon & Sylvia
April	9th	Pam & Rose	May	14th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
April	16th	Joy & Andy	May	21st	Pam & Rose
April	23rd	Ena, George & Rose	May	28th	Joy & Andy
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.

Sadly we have to report that several of our members and friends have suffered bereavement. Mary Tucker, wife of Stuart Tucker, Kevin Doherty, Janette Doherty's father, Richard Cole, Rosemary Cole's son, John Wilsdon and Len Neale, leader of the Boy's Brigade that used to meet at Christ Church and husband of Jean Neale, have all died in the last few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends as they come to terms with their grief.



"I want to say an enormous **thank you** to all my wonderful Church Friends and to Revd Don for the love they have shown me since I have lost my so special, much loved son Richard. Thank you for your messages, flowers, cards and prayers. It's been overwhelming and so helpful.

God Bless - Rosemary Cole"

Andy & Joy Morley would like to **thank everyone** who has sent cards and messages of support to them. Your offers of help and the reassurance of people praying for us as a family have been deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your continued love and understanding.

Young Families Work

We have been looking forward to X-Site, a fun Christian event for 7 to 11 year olds at St. John's Church, Newport, on Saturday 23rd March. The children were encouraged to bring along friends who don't attend a church on Sundays. In fact, they are rewarded with a packet of sweets if they bring a friend! We had two teenagers from our Sunday Club who were helping as Young Leaders at X-Site this time.

We have enjoyed two Family Services recently which our Sunday Club children have participated in well. Thank you to Don for making these services so inclusive. The morning service on Easter Day (21st April) will include family communion.

Plenty of fun was had at Café Church with several children wearing multiple bandages, due to the theme of 'The Good Samaritan'! Our band at Café Church is still growing with more children keen to be musicians. The next Café Church will be on 14th April at 4:30pm and the theme will be 'The Easter Story'. The next planning meeting will be in Room 1 on Tuesday 23rd April at 12noon.

Our Holiday Clubs for 5-11 year olds will run on Thursday 30th May, Wednesday 14th August and Thursday 15th August. For more information, please see Jo or Anthea. The planning meeting will be in Room 1 on Tuesday 30th April at 10:30am.

I will be attending a two-day training course in April, to update my paediatric first-aid training. Training courses run by 'Care for the Family' will be coming up soon. If you are interested in becoming a new volunteer with any of our children's groups we will be pleased to hear from you.

News on 'Experience Easter' with Yeo Valley School next time!

Love and prayers, Jo

The Worship Group invite you to...

Sing for your Supper

Friday 10th May at 7.00pm

An evening of joyful singing and good company

with the opportunity to learn some new hymns for Pentecost as well as to sing and rehearse some of our favourite ones.

Supper of your choice will be served at 8.15pm
(either from the Silver Cod Menu or home-made soup and roll)

Further details will be in the weekly notices nearer the time and in the May Messenger



Toddlers' Praise & Parent + toddlers on Wednesdays



Café Church : The Story of the Good Samaritan



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

STEP OUT FOR CHILDREN WALK 2019

This year's walks are going to be based around EBBERLY (EX38 7JT - near Roborough), with a lunch to follow at 1 o'clock.

The date is **SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2019**

There will be 2 walks:

Walk A Starting from the church at 10.30 am prompt
A 3 mile circular walk along quiet lanes, passing Ebberly House.

Walk B A shorter circular walk (max 1 mile) starting at 11.00 am. again along quiet lanes and suitable for buggies/ pushchairs.

Lunch at the Church 1.00 pm. as usual - approx cost £5.50. For catering purposes, please advise prior to the day if you would like to join us for lunch. There will be a raffle as usual.

SPONSORSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CIRCUIT OFFICE. PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN US FOR A WALK OR JUST LUNCH.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Circuit Office in Barnstaple:

Meg Jeffrey 01271 379116 Tues/Fri 9.30 – 12.30

Office email: barnstaplecircuit@hotmail.com

Home number 01271 344335

Email: emjeffrey@tiscali.co.uk

Walk Organiser: Meg

HOW |
**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**
| WORKS

Sticklepath Methodist Jazz Night

Friday 3rd May

7.30pm

The Jazz Ramblers

Tickets £7 from Sue 375939

or Sandy 325602

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers

Musical Director: Viv Gregory

Guest Pianist: Sue Trick

Compere: Cllr. Ian Roome (choir president)






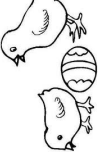

Saturday May 4th 7.00pm








Christ Church Barnstaple

Free admission

Refreshments – Raffle

**Retiring Collection for North Devon Hospice
and Christ Church Barnstaple**

SUNDAY ROTAS	7th April	14th April	21st April Easter Sunday	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 Morning 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Gordon & Pam Pearce	
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

SUNDAY ROTAS	5th May	12th May	19th May	26th May
Coffee 	Sally Blackmore	Muriel Symons	Pauline Dawson	Jennifer Allen
Flowers 	-	-	-	-
Projector 	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Shirley Baxter	
Serving Communion 	Jack Neville Ian Allen Celia Huxtable Mike Smith			
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Jack Neville Anthea Coates	Ronnie Wilson Sylvia Jones	Gill Greenland Jenny Newman	Elaine Stevens Alison Cairns

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 February 2019

		Cash	Envelopes
Feb	3rd	£	£
	10th	£	£
	17th	£	£
	24th	£	£

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:

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Email contact to site		webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



**Come along to
Hob Nob
coffee morning
at Christ Church
on Fridays
10.00-12.00.
All are welcome!**

