

- A special message from Rev Don for our unsettling times – see page 3
- Prayers for April- see page 4

The Messenger

Christ Church Methodist URC
Barnstable
April 2020



**Our Café Church was themed In
On Water Aid In March
- see page 12**



- St. George of England and recipe idea – see pages 10-11
- Send us a photo- see page 12



- Christian Aid lunch – see page 17

Calendar

April 2020

All activities are cancelled or postponed until further notice.

As the church magazine is printed once a month you will find more up to date information on the church website. I strongly recommend that, if you are able to, you have a look there for updates.

Online Resources for Worship at Home

The Methodist and United Reformed Churches, as well as others, are producing a great deal of material for worship at home at this time.

Methodist Church worship at home resources can be accessed at methodist.org.uk/worship-during-coronavirus

This includes Worship from home Sunday service sheets as well as several live streamed services (at the time of writing these will be streamed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays).

United Reformed Church worship at home resources can be found at devotions.urc.org.uk

This includes an option to subscribe to receive daily devotions by email as a text document or you can listen to it as a podcast. In addition each Sunday a service will be emailed in both written and audio formats to be listened to.

Please also look at both denominations' websites' homepages methodist.org.uk and urc.org.uk for advice and other resources.


If you're bored with singing 'Happy birthday to you'
as you wash your hands – try:

Jesus' hands were kind hands

Morning has broken

This is the day that the Lord has made (a good reminder at the start of any day!)

Thank you Marilyn



If you are reading this from a paper version of the Messenger then we have managed to print it - thanks largely to David. It has not been easy while keeping to government guidelines!

Whether or not we can do it again next month remains to be seen but hopefully we will be able to get something together for the church website at least.

Message

Dear Friends,

You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this strange unsettling time we are living through.

This is my first letter to you following the sad but necessary decision to close the church for all activities, including acts of worship.

I am writing this letter while we are very much in the season of Lent in a world that is itself sombrely on a journey through the dark pandemic of coronavirus to the longed for light of new life.

Perhaps like me it has made you think about what it means to be church when we don't even seem to be able to fulfil the words of Jesus, words so often quoted at church events throughout history when only a few are present; "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." (Matthew 18:20).

But even in this season of Lent, even with all that we and the world are going through, we are an Easter people. Which is why, at the very end of Matthew's gospel, after the pain, darkness and death of Good Friday, and after the joy, light and resurrection life of Easter Day, Jesus spoke these words to the eleven remaining disciples; "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b).

With us always, not just when we worship together, not just when two or three gather in his name, but always with us. God with us always redeeming the world by resurrection light. God with each one of us always, at home, in the hospital, in troubled hearts, minds and souls.

We may be apart, for a while, but we are still church. For the moment scattered like bread broken for communion and yet each part of the one body.

Let us join together in praying for the redemption and resurrection that will surely come for ourselves and the world. Let us join together in praying that what the world is going through will, in the end, create a world where God's love is known and shared and where the joy and preciousness of community is understood, celebrated and protected as never before.

Please keep in touch with each other regularly by phone, email, text, Facebook, WhatsApp, or good old-fashioned letters and let's keep on praying for one another.

Lord, thank you that whatever is happening, we are in one another's thoughts and prayers.

And Lord, that you promise to always be with us.

Amen.

With love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don", followed by a period.

Prayers for April

5th April

Lord, on Palm Sunday the crowds welcomed you.
Although separated we join together in prayer
as we welcome you into our hearts
with all we are and all we have as Lord and King. Amen.

12th April

Risen Lord Jesus, we share in the joy of your resurrection.
The stone has been rolled away, death has been defeated,
you have overcome all the powers of darkness.
May we know your risen presence with us today. Amen.

19th April

As the disciples in the locked room reached out and touched you,
let us reach out and touch you today, living Lord Jesus.
Let us feel your scarred hands and feet.
Let us put our hands in your side.
Let us be still and know that you are our Lord and our God.
Amen.

26th April

Lord Jesus, as you walked on the road to Emmaus,
walk with us on the roads we travel.
Help us to know your presence with us,
and at the end of the day,
may we know your healing touch. Amen.

Our family matters

Christ Church Family News

Many people will already know that sadly we must record the recent death of Sylvia Jones. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. She will be greatly missed by a wide circle of people.

While we are not meeting together please look out for each other and let our Church Friends coordinator know of any concerns.

Church Friends – So that no one will feel isolated, I have asked all the Church Friends if they will keep in regular contact with all those on their list, for those who have difficulty on the phone I have asked that people be sent letters & cards also regularly.

As well as being available on the Church website we will print 100 copies of the

Messenger, which will give information and encouragement to everyone, especially to those unable to go out.

Because we are no longer meeting with each other, please contact me if you hear of anyone who is facing difficulty or any illness, including Covid-19, so that both Don and the elders can be updated with the current needs of our congregation.

Many people are really worried and concerned about what is happening and how they can best protect themselves and their families.

Please help us as we continue to support all the members of our church and community.

Every blessing – Shirley B - (Church Friends coordinator)

For your prayers –

All of us, I am sure, will be grieving for Sylvia Jones. Please, pray for Sylvia's family at this very sad and difficult time.

Sylvia was a very special lady and we are all going to miss her so much.

That there will be a celebration of Sylvia's life at some time in the future is not in doubt, but when that will be is obviously uncertain at the moment.

At the present time the Barnstaple Foodbank continues to stay open. The volunteers are making up food parcels for different people groups ie singles, couples, families etc. before the doors are open. The people who come are not allowed in so the parcels are taken outside to them.

Please pray that the Foodbank will continue to stay open to provide for people in truly desperate situations.

We certainly need to pray for the Government and the decisions that they make, for the scientists worldwide who are looking for vaccines and ways to alleviate symptoms of Covid-19.

We should pray for those who are facing really anxious times by not being able to visit their families and those who are self isolating. Please pray for families with children at home who are not able to socialize with their friends.

We also need to pray for all those who work in the NHS, the police, the care homes, the Hospice and those who work in retail, many of the latter who are facing difficult and abusive situations.

Please pray for our church that we will, with God's help, get through this. We really do not know what lies ahead of us, but we can thank God that he will keep his promise to us that he will never leave us.

I pray that we will all know God's loving guidance and protection in the coming weeks and months.

Matthew 28:20b says this 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Every blessing – Shirley B

Ethical Investment

One of the EcoChurch survey questions asks if our funds are ethically invested. The following info comes from the EcoChurch website and is definitely food for thought:

Investment is not a 'morally neutral' activity. That's the message from Edward Mason, Head of Responsible Investment of the Church Commissioners for England. "Churches and charities cannot simply be 'passive consumers' of investment products. They have an opportunity and a responsibility – and often a reputational imperative to try actively to shape the way investment management is conducted on their behalf."

Christian Aid's "Green Light Campaign" suggests money should be invested in the world we want rather than in risky projects. This campaign aims to take the fight for climate justice straight to those who shape our economy. Christian Aid points out that many pension providers have big investments in 'dirty fossil fuel projects', which is bad for the planet and risky for pensions.

It's not just about being 'environmental'. It's also about being a Christian witness. That's how the Methodist Church feels about investment. Around £billion of Methodist money is invested in stocks, shares, bonds and other schemes. This money comes from individual churches and circuits, as well as national funds. All the money is invested in line with ethical principles.

We're now looking at our Christ Church investments to find out how ethical they are - watch this space!

There is lots more information at [**ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk**](http://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk)

Liz Seymour

Your coffee morning needs you!

As time goes by people find that, for various reasons, they need to leave the rota of volunteers who staff the Tuesday Coffee Morning. We have now reached the point where, when normal service is resumed after the current hiatus is over, we really need to recruit some new folk to join the rota. So, if you make captivating coffee or terrific tea and are prepared give up a Tuesday morning once in about every six weeks, please have a word with either Joy Morley or Chris Thomas. The pay is rotten, but the company is wonderful!



Chris Thomas.

Although coffee mornings are currently not happening, Chris or Joy would love to hear from you if you can join the team when they start up again.

To Everyone at Hobnob.

I'd like to say a big thank you on behalf of both Sound it Out and Norah Bellot Court for your generous gifts to us. For Sound it Out the monetary gift represents six months of room rental and for the Wednesday Worship at Norah Bellot Court the gift means that people will have refreshments offered to them after the service without being charged.



The group at Sound it Out regularly has thirty or more of us there now and a lovely atmosphere. Sound it Out is a singing/social group aimed primarily at people with some memory loss and their partner or carer. It also serves older people who like singing and value the company. If you or someone you know might like to give Sound it Out a try, please come along on the second or fourth Tuesday of every month.

At Norah Bellot Court it is wonderful to be able to speak openly about Jesus, ask if anyone would like prayer and talk about personal faith; residents, staff and volunteers all know that there is the freedom to talk and question. Not many places in these secular times can say the same. Our chaplaincy activities include Monday Friendship Group which finishes with prayers (thanks to Muriel and Reg for this). Wednesday 'Matters of Faith' where we discuss various faith issues and also Wednesday Worship. We are also very fortunate at Norah Bellot that so many of our volunteers and staff profess their faith and witness with kindness always. If anyone is interest in volunteering, perhaps as a driver, volunteering to help with an activity or as a befriender, please get in touch with:-

Sally: sally.blackmore@mha.org.uk or Sue: susan.ferrar@mha.org.uk or phone Sue on 07925127005

Sally

Sent before the current restrictions but you don't need to wait until these are lifted before you get your name down ready for when activities start up again.

THANK YOU to Everyone at Christ Church for Prayers, Cards, Flowers and Get Well Wishes following my operation, all very much appreciated.

Thank You too for Prayers for Brian whilst he was in care.
He thoroughly enjoyed his stay at Hatchmoor!

Elaine Stevens



Fair Trade stall at Christ Church for Fair Trade Fortnight



Scovia at Kira Farm in Uganda

World Day of Prayer Service

This ecumenical service took place at Christ Church on Friday 6th March. It was well-attended by people from various churches in the town and included a good contingent from Christ Church. The service was planned by women of Zimbabwe and gave food for thought and prayer. We were pleased to have two Zimbabwean ladies as part of our team.

Thank you to all who came and/or gave food for the afternoon tea. It was interesting to discover during the conversations over tea, that there were several people in the congregation who had lived and worked in Zimbabwe at some time.

Eff

Climate-friendly Farming

It was lovely to receive such a positive and chatty second letter from Scovia, our sponsored student at the Kira Farm Development Centre in Uganda. It is great to see how awareness of everyone's need to care for the environment is such a key part of the students' learning there. I think that we too will learn a lot from her.

'I hope this finds you well my friends and thank you so much for replying to my email. It really means a lot for me! I am doing fine - having the best time of my life while learning life changing skills from Kira.

'It is a lovely warm Friday morning at Kira. After writing this email, I will be going to my plot which was given to me for practising Farming God's Way, which is a very nice way of farming we are being taught here. From just learning about it, I am amazed by how this method helps cater for the soil but as well conserves the environment. We have also been exposed to the local and international environmental challenges. I'll teach you more about Farming God's Way as time goes on!

'Can you believe that if we Ugandans continue to cut down trees for firewood and burn bushes for farming we will not have any trees left by 2050? This is really alarming and we all should be praying and doing something about it.

'I am happy to inform you that I have decided to do hairdressing and tailoring design and, as of now, I love the progress. Can you believe that with just a few lessons in hairdressing, together with my friends we are now able to change each other's hair styles and look like we are professionals!

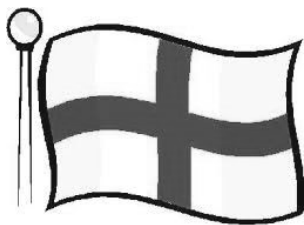
'I have attached a photo of me while clearing my plot and will keep you in the know about how planting goes, I can't wait!

'Please send greetings to the church and everybody else.

'Love you my friends!

'Yours Scovia'

ST GEORGE OF ENGLAND



St George, who is the patron saint of England, was born around 280 AD. Legend has it that he was born in Cappadocia in modern day Turkey.

Not much is known about his early life but it is understood that he was born into a wealthy Christian family. He became a soldier under the Emperor Diocletian. At that time Christianity was growing in popularity, Diocletian became nervous about this and ordered a crackdown on the Christian community,

giving an edict that all Christian soldiers be expelled and the Roman soldiers forced to make the traditional pagan sacrifice.

George refused and denounced this edict in front of his fellow soldiers, proudly declaring that he was a Christian.

Diocletian attempted to sway him from his beliefs with offers of wealth and land, George refused and was beheaded on 23 April 303.

GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

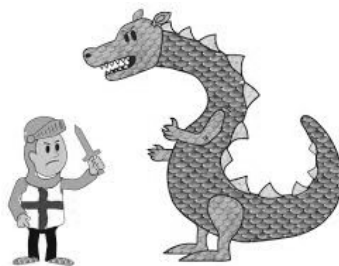
Many people when they think about St George bring to mind that he was a slayer of dragons. This, of course, is a myth, originally appearing in stories told by the medieval Eastern Orthodox Church which were brought back by the Crusaders in the 10th and 11th Centuries.

According to one story, a town in Libya had a lake in which lived a plague-infested dragon. Gradually the inhabitants were being killed off by the dragon, so they started to appease its appetite by feeding it two sheep a day. When they ran out of sheep the King devised a kind of lottery system to feed it local children. One day the King's own daughter was chosen, but fortunately at that moment St George happened to ride past. He offered to slay the dragon if the people promised to convert to Christianity, he slayed the dragon and there was a rapid increase in the Christian community.

St George is truly an international saint and shares his patronage with Venice, Genoa, Portugal and Catalonia and several more countries. So far as we know, St George was never anywhere near England. In the middle ages he became the ideal of martial valour and selflessness, bravery and gallantry. He was probably not recognised as England's patron saint until the reign of Edward III (1327-77) when Edward made him the patron of the newly created Most Noble Order of the Garter.

George was probably chosen by Edward as he believed that George embodied many of the good qualities of the people of England and he was pious and ready to stand up for his beliefs.

The cross of St George, white background with a red cross forms part of the flag of the United Kingdom.



So far as I am aware there are no traditional recipes for St George's day, but Nutmeg Egg custard tart is a very old English recipe and extremely delicious.

EGG CUSTARD TART WITH NUTMEG

INGREDIENTS

For the pastry

8 ounces plain flour (200 grms)
4 ounces cold butter (100 grms)
1 ounce caster sugar (25 grms)
grated nutmeg
1 whole egg or 2 egg yolks plus up to 1 tablespoon cold water

For the custard

300 mls whipping cream ($\frac{1}{2}$ pint)
100 mls creamy milk ($\frac{1}{8}^{\text{th}}$ pint)
2 eggs plus 2 egg yolks
2 ounces caster sugar (50grms)



METHOD

Grate a generous amount of the nutmeg and add to the flour. Make the pastry by the rubbing in method. If you have a food processor this is easiest.

Refrigerate for a good while or overnight. Roll the pastry and line an 8inch (20cm) loose bottom tin. Put in the fridge for at least 45mins. Line the tin with foil and baking beans.

Heat the oven and a baking tray to 180 Gas 5 and bake the pastry case for about 25 minutes. Remove the foil and beans. Patch up any holes with left over pastry and bake for a little longer, remove then brush with a little beaten egg and bake for 2 minutes. Set aside to cool completely.

Turn down the oven to 120 leaving the baking tray in.

Put the cream and milk into a saucepan and slowly bring to a simmer. Meanwhile whisk the eggs, yolks and sugar in a heatproof bowl. Put the tart shell into the oven and using a jug pour the custard mixture into the shell. Grate nutmeg over the top and bake for 35 – 45 minutes. It is cooked when there is just a faint wobble in the centre. Allow to cool then enjoy on its own or with cooked rhubarb, which should be in season at that time.

NOTE If you wish to make a gluten-free version, either make your usual recipe of shortcrust pastry, adding the grated nutmeg or buy ready made. Roll it out, grate a generous amount of nutmeg onto the pastry, fold in half then re-roll. Otherwise make in exactly the same way.



Music to listen to:
Edward Elgar - Enigma Variations

Jennifer Allen

Young Families Work

All Young Families activities and groups, along with all other church activities, have been cancelled until further notice following advice from the Government on Coronavirus. All families have been informed and although disappointed they were not surprised by the decision.

Tuesday Stay and Play was really welcomed over half term, once again proving the need for it. The older children came with their younger siblings and enjoyed the activities set out for them. Walter, the Community champion from Asda was hoping to visit us soon after to promote a Healthy Eating campaign but of course this was not able to take place. We will look forward to welcoming him in the future.

When Young Families activities re-start, we will be introducing a Wednesday morning Stay and Play to run at the same time as the Nurture Group and to provide a place to move on to for those no longer eligible for the Nurture Group. Action for Children are in need of this extension and support now that their funding has been so badly cut, preventing them from achieving all that is needed.

X-Site proved to be a very happy afternoon at Trinity. The weather was dreadful, but it did not deter people – actually encouraging parents to bring their children out to do something different!

The Advanced Safeguarding course was challenging but absorbing and helpful, and very ably led by the District workers. To quote the Handbook...

'...safeguarding is actually central to the life and mission of the church as we seek to be a place of safety, offering healing, protection and justice'.

Many thanks to Marilyn for arranging and orchestrating it all and to Maureen for delicious refreshments.

If anybody is in need of anything over the coming weeks due to self-isolation (e.g. food shopping or pharmacy deliveries), please let me know. I am happy to help in any way I can.

My email address is:-

jogrant-christchurch@outlook.com



Love Jo

Help! Plea for Photographs for next Messenger

As you can imagine Covid-19 has brought all activities to a halt at the church - and with it the opportunity for us to include photographs of them. We had an idea, the success of which depends on you! Could you take a picture of what you have been doing since being confined to home? It can be of anything: your favourite part of your garden, the drawers you have tidied, the books you have read, the baking you have done or knitting, something to cheer us up or intrigue us - just include yourself in the picture. Just give us a flavour of what it's like where you are, we would love you to share that!

Email photos from your phone to david.devon@mac.com



Sunday Club at Christ Church



What has it been like keeping a small business going in Covid-19 times?

Our architectural practice has eight staff at the moment, a young and enthusiastic bunch who all work in one room. This suits us as there are plenty of opportunities to look over each other's shoulder, to give guidance to less experienced and by listening in to others' phone calls know what's going on across an office with about thirty-five live projects at various stages of development.

I sat with Pete, my fellow director, to think about what was coming two weeks ago and it dawned on us that if we were unable to carry on, produce work and send out bills, the bank account would soon be drained and we would have no money to pay salaries. We urgently sat with everyone and had a long meeting to plan all working from home. A long serious meeting. The younger team members were enthusiastic about new sharing technology to send each other messages and have dial in conference calls. The managers were a little less enthusiastic thinking that it would be easy to lose control of everything, and would people still be motivated sitting at their computers (in pyjamas?) at their kitchen table?

We started on last Friday and dispersed to seven locations all over North Devon. We depended on getting all our documents and drawings from our server in Pilton and our broadband promptly went down. There was then a morning where BT, the IT firm and Broadband supplier argued about whose responsibility it was, until eventually the router was replaced, and we were back able to access things. We decided to start each day with a 'meeting' which was one of those group calls with all of us and not sure who was speaking next. Plenty of technological glitches. Afterwards Pete said to me 'That was awful, we have to get better at that'.

Actually, over the next few days (seems like months) we have staggered on, drawings have been produced (and bills sent out). What I have learnt about the whole process is that it isn't the technology - we have got slightly better at that - but we miss the sheer positive human contact and communication that working in the same studio helped with. We have to treasure moments like when in our morning meeting we heard a regular thumping noise, and were told it was someone's dog who had come over to join in. Or a photo circulated of Boris Johnson jogging in colourful shorts after he told us that we could all leave home for exercise. We have learnt that you have to try hard to communicate - and pass on encouragement, as it just isn't the same on an email or message. It really is twice as hard to collaborate.

I have also learnt that it's not the staff stopping working that we have to worry about, but the opposite, them carrying on without a break. I don't know what the weeks ahead will bring. The boundaries between home and work have gone - which is good and bad. I guess we are lucky to have an occupation that we can carry on at home. We can't carry on like this for ever, and the pandemic may finish our business yet, but, in the last few weeks' absolute tumult, I have been heartened by how people adapt to this strange state of isolation. I hope that it is not causing you and yours too much suffering and that you can stay safe. This virus has lead to unprecedented changes in all our lives - write in and tell us about how it has affected you, the bad or even the good ways that it has turned life upside down and we will include some responses in the next Messenger.

Book Review (something to read when confined to quarters)

The Last Call (Two Rivers): Anne Cleeves

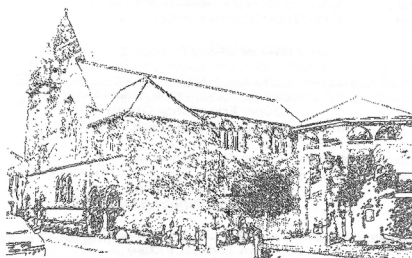
I am not sure if you are a fan of detective series such as 'Vera' or 'Shetland'? You may find them entertaining diversions or maybe not be a fan. The creator of these series, Anne Cleeves, has just published a new book, promised to be the start of a series, based on the exploits of Detective Inspector Mathew Venn. What made it interesting as far as I was concerned was that he works from Barnstaple Police station, and the story has as its background the coast towns and landscape of North Devon. The story starts when a body is found on the beach at Crow Point (!), but soon moves to Ilfracombe, Braunton and Barnstaple. It adds something when you can recognise the spots described whether it is Park School (the detective's former school), Barnstaple High Street on a Saturday, or Braunton Burrows and the marsh. It is quite gritty (definitely not Miss Marple) and therefore maybe not to everyone's taste. It is fair to say that whilst extolling the beauty of North Devon, she gives less of a tourist's view but more a contemporary view, weaving in many themes such as how we look after people with learning disabilities as well as the effect of growing up in an extreme religious sect on one of the characters. The plot has many twists and turns, will the team get their culprit in the end? It may just provide a diversion when confined to home, and fun to see if you can recognise the locations. I suspect you will see it on the TV soon, and you can say that you read about it here first.

DW

Christ Church Finances

With the church closed we will be able to cut back on heating, lighting and cleaning costs but many of our other overheads will remain much the same. However, like many other organisations and many individuals, the church's income will be slashed for many weeks/months. Not only will we lose the offertory given on a Sunday, but also income from people using the church premises, coffee mornings, stalls, greetings cards, special events etc.

Currently 32 people give to the church by standing order. I hope they will be able to continue with this and I encourage anyone else, who is able to, to do the same. There will be difficult times ahead for many people, who may not be able to give to the church at all over the next few months. If you are not in that unfortunate situation please take this opportunity to think if you are able to increase your giving, even if only temporarily. If you do not wish to set up a standing order, but are able to set aside money for the church each week, please do.



Easter Offering 2020.

Every Easter, in churches across our Methodist Circuit, there is opportunity to give to the Easter Offering (usually through an envelope collection). All money raised goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in their 65 Partner Churches around the world.

(In 2019, our Circuit raised over £1400).

This year's Easter Offering (including the dedication service planned for June 7th) will be postponed. Hopefully there can be collections in the autumn, so that support for partner churches can continue.

For those who can go on-line: Explore the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk

Look into: Our work / Our work worldwide / Global Relationships. Here you can discover more about partner churches around the world.

Marilyn Tricker

Action for Children

Every year the Circuit AfC support group arranges a sponsored walk, usually in early June. Funds raised go to support work in our North Devon Children's Centres, managed by AfC.

This year we planned a 'Caterpillar Hunt' around Barnstaple, designed especially with families in mind, together with a longer walk up into Newport for the energetic. The aim was for each church in the circuit to make at least one knitted caterpillar, and these would be displayed in shop windows around the town. Already knitters have been at work, and several caterpillars completed!

The walk, planned for Saturday June 13th, will be postponed until the autumn, or possibly next year. However, knitters are welcome to continue – after self-isolation, we could have a large menagerie of caterpillars! Contact us for further details.

Heather Bolt, Marilyn Tricker, Joan Cole

A few days before she went in to hospital, Sylvia asked me to put this note into the church magazine. If you would like a collection box or if you feel you could take on the annual box emptying please get in touch.

Kathy Jeacock

Action for children

A number of friends on behalf of Christ Church have at home a 'League of Light Lantern', collecting a little during the year on behalf of Action for Children, a charity which makes such an immense difference in the lives of so many children in desperate need.



If you can help and would like to have a lantern, your support would be so much appreciated by the charity.



Thank you, Sylvia

Christian Aid



Lenten Lunch: Thank-you very much from Carolyn and me for all the support in coming to the Lenten lunch on Saturday 14th March, it was more than generous of friends to attend in these uncertain times; generous with their time and with their money too. The total raised which all goes to Christian Aid, of course, was £245.54

Our menu consisted of a choice of two soups and rolls, with a hot drink and Lenten biscuits to follow. Jill very kindly made some biscuits too, and no prizes given for guessing which hers were as they were the far superior ones! Enough said.

About 27 people attended; I was advised not to cancel the event because of the Coronavirus and was extremely pleased to have followed this advice in the circumstances.

I would like to thank Joy for the fantastic job she did in waitressing - in a way she was too efficient for her own good as she'll be asked again for sure.

Carolyn, Jo and I attended the meeting about Christian Aid in Kenya the following day, with Jill Stone the Regional Rep. leading the meeting.

There was an internet link-up with other areas in the UK e.g Bristol, Essex, and the Christian Aid rep in Kenya, Nicholas, who described how funds were spent and then the different groups in UK were able to ask him questions. Nicholas described the drought conditions in certain parts of Kenya, and the relevance of irrigation. The latter is only possible because of large earth dams which have been constructed (by earth diggers). These earth dams are made of the existing earth in that area, rather than some imported material and are the size of five football pitches. It was noted that culturally most of the farming is done by the women in Kenya which is why, supposedly, the envelopes this year do appear to feature women on the poster and envelope covers.

Our money goes to the above and to education about farming, irrigation, soil erosion and so on.

We were sad to learn that Jill Stone is leaving Christian Aid after some 19 years of service in total. She explained that she was taking voluntary redundancy along with others, as the charity is in some financial difficulties. She went on to explain that there are funds for specific areas which are matched by government funding but the collections from the general public are way down. The regional centres are all being closed but there will be a new office/hub in a northern city, while the one in the south of England will be closed. Jill said that when she started her job in the south-west some 2½ years ago she felt that North Devon had rather been forgotten about by the charity and therefore she had made frequent visits, as far as time allowed, to increase communication with the region. Both Margaret Robinson, rep from Braunton and I did thank her very much for her visits in general and for leading this interesting meeting on Sunday.

Thank you very much for Carolyn's help in organisation and with Jo's input on the IT, without which the meeting and link-up simply wouldn't have taken place.

Christian Aid week re Coronavirus

This year the charity's week runs from 10-16 May. Carolyn and I had already placed our annual order and so have bagged up the church's individual requests. I feel it is probably up to the churches to distribute envelopes as they see fit. We all know that many can't give, especially this year, but many a mickle makes a muckle.

With thanks, Carolyn and Ronnie

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 ...	
	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		2nd Saturday of each month - circuit event	
	8.30am	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 2020

		Cash	Envelopes
February	2nd	£	£
	9th	£	£
	16th	£	£
	23rd	£	£

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

Telephone Directory (01271)

Shirley Baxter (temp sec)	Kathy Jeacock (treas)	Jenny Newman
Alison Cairns	Chris Marshall	Eff Poole
Anthea Coates	Janet Marshall	Liz Seymour
Staveley Dawson	Jack Neville	Elaine Stevens

Church Secretary	375560
Church Treasurer	373555
Room Bookings	374085
Circuit Administrators	379116

Editors:

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Circuit website		www.ilfracombe-barnstaplecircuit.org.uk
Email contact to site		webmaster@christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

Our lovely Two Bridges Café crew



Easter Garden
as part of the
Experiencing
Easter project



World Day of Prayer – see page 9