



The Messenger

Christ Church

Methodist /United Reformed Church

Barnstaple

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

November 2019

◆ News of our Community Links project – see pages 3 and 15

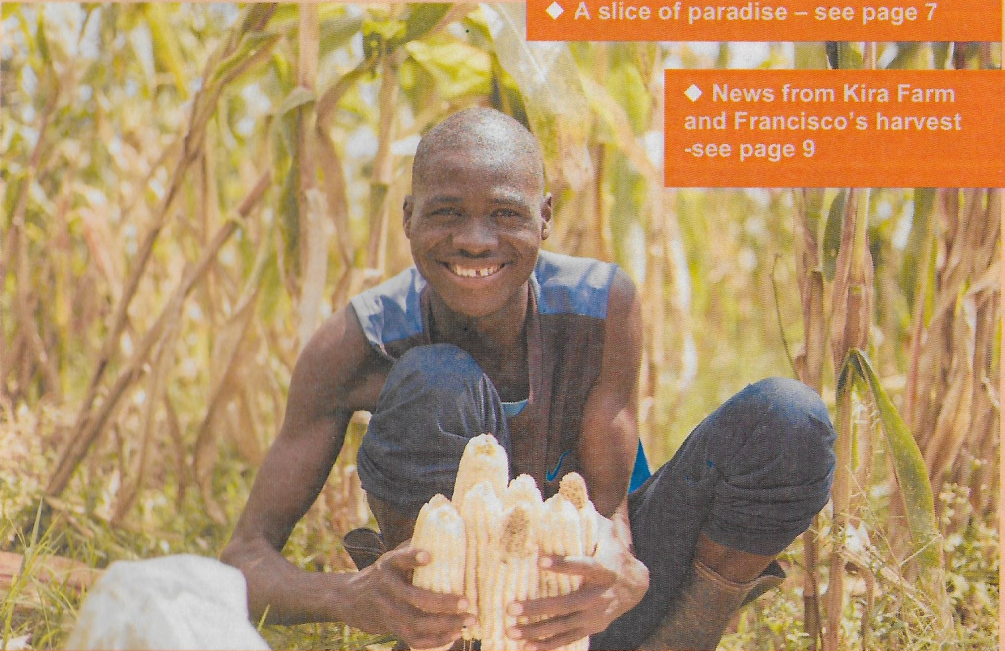
◆ 10th birthday of Barnstaple Street Pastors- see page 5

◆ Remember- Prayer and Poetry
- see page 10,11

◆ A slice of paradise – see page 7



◆ News from Kira Farm and Francisco's harvest
-see page 9



Calendar

November 2019

Fri	1st		Barnstaple Concert Band concert	
Sat	2nd	6.30pm	Street Pastors' 10th Anniversary celebrations	- see page 5
Sun	3rd	10.30pm	Rev Don Macalister	Communion
		1.00pm	Church AGM preceded by 'bring & share' lunch	
		6.30pm	Rejoice!	
Mon	4th	6.30pm	for 7.00pm Elders' Meal at the Williams Arms	
Thur	7th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.00pm	for tea before 2.30pm Ladies Fellowship service	
			for collection of shoe boxes	see page 14
Fri	8th		Barnstaple Ladies Choir concert in aid of 'Go North Devon'	
Sat	9th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast	- Talk on Water Aid
Sun	10th		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
		10.30am	Deacon Joan Cole	
		4.30pm	Café Church	
Mon	11th	7.00pm	Friendship Group - speaker Rachel Greenland 'Working on Mercy Ships'	
Tues	12th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	14th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Liz Young
Fri	15th		Last day for contributions to the December/January Messenger	
Sat	16th	9.00am	Winter Fair	see pages 18 & 19
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Robert Hurley	Communion
Thur	21st	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- speaker Pam Jewett
Sat	23rd	10.00am	Study Day	see page 14
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev Don Macalister	
		6.30pm	Rev Don Macalister	
Mon	25th	12.30am	- 1.00pm Friendship Group - Christmas Lunch at the Royal & Fortescue	
Tues	26th	10.00am	- 12noon 'Sound it Out'	
Thur	28th	10.15am	- 11.30am Two Bridges Café	
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship	- planning for Carol Service
Fri	29th	7.30pm	Community Links Project prayer meeting in room 4	
Sat	30th		Decorating the church for Christmas	
			Frances Bell concert	

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.

Friday morning Bible Study resumed on Friday 4th October in room 4.

Thursday evening Bible study resumed on Thursday 17th October in room 4. All are welcome – further details for November on page 4.

Contacts:-

Third Monday Group - (Sue Macbeth 345445) Sticklepath - Joan Cole - (326348)

Thursday evening - Marilyn Tricker (830869) Friday morning – Shirley Baxter (375560)

Dates for your Diary

See page 3

Message

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you.

Thank you to all of you who have been giving some of your prayer time to pray for the Community Links project. It is only through prayer that we know God's will and it is only through prayer that we can do it. And thank you to those who have given time in research and meetings as we review all we're doing and explore what we may be being called to do as a church that truly is working to live out our faith in our local community.

Thank you to all those who were in a position to be able to respond so generously, and I know in some cases so sacrificially, to give financially towards the cost of repairs to the church to enable us to keep using the amazing building and facilities we have to the glory of God. And thank you too to all those of you who will be giving to this work by supporting me in my sponsored diet.

Thank you to you all for all that you give, in so many different ways, to the life of this church, of this part of the family of God.

November is a time when we remember and give thanks for others who have given so much through the years. On Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday we remember those who have given their lives in wars through the years.

It's good to remember and give thanks for the giving of the past that has given us what we have now, it's not just good, it's vital. Whether it is the gift of peace or the gift of love, of grace, that comes through our relationship with God through Christ.

Above all it's good to give thanks for God's gift to each one of us of himself, with us and in us always.

Grace and peace,

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

Dates for your diary:-

December	Thursday 5th 2.30pm Ladies Fellowship/Townswomen's Guild Carol Service
	Thursday 5th (evening) Guides Carol Service
	Thursday 12th 7.00pm Light up a Life service
	Friday 13th Jubilee Singers Christmas Celebration
	Sunday 15th Christmas Family Service
	Sunday 22nd 6.30pm Carol Service
	Tuesday 24th 4.00pm Christingle Service
	Wednesday 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Service

Prayers for November

3rd November

Lord, in my life today, I pray that you would increase the love I have for you and for others, that I might live a life worthy of your call, so that the name of Jesus might be glorified in me. Amen.

10th November

God of the living, live in me.

Through your Holy Spirit, give me the ability to discern fact from fiction, to recognise truth when I see it, and to weigh all things carefully.

Grant me wisdom and guidance, and lead me into all truth.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

17th November

O God, sometimes my days feel so unproductive – tasks can feel repetitive and uninspiring.

Refresh me in my daily work, in the things I do for you and for others.

Make me strong in love and compassion, that I may reflect your glory, even in the smallest pieces of my life. Amen.

24th November

Jesus, you alone are above all things and in you all things hold together.

In you I find my peace, my hope, my joy.

When my eyes grow dim and my life gets cluttered by other things, restore my vision.

Remind me that you are bigger than all the 'stuff' my life feels made of, and that I can depend on you. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Thursday evening Bible studies. 7.30pm in Room 4

A short series, started in October, using the book "Talking of God Together". The first two sessions were:

'A present God' and 'A listening God'. Each session contains some short Bible passages, a variety of stories from today, and encourages conversation about our own experiences and understanding of God.

New members always welcome – just come along, or contact Marilyn Tricker (830869)



Oct. 31st

Nov. 7th

Nov. 14th

A caring God

A speaking God

Jesus our teacher and model

Happy Birthday

For those of you who don't often venture down the corridor to read all the posters on the various notice boards:-

A little while ago a poster went up advertising the birthday party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Barnstaple Street Pastors. The RSVP date for the buffet has already passed but they would be pleased to see anyone at the service. It really doesn't seem like 10 years since they started up in Barnstaple. The following is an excerpt from a CTiB message.

Sep 4, 2019 5:06:31 PM - STREET PASTORS

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support that means so much to the local team.

We can't quite believe that the summer is already over, but it is! We have been able to put patrols out for most weekends and this summer had a trial at covering on a Friday rather than Saturday night. Whilst it was only once, it was significantly quieter than the Saturdays, which on that night, was a particular shame for Joe Tucker as he was out as an observer for the first time. I am sure we will find you some more action next time Joe! ☺

So we will probably continue with just Saturdays, although, we are in ongoing contact with the local police to discuss whether there are other days or occasions when they might benefit from our patrols.

Birthday Party: As mentioned in the last message, this autumn, **Barnstaple Street Pastors** will be **10 years old** and we will be holding a celebration on **Saturday 2nd November at Christ Church Bear Street**. ***We would love to have you join with us for this special evening so please do come and share this invite with others.***

We will be providing a **buffet from 6:30pm** followed by a **service of celebration at 7:30pm**. At the service, we will be hearing testimony of God's blessing over the years, we will be commissioning some new Pastors as well as joining together in worship. Then, after the service, we are offering the opportunity for anyone that would like, to go out on patrol as an observer or to join our prayer pastor team for some or all of the night. As it is the weekend between Halloween and Bonfire night, it is very likely to be one of the busiest nights of the year and a good evening for us to have a significant presence. We are hoping to put out four or five teams that night which, we pray, will bring God's light and make a big difference.☺



ST ANDREW

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter and the first of the disciples to answer the call of Jesus. He was not born in Scotland and like many of his fellow disciples was born in Capernaum. He was a simple fisherman and particularly involved in the feeding of the 5,000 and in the episode of the Greeks who wished to meet Jesus (*John 12:v20 -22*). It is uncertain where he preached the Gospel, or even where he died. He is particularly associated with Greece and travelled extensively, which may be one of the reasons he is associated with Scotland. Legend has it that during his extensive travels he came to Scotland and built a church in Fife. The town is now known as St Andrews and has become a centre for evangelism, attracting pilgrims from all over Britain to come and pray there. Legend also has it that in the 4th century several of his relics were brought to Fife by Rule, a native of Patras.

St Andrew has also been remembered through the ages for the terrible way in which he met his death, he was crucified on a 'Saltire', or X shaped cross, with his hands and feet bound with rope, because he did not feel worthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. The X shaped cross, white on a blue background has, since 1801, been the proud symbol of Scotland and forms a major component of the Flag of Great Britain. St Andrew's day is celebrated on 30th November, for the Scots who must endure a long cold winter this has become the start of the winter festivities and is usually celebrated with music and dancing.

I believe that whether or not St Andrew visited Scotland, the spirit of kindly hospitality and a welcome to strangers lives on. One has only to visit a Scottish home to delight in an abundance of tasty treats and a warm welcome.

I have included a Scottish recipe for Paradise Slice, so you can all enjoy a little bit of Scottish heaven.

Jennifer Allen



Tuesday coffee rota

Nov	5th	Pam & Rose
Nov	12th	Joy & Andy
Nov	19th	Ena, George & Rose
Nov	26th	Tony, Celia & Lorna

Dec	3rd	Pam, Gordon & Sylvia
Dec	10th	Wendy, Anne & Gill
Dec	17th	Pam & Rose
Dec	24th	No coffee morning
Dec	31st	No coffee morning



PARADISE SLICES

Ingredients

8 ounces (200grms) *shortcrust pastry* (this can be home-made or bought) The recipe also works very well with gluten-free pastry (Sainsbury does a very good one in the freezer cabinet)

Filling

4 tablespoons raspberry jam	5 ounces currants (125 grms)
5 ounces butter (125 grms)	3 ounces glace cherries (75 grms)
5 ounces caster sugar (125 grms)	6 ounces ground almonds (150 grms)
1 egg	

Method

Pre-heat oven to Gas 5, electric 190 (or 170 fan). Roll the pastry to fit an 8" (or 20 cms) square tin. Bake blind for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush with raspberry jam.

To make the filling cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, add egg until well mixed. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Spoon into tin and smooth top. Bake for 35 – 45 minutes, the slice should be golden and slightly springy when cooked. Allow to cool in the tin, once cooled remove and cut into slices.



Churches Together Barnstaple

Carol Singing: Trinity are exploring united carol singing at the hospital and at nursing homes.

Nativity Trail: Shirley Baxter explained that there was no lead person for the Nativity Trail this year, although Christ Church is willing to be the host church.

Christmas Day Community Lunch – The Christmas Day community lunch will once again be at Grosvenor.

Foodbank – Margaret Bloomfield reported they are receiving 35 referrals per week. A recent appeal has restocked the warehouse.

Street Pastors – It was reported that there are now 20 Street pastors, 6 observers but still a need for members of the Prayer Team.

Barnstaple Street pastors are celebrating their 10th anniversary with food and a celebration service at Christ Church on Saturday 2nd November (please see notice board for further details)

United Generation / Revolution – youth outreach

The next United Generation event is planned for 2nd November with the Message Trust Band, from Manchester coming to North Devon. The Message Trust will be working in two schools, Ilfracombe Academy and Pilton Community College, in the preceding week, with the main event at Petroc College on the 2nd November.

Please pray for Churches Together and all that we as a community of churches are involved in. Thank you. Shirley B.



News from Francisco at Kira Farm in Uganda

Latest news from Francisco on Kira Farm

Harvest Time

When I last wrote to Francisco I told him how much his letters are appreciated, how much we are able to learn from them about him and life on Kira, and how we love sharing them with you in the church. I also told him about Holiday Club and its Creation theme - all the fun we had painting our Marvellous Mural with so many people from the church community involved – children, parents and our more elderly friends from Norah Bellot Court – and also the other activities we took part in. His reply shows his understanding of the importance of community, of the need together to care for the world, and of how to make the best of every opportunity offered in whatever way – including using plastic and other waste to grow food! To hear about his farming knowledge and skills and the success of this year's maize harvest is amazing...!

And so to his latest letter...

'It is so nice hearing from you. Thanks a lot for all your prayers and love, please know that as you learn and love reading my communication, I am also learning a lot from your communications and I always look forward to reading your reply.

'It seems you have really had a wonderful church and community time, it is really good for people to come together have fun but also learn something and learning about creation it gives a huge understanding of how our God is so loving putting us in this wonderful world although some of our actions destroy it. I believe after the all community learning about creation they will appreciate God more but also love to keep nature safe, I think I would have bored you though if I was to be involved in the painting bit because I am not so good at art but I love sports a lot.

'I am now just counting a few months to going home and trust me I feel more than ready for the second amazing phase of my life. I have seen myself improving a lot in all my areas of training. In the carpentry workshop I am learning how to make doors and together with my class we have made four doors and we have fixed in one of the long drop we have built for a primary school near Kira.

' Apart from the vocational training, I have also been doing well in my farming. I am happy to inform you that I had a good maize harvest ever. I had to call in my friends to help me with harvesting. I had never seen such a huge yield coming out of a very small plot.

' Still with farming, I have used my spare time to learn about urban farming which involves farming in a very small piece of land and using urban wastes like plastic for farming. We have set up a garden of this kind on Kira and it is surprising seeing things grow in bottles, tins and sacks.

'I am so happy getting this skill because I now know no matter where I will be staying, I still do farming.

'Thanks a lot for your wonderful support which is getting me this skilled.'

Yours

Francisco

Prayer and Poetry Please....

A radio programme which I enjoy listening to on Sunday afternoon goes by the title of Poetry Please. People write in and make requests with reasons given.

Taking this idea and perhaps offering a new way of reflections I just thought I would let you know about a poem reflection which I often read in November.

Roundabout September time each year I have taken to phoning Rev Graham Cook. I guess not many, if any, of you have heard his name. You know the old line.... 'Can anything good come out of.....?' Well in Graham's case it was Liverpool. He was born there in 1939 and trained for ministry at Northern College (now Luther King House) and was ordained in Blackburn in 1963. My connection was that his second pastorate was in developing team ministry in Leeds during the late 1960s. Here was cutting edge approach to ministry where each minister worked together with all their skills pooled across a geographical area. I became a Church Member under that team and thought that it was the only way groups could work.

Part of Graham's strength was he put value on preaching the gospel and he became known as a powerful and direct preacher, and a forceful advocate for Christian values in civic and public life. He gave great attention to details in administration and was well known in the community. At a time when voluntary agencies, politicians and community worked side by side he was a great influence. Indeed he once was interviewed to stand for a political party but fell at the hurdle when asked 'Would you always obey the party whip?' he replied not if it meant a conflict with obedience to God.

Graham was Moderator of General Assembly in 1990-1991 and Director of The Windermere Centre. He also was involved with Yardley Hastings Centre. He was also a passionate believer of Christian Unity and ecumenical work was also important for him.

So now you might ask why I took to a phone call with Graham in September each year. Well he had written a prayer poem reflection which I found very moving and used in worship on Remembrance Sundays. Its printed here and several of you have asked me about it when I have used it in worship.

Sadly Graham died in August this year so alas no phone call.

Rev John Proctor General Secretary of the URC said:

"In sorrow we give thanks to God for Graham's great contribution among us, for his gifts, energy, strength of character and unstinting service of the Church and the gospel."

But in the light of all the political turmoil we currently find ourselves in and on the Day of Remembrance - maybe this poem might just resonate with some of you too.

Remember

Remember Ypres, the Somme, Mons, and Verdun.
Remember the Western Desert, El Alamein, the Normandy beaches.
Remember Dresden, Hiroshima and the Burma Road.
Remember Korea, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Iraq.

Remember the courage, the comradeship, the ingenuity,
the spirit of working together for a common cause,
the planning together for a better world
that would come with peace.

Remember the call to arms, the patriotic songs, the posters,
the partings which were such sweet sorrow,
the sound of the drum, the skirl of the pipe,
the prayer that God would be on our side.

Remember the carnage, the colossal, stinking, bloody horror;
the ripped bodies on the wire,
the platoons of which only three out of forty lived.

Remember the widows of seventy years and more,
the old men and women living now who never knew their fathers.
Remember the love that was lost, the wisdom wasted,
the minds that were twisted and the limbs distorted.

Remember the wealth of nations being fired from guns,
dropped as bombs:
smashing schools, homes, factories, churches and hospitals;
ruining crops, destroying trees.

Remember the hope of a whole generation
left to evaporate in the sands of a desert
or sink forever in the oceans of the world.

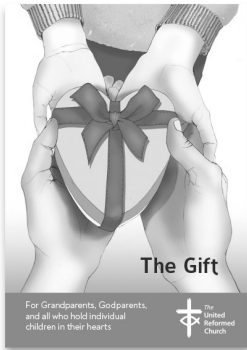
Remember this day the children who will die
while the world spends its wealth on arms;
the young who have no work
while others in their generation are trained to fight;
The ambulances that will not come
while we argue about how many troop carriers we need;
the research into disease left neglected
while brilliant minds are used to study more effective destruction.

Remember the one who asked us to remember him.
Graham Cook

Sue Macbeth

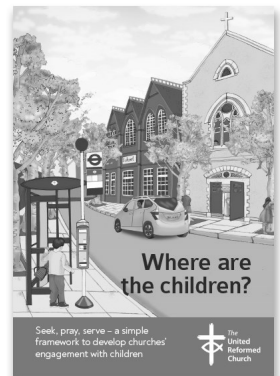
Some items from URC Synod on Saturday 19th October 2019

Two new resources compiled by the Children's and Youth Work team of the United Reformed Church.



The Gift is designed to be given to people who are, or as they become, Godparents and Grandparents to encourage them to nurture that precious relationship. It is just as appropriate for people with more informal, but just as important, connections with individual children and young people.

Where are the children? Jesus said children matter and we all agree with that. Quite often though we are good at ignoring where they are and what does matter to them. As we encourage young people to play their part in today's world - and we see positive evidence of that all around us - we are encouraged too to help in this by supporting them from praying for the events that happen on our premises and to the events in the local schools.



How we can become more Eco-minded and look at our lives in an environmentally friendly way. How do we share God's love with all those we encounter. Practical advice.

Eating One Raisin: Mindful Eating

We are being encouraged to try new things so why not move outside your comfort zone, make some new contacts, let go of your usual role, walk or take a bus instead of drive, make a friend from another race or class, visit a new area, attend another church service, etc. Without new experiences, new

thinking is difficult and rare. After a new experience, new thinking and behaviour comes naturally and even becomes necessary. It doesn't necessarily have a financial cost or require us to go out of the house.

Eating One Raisin, encourages us to do something we have probably done hundreds of times but in a new way. It comes from The Mindful Way Through Depression.

Mindfulness is not paying more attention but paying attention differently and more wisely—with the whole mind and heart, using the full resources of the body and its senses.

Holding

First, take a *single* raisin and hold it in the palm of your hand or between your finger and thumb. Focusing on it, imagine that you've never seen an object like this before in your life.

Seeing

Take time to really see it; gaze at the raisin with care and full attention. Let your eyes explore every part of it, examining the highlights where the light shines, the darker hollows, the folds and ridges, and any asymmetries or unique features.

Touching

Turn the raisin over between your fingers, exploring its texture, maybe with your eyes closed if that enhances your sense of touch.

Smelling

Holding the raisin beneath your nose, with each inhalation drink in any smell, aroma, or fragrance that may arise, noticing as you do this anything interesting that may be happening in your mouth or stomach.

Placing

Now slowly bring the raisin up to your lips, noticing how your hand and arm know exactly how and where to position it. Gently place the object in the mouth, without chewing, noticing how it gets into the mouth in the first place. Spend a few moments exploring the sensations of having it in your mouth, exploring it with your tongue.

Tasting

When you are ready, prepare to chew the raisin, noticing how and where it needs to be for chewing. Then, very consciously, take one or two bites into it and notice what happens, experiencing any waves of taste that emanate from it as you continue chewing. Without swallowing yet, notice the bare sensations of taste and texture in the mouth and how these may change over time, moment by moment, as well as any changes in the object itself.

Swallowing

When you feel ready to swallow the raisin, see if you can first detect the intention to swallow as it comes up, so that even this is experienced consciously before you actually swallow the raisin.

Following

Finally, see if you can feel what is left of the raisin moving down into your stomach, and sense how the body as a whole is feeling after completing this exercise in mindful eating.

Sue Macbeth

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



If at all possible, please join us on Thursday 7th November. Adrian & June Redfern from International Aid Trust will be collecting our boxes along with many other items from Christ Church. We will meet at the church at 2:00pm, (tea & coffee on arrival) for a 2:30pm start.



You will see, displayed in the church, all the shoe boxes, knitted garments, blankets, and a large variety of other items we are able to donate to the charity. Helping to load the transport van is also good fun.

A very sincere 'Thank You' to you all for your generosity and co-operation again this year - it is greatly appreciated.

Sylvia Jones

HOW

**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**

WORKS

Action for Children

A very sincere 'Thank you' to everyone who has Action for Children League of Light collecting lanterns. I would be pleased to receive them from you, between 17th & 24th November if possible.

If you do not have a lantern but would like to make a small donation it would be greatly appreciated.



Sylvia Jones.

The Ilfracombe and Barnstaple Methodist Circuit invite you to A Study Day with
Rev Wayne Grewcock

"What's the point of Worship if it doesn't bring Heaven on Earth?"

Saturday 23rd November 2019

at Christ Church, Bear St, Barnstaple EX32 7BU

starting with refreshments at 10.00am the day will end between 3:00 – 3:30pm

£10 for the day to include refreshments and cooked lunch.

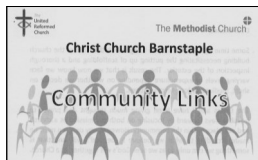
Prior Booking Required by Tuesday 19th November. Send name and contact details to Mrs. Sue Kendall - Email: suek@rosemorran.plus.com
or Telephone: 01271 882494

Please let me know if you have any dietary requirements, I will be in contact to confirm your booking nearer the day

Wayne is passionate about Christian Worship being both relevant and inspirational, leading to action for social justice. He will lead us through three sessions with both input and group work: Reflecting on recent services we might have led or attended; A look at the impact the Church has had on Social Justice in the past, and has [or doesn't have] today; Considering what action the Bible could or should generate today.

The day is aimed at anyone interested in "How we understand 'what the Bible says' and want to respond as Christians, Worship Leaders, Preachers to the political and social situations of our time."

Gift Day - so far



By the end of last weekend (20.10.2019) the total received was £16,728.40. Including future promises and eventual reclaim of income tax under the gift aid scheme, this will rise to £20,347.15

Thanks to all those who are supporting our Community Links project in so many different ways, prayerfully, financially and giving so generously of their time.

Church Greetings Cards



As well as a variety of Greetings cards, Christmas cards are now available from Faith, at Hobnob, or myself. All proceeds from the sale of these cards go to Christ Church funds.

My thanks to all who support me in this work.

Anne Roberts

Young Families Work

'Parents and Toddlers' and **'Toddler Praise'** have been attracting increasing numbers this term. We have welcomed several new babies to our regular families. It is always such a joy to watch them as we see them grow up through the Parents and Toddlers group. Themes so far for Toddler Praise this term have been Creation and Harvest. It has been lovely too to welcome Margie's help in the kitchen with the refreshments.

Tuesdays Stay and Play is gradually growing and evolving. It is naturally falling into being more intergenerational as some of the other regular Tuesday morning coffee-ers(!) pop in to the church from the vestibule for a chat and to say hello. It is always lovely to welcome them (you?). Also one or two of the parents are using it as a place to meet advisors or tutors with whom they need to catch-up and/or work. For example someone is coming fortnightly from Plus to give one of our mums IT help. He will be there fortnightly from January and will also be available to help others.

The Nurture Group is the new name for the Community Drop-in run by Action for Children in partnership with Christ Church. It is a six week course during which the parents receive support in parenting skills and in understanding about their children's development in relation to such things as language and development skills and (messy) play! It has been received most favourably by those who come and certainly has been a great success. The downside is that there are many other families who are missing the Wednesday Drop-in and also what is going to happen when the six week course is over, but we are hoping that

Cont

our Tuesday Stay and Play is going to play a significant part in filling the gap.

Sunday Club is great! Each week the children have a catch-up time, a story, a song and a prayer which they all join in together – even the very young ones. Activities after are varied, as is the play for the little ones (and the big ones!) but it is always an excellent time to interact with the children and have time and conversations with them. The wide age-range in some ways can be quite difficult but the children and young people all get on amazingly well together. It is a privilege and a joy being part of such a lovely group of children, young people, parents and leaders. The leaders have quarterly meetings and at this last one we talked about our Christmas activities which will change a little this year – a Christmas Family Service on the 15th December around the theme of Gifts in which the congregation will take part too, and a Christingle Service on 24th December instead of a Crib Service.

Yeo Valley School have enthusiastically responded to the invitation for their choir to come and sing at the Light up a life Service on December 13th. They have also booked the church for their annual Carol Service on Monday December 16th.

The Two Bridges Café has happily started again, first of all with the old experienced team (how amazing was it that they needed no prompting to set up the vestibule and the kitchen on their arrival) but now with some new members who were so excited to come and really keen to learn all about what to do.

Love and Prayers,

Jo & Anthea

OASIS - The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...

Oasis last month took place during Creation Time (from Sept 1st - the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to October 4th - the Feast of St Francis). This is the time when churches around the world think, pray and act out their commitment to care for our created world – and of course to celebrate all it offers in its great diversity.

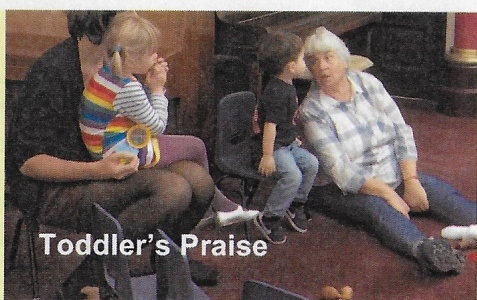
Having heard the wonderful creation story from Genesis, time was spent sharing some of our concerns and confessing about how we misuse our world's resources. We then went on to consider how we and others can increase our respect for the environment – to tread more gently on the earth - and to be faithful stewards of God's creation. Some of these encouraging signs were found on our display with examples of recycling, upcycling and re-useable items like washable nappies - both in the shops and in our home lives. And of course the Christ Church bin for recyclable waste was featured, which is now well used, thank you. Those single use items which sadly cannot yet be recycled were placed alongside. In addition, exemplifying world-wide concern was a photo of a block of toilets in Uganda which, amazingly, has been built by the students on Kira Farm out of plastic bottles filled with earth.

We went home still aware of the immense problems, yet taking with us hope in our hearts for the future of the world, and an overwhelming sense of peace as we remembered that God's promises will be fulfilled.

Anthea



Our last Café Church
was about Harvest



Toddler's Praise



Yeo Valley Primary School Year 3 & their quilting



The earth is the Lord's, and
everything in it.....

Our Oasis service

EVENTS

The Winter Fair is fast approaching (see poster) and we are all looking forward to a busy and productive day.

Please remember that on the two Sundays preceding the Fair, you have an opportunity to bring items into the church. Those dates are:-

Sunday 3rd November- Toiletries and knitted goods.

Sunday 10th November - Tins, jams and kitchen items.

Please also remember that Liz Seymour can still take your donations towards the Christmas Gifts & Decorations Stall that she is running.

Stalls will be set up on Friday 15th November, between 5 - 6.30pm. That will be your last chance to hand things in.

Coffee Mornings

We are looking forward to next summer and we are asking if there is anyone who would like to hold a coffee morning at their house or garden. Please speak to Joy Morley or Jack Neville if you can.

Andy Morley (Secretary Events Committee)



Our family matters

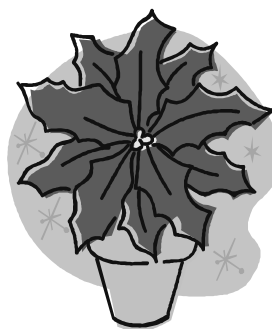
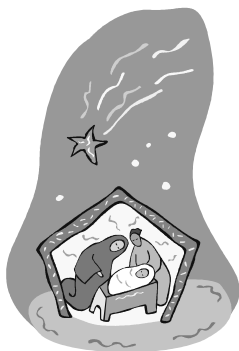
Christ Church Family News





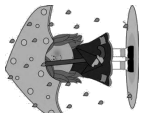
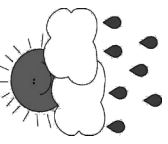


There are many of our church family on the sick list and some house-bound. Some are named in the Prayer Book, which is kept in the vestry and used at prayer meetings, but may not always be used in Sunday services while we consider the implications of new legislation around data protection.








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.



CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE
WINTER FAIR
SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2019
9am-12.30pm
STALLS/REFRESHMENTS



SUNDAY ROTAS	3rd November	10th November	17th November	24th November
Coffee 	Sally Blackmore	Muriel Symons	Elaine Stevens	Pauline Dawson
Flowers 	-	Pauline Dawson	Joy Morley	-
Projector 	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Shirley Baxter 	
Serving Communion 	Gill Greenland Ian Allen David Wilson Mary Ruhleman	Elaine Stevens -	Liz Seymour Jenny Newman	Ian Allen Sylvia Jones
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Gill Greenland Anthea Coates			

SUNDAY ROTAS	1st December	8th December	15th December	22nd December	29th December
Coffee 	Jennifer Allen	Gill Tucker	Joy Morley	Nicola Wilkins	Elaine Stevens
Flowers 		Hilary Iley	George Hopkins	Christmas	Christmas
Projector 	Gordon Pearce	Jack Neville	Kathy Jeacock	Andy Morley	David Wilson
Preparing Communion Morning 1st Sunday Evening 3rd Sunday	Gordon & Pam Pearce		Liz Seymour		
Serving Communion 	Jack Neville Ronnie Wilson Rosemary Cole Mike Smith				
Vestry Steward Morning Evening 	Jack Neville Alison Cairns	Ronnie Wilson -	Gill Greenland Shirley Baxter	Liz Seymour Eff Poole	Elaine Stevens Anthea Coates

Weekly Meetings

Monday	7.30pm	Friendship group	(2nd & 4th Mondays of each month) contact Rose de la Cour tel 830824
Tuesday	9.30am - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning	
	9.30am	Prayer meeting ...	(except the last Tuesday of each month)
	10.30am	Holy Communion ...	(last Tuesday of each month)
	5.30pm - 7.00pm	Brownies ...	contact Heather Collins 07803841000
	5.30pm 6.30pm	Rainbows ...	contact Nicola Wilkins
	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Guides ...	tel 07813620615 or 01271377154
Wednesday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Parents & Toddlers	{ contact Jo Grant 07450582414
Thursday	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship ...	contact Sylvia Jones tel 346607
	7.30pm	Bible Study...	contact Shirley Baxter tel 375560
Friday	10.00am - 12.00 noon	Hobnob coffee morning	
	10.30am	Bible Study...	contact Shirley Baxter tel 375560
Saturday	8.30am	2nd Saturday of each month - circuit event	
		Men's Breakfast	contact Mike Smith tel 345019

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

- * the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults.
- * the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- * the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
(Methodist Safeguarding Guidelines, online: www.methodist.org.uk)

Sunday Offertory for September 2019

September		Cash	Envelopes
	1st	£	£
	8th	£	£
	15th	£	£
	22nd	£	£
	29th	£	£

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



**Toddler's Praise
celebrating Harvest**



**Christ Church
Sunday Club
making tree collages**



**Christ Church
Ladies Fellowship
meets every Thursday at 2.30
- all are welcome**



Thank you!
Thank you to all
those who came to
the Gift Day for
our
Community
Links project,
raising money
for the first
stage - building
repairs.

**See page 15 for
the result!**