



# The Messenger

Christ Church

Methodist/ United Reformed Church

**Barnstaple**

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



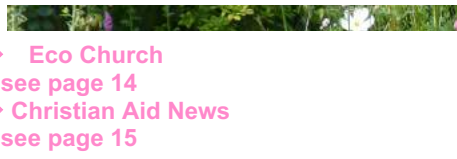
- ◆ Being Church outside of our building – see page 3
- ◆ Prayers for July & August – see pages 3

## July/August 2020



Thank you Ian, for the beautiful photographs of your garden in full bloom

- ◆ The story of Paul Robeson – see page 5
- ◆ News from Kira Farm – see page 9



- ◆ Eco Church – see page 14
- ◆ Christian Aid News – see page 15



## Calendar

### May 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.

### Our family matters

#### Christ Church Family News

Since last month we have been made aware of others who have sadly died. Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of Bill Shillabeer and Norma Slade. Although the rules of lockdown are gradually being eased, it remains a particularly difficult time to lose a loved one.

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

For the benefit of those of you who have joined Christ Church relatively recently, **Bill Shillabeer** played a very active role in church life for many years. Although latterly he found attending Sunday services too difficult, he was often to be seen at Hobnob on a Friday morning. Among other things he served as a circuit steward and was very much involved with the joining together of the two congregations, Methodist and URC, which now form Christ Church Barnstaple, and with the planning of the alterations to the building - always a compromise with planning and listed building consent! (You may be interested to read what Eff found in her archives during a Covid inspired clearout - page 16.)

KJ

**Thank you again** to everyone who sent in pictures, written pieces, poems etc. If you can't see something you sent in this month, we will try to include it at a later date. Remember that this Messenger is July and August so keep taking pictures etc and send them in by mid August ready for the September Messenger.

Email photos from your phone to [david.devon@mac.com](mailto:david.devon@mac.com)  
(By the weekend of 22nd/23rd August would be helpful)

## Message

Dear Friends,

The last few months have been one of the greatest reminders that we have ever had that the church is not something made of bricks or stones but of flesh and blood. It is we who make up the church, whether or not we are able to meet together in a building.

Perhaps our being church feels most real when we join with others in worship through internet services or through the acts of worship at home that are sent out each week. Knowing that others are engaging in the same act of worship, even if in a different place or even at a slightly different time I find comforting and empowering.

And, as I've shared so often in the last few months, when we speak to one another on the phone we are also being church, when we pray on our own, we are being church in a very real way.

But still, it is hard isn't it? Still waiting for the time when it will be safe to reopen the church for any of the hundred and one other ways in which we want to be able to live out our faith in our community together.

The time to return to the building will come but as we wait it is important to know that things are continuing in the background. The Elders are still meeting (online via Zoom), the work with young families goes on as Jo, Anthea and others keep up and build on links with the parents and children, and older members of the church family and church friends give support to one another.

We are all grateful to those who continue to do all they can to support the life and ongoing work of the church in so many ways and I would like to express all out thanks to Kathy who continues all she is doing looking after the finances of the church at this very challenging time.

I would also like to thank those of you who are continuing to support the church financially by direct debit or by cheques, and those who have increased their giving realising the pressure a dramatic loss of income has on the church.

These are difficult times and I realise that some people's incomes have also been hit hard. However, if you are able to I would ask you to think and pray about your support of the church at this time. If you put money in the offering each week please think about whether you can put that money aside as an offering at a later date.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

## **Prayers for July**

### **July 5<sup>th</sup>**

As Jesus praised his Father in heaven, so do we. We praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You have hidden things from the wise, and revealed them to us, your children, through Jesus, your most precious Son. We praise you, Lord. Amen.

### **July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Gracious God, we thank you that all good gifts come from you. We thank you for all you have already given us. And, as the good soil welcomes the seed, and causes it to grow, we welcome you to take root and flourish in our lives. Amen.

### **July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Lord, I confess to you this morning that I'm not very patient with the weeds in my life. I try to yank them out, without thinking of any harm that may cause, to me or others. Sometimes, I'm so frightened that those tangles will overcome me that I try to ignore them, pretending they're not there. Please forgive me, Lord, and help me to trust you to show me your way. Amen.

### **July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lord, I pause before you to contemplate the things I see as valuable in my life. Help me to hold them lightly and to be ready to give them up at the sound of your call. Amen.

## **Prayers for August**

### **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Lord, a new week lies ahead of me and I don't really know what it will bring.

Help me to be aware of people living around me who are struggling in any way. May I be sensitive to their needs and seek your wisdom as in my heart and mind I come alongside them. I want to be there for them, Lord, bearing your blessing. Amen.

### **August 9<sup>th</sup>**

O Lord my God, you are worthy to be praised.

You are the Son of God who walks on water, who mesmerises huge crowds with powerful words, but who also calms a frightened Peter – and you calm me and give me peace.

Thank you, Lord. Amen.

### **August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Living Lord, we praise you that you are a God who loves.

You have given us a marvellous world, to live in and to share with all your people.

You, O God, love everyone equally, and we thank you that we are each unique.

We thank you that each one of us has so much to give – and to receive – from each other.

Thank you for each new experience that you give us. Amen.

## **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Mighty God, I think about the keys I hold.  
Each one shows a responsibility of some kind.  
Thank you for all that you entrust me with.  
Thank you most of all for Jesus,  
who gives me the keys of the Kingdom. Amen.

## **August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Lord, when we are faced with bad news,  
or a tricky situation, it is human nature to make snap judgements,  
to do the first thing that comes into our head.  
Lord, help us to lay aside our own judgements,  
and always be willing to seek your wisdom. Amen.

## **PAUL ROBESON**

Not saint of the month, nor even a religious figure or festival. With the summer season upon us I thought it might be nice to write about an entertainer. The life of Paul Robeson is an interesting one, he was a sensitive and caring man who believed deeply in equality for all.

Until a few years ago I knew very little about Paul Robeson, other than remembering him as a singer with the most mellifluous bass baritone voice. As a child I recalled that he could often be heard singing on the radio. A few years ago I had a holiday in Wales, and the Library of Wales were hosting an exhibition about him. I wandered in and was spellbound. It told the story of his adult life, not just his singing and acting achievements but his work in wanting justice and equality for all. When I returned home I managed to get a copy of his biography, 'Here I Stand', the title is a reference to Martin Luther who is alleged to have said 'Here I stand, I can do no other' in 1521 when asked to recant his sincere beliefs.

Paul was born in 1898 and raised in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the son of an escaped slave who had trained to become a Pastor. His beloved mother died just before his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, an event which Paul described as, leaving 'a wound that would not heal'. His father did his best to raise the children on his own, he had a strict but fair upbringing and Paul was raised to treat everyone the same, to be compassionate and fair and that God loves everyone of us equally. His father was ambitious for his children, believing that education was the way out of ignorance and poverty.

Paul was a strong and athletic boy who excelled at sport, in addition he had a good brain and was hard working and diligent. He won a scholarship to Rutgers University and was only the third black student to attend. Whilst at University he experienced a high degree of racism but because of his prowess on the sports field he was accepted. He studied law and entered a law firm on graduating. However, his career was short lived as he resigned after a white secretary refused to take dictation from a black man.

He had supported himself during his time at college by singing and acting. Therefore he became a professional entertainer almost by accident. He quickly became a success both as an actor and a singer starring in plays and films. In 1925 he gave his first recital of African American spiritual songs and also became world famous for his portrayal of Joe in the musical, *Show Boat*. He travelled to London and became well known for his portrayal of Othello. It was said after his performance, that never

again should a white man play Othello.

Paul visited London many times and it was whilst on one of these visits that he became aware of a group of men opposite the theatre singing to raise funds for striking miners. Paul became interested and enquired about their plight, he was touched and aware of the similarities of working men in America. He gave many benefit concerts in aid of the Welsh miners and was even given a part in a film, *The Proud Valley*, about a black seaman who was offered a job in the mine and a place in the local choir. Paul retained a fondness for Wales, as did the Welsh people for him.

Paul continued to champion many causes in both USA and Britain. By 1934 his political views were such that he felt impelled to visit the USSR. Whilst there he was befriended by playwrights, film makers and many African Americans who had migrated to the USSR.

Paul was captivated by Russia and told the press, *Here, I am not a Negro but a human being for the first time in my life....I walk in dignity.* Paul also took a great interest in Article 123 of the Soviet Constitution which unlike US laws at the time, effectively barred racial discrimination. Paul had an admiration and affection for the USSR which was not considered a threat before the Cold War era, but by 1946 communism was out of favour and Paul was questioned by the Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities. Paul refused to confirm or deny whether he was, as membership of the Communist party was still legal at that time.

Eventually Paul had his passport confiscated and was blacklisted as an artist, and it became very difficult for him to make a living. In Britain Lord Beaverbrook had put a ban on any mention of Robeson, in reprisal for pro-soviet comments that he had made. Several attempts were made on his life. In 1947, halfway through a tour he declared he would stop giving concerts for two years and sing only for causes in which he believed.

Although a passport was not needed by Americans to enter Canada he was prevented by Immigration officials from attending a mineworkers' convention in Vancouver. He decided instead, to address them by telephone relayed through a public address system. Following a suggestion by the mineworkers he gave a *peace arch* concert with crowds gathered on both sides of the divide to hear him sing. He was also prevented from travelling to Moscow in 1952 to receive the Stalin Peace Prize.

Inevitably his health began to suffer and never really recovered. Robeson had not been alone in embracing a utopian, pro-communist worldview, in the 1930's, following the failure of capitalism and the Depression. Robeson's defence of communism was a belief that it was the best opponent of racism and other ills.

Although history has shown that Robeson was misguided on many of his views, they were views held by many at that time in the search for a more equal and peaceful world. It does not distract from his core principles of wanting a fair and equal world for all. He joins, or perhaps heads an honoured list of black performers who appealed to all audiences and yet were punished for their political views. His legacy is that there was change, and change continues. Paul never gave up the belief that all men were made in God's image and we are all equal.

## CRUNCHY TOPPED PEACH PIE

Peach pie is a popular dessert in America. In most states peaches are plentiful, delicious and usually inexpensive. Near where my daughter lives in Connecticut is a 'pick your own' offering, amongst other things, peaches and nectarines. Nothing can beat the taste of a juicy ripe peach, freshly picked and eaten under the shade of the tree from whence it came.

My daughter makes a mean peach pie and here is my version of it as I remember.

### Ingredients

6 ounces, *150 gm* shortcrust pastry (or use ready made)  
7 – 8 medium sized ripe peaches, peeled, sliced and chopped into chunks  
2 tsp fresh lemon juice  
2 tblsp arrowroot or tapioca flour  
1 tsp cinnamon  
4 ounces, *100 gm* dark brown sugar

### Crumble Ingredients

4 ounces, *100 gm* demerara sugar  
4 ounces, *100 gm* plain flour  
3 ounces, *75 gm* butter  
2 ounces, *50 gm* flaked almonds



### Method

Place the peaches, sugar, arrowroot, lemon juice and cinnamon in a large bowl and leave whilst the remainder of the pie is prepared.

Heat oven to 190 degrees. Roll out the pastry dough into a circle approximately 12" (25cms) and carefully place in a 9" pie dish. Make the crumble topping; combine dry ingredients, then roughly mix in butter.

Place peach mixture in pie dish, leaving any residual juice in bowl, place crumble mixture on top and cook on a pre-heated baking sheet. Bake for about 20 minutes, then turn heat to 170 degrees for a further 30ish minutes. Best to cover with brown paper at this stage to prevent over-browning.

Allow pie to cool at room temperature for about three hours to allow the mixture to thicken up. Delicious with cream, vanilla ice cream or home made stirred custard.

**NOTE** If you have plums or damsons in the garden, the resulting pie would be equally delicious, you would need about 2 pounds (1 kilo) for a pie of that size. I have used walnuts instead of the flaked almonds in the crumble topping.

Music to listen to: Paul Robeson: Sometimes I feel like a motherless child; Go Down Moses; Balm in Gilead.



Jennifer Allen





Joy Morley has shared with us some of her lockdown: craft activities, gardening and growing vegetables. Seems like a very productive lockdown Joy! What have you been up to? Send us a photo for the next Messenger!





## **Not Quite Business As Usual...**

### **News from Amigos and Kira Farm**

*As yet, the students have not been able to return to Kira farm but we have received the following letter from Team Amigos in the UK and other updates:*

Dear Friends

Well, what a month it's been! We won't bore you about "unprecedented times", "new normal" or even "staying alert", but suffice it to say that things have been as uncertain in Uganda as they have been around the world.

Here in the UK we are very proud of how everyone has pulled together and kept working. We have been humbled by the continuing support, generosity and understanding of long-term supporters and delighted to welcome new sponsors to the Amigos family.

In many ways, this has given us the opportunity to reflect on our activities, improve our skills and upgrade activities so that Amigos will be even better and even more effective when things do eventually return to some semblance of normality.

Thank you for your support, we are more grateful now than ever,

God bless you

Here are some of the highlights from the last couple of months:

### **It's all go on Kira Farm**

Usually at this time of year, Kira Trainees would be working hard, preparing the land and planning crop rotations as they receive hands-on training in Conservation Farming. Josh and his team couldn't afford to let the ground go untended, so it has been all hands to the deck keeping the grounds in tip top condition ready for the trainees' return! Even Joshua and Mary's son, Ethan, helped out! (*Joshua is the person who runs Kira Farm*)

Other projects are maintaining momentum, too: The Menstrual Hygiene Management Programme – 'Girls deserve an education. Period' is progressing. Instruction leaflets for the reusable sanitary packs have been created, trialled, tweaked and finalised, and the team are continuing to make the first round of packs so that they can be distributed for trial as soon as possible. This new Menstrual Hygiene Management Programme will help more girls go to school all month long, all year round. It will not only be life-changing for the girls growing up in their village communities, but will also provide a potential income stream to Kira Graduates. Trainees will be trained in making reusable sanitary packs, which they can then sell at the agreed affordable price within their communities.

**Away from Kira Farm** Conservation Farming Training for the many rural communities remains in full swing - things just take a little longer than normal with reduced groups of five, following Government Guidelines. Work which usually takes two days now takes four days. Despite this, we are grateful that we are able to continue supporting the Farming Groups and their families.

*We look forward to hearing more plans for the future. What a wonderful*

*job all who are associated with Amigos are doing and what an incredible amount they achieve, Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this time of waiting and planning. And we very much hope that in our next Messenger after the summer we will be able to give you good news of the return of the trainees to Kira Farm – particularly of course Scovia - the student we are so happy to sponsor. It is good to hear though that although the trainees were only on the farm for three months before they had to temporarily leave, they have already been able to take their new- found skills back into their communities and make a difference.*

**Meanwhile,** if you would like to learn more about the amazing life-changing work of Amigos, how it came to be and how it developed to what it is today, and have a good read, the following book is recommended:

### **'How NOT To Start A Charity':**

Written by Phil Pugsley who many of us know and love, it is one man's 'honest, funny, humbling account of the twists and turns that brought Amigos to where it is today' – a far cry from how it started in 2000. It is inspirational, visionary and full of hope.

**Costing £6.00 it enables us to join Amigos on its journey while supporting the work in Uganda. Available through their website: <https://www.amigos.org.uk/shop/how-not-to-start-a-charity> or through Anthea Coates**



# Amigos

### **Not such a hair-brained idea?**

As we have not been able to visit the hairdresser or barber during the Covid-19 lockdown how about giving the money we would have spent to charity? I have chosen the North Devon Foodbank and it would be brilliant if you could support it too. For those who are computer savvy, donations can be made at [www.northerndevon.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.northerndevon.foodbank.org.uk), or please post your cheque to Northern Devon Foodbank Office, Supreme House, Pitt Lane, Bideford, EX39 3JA.

Come on, brush those long locks out of your eyes, tuck them behind your ears and get donating.

Best wishes

Gill Gooch



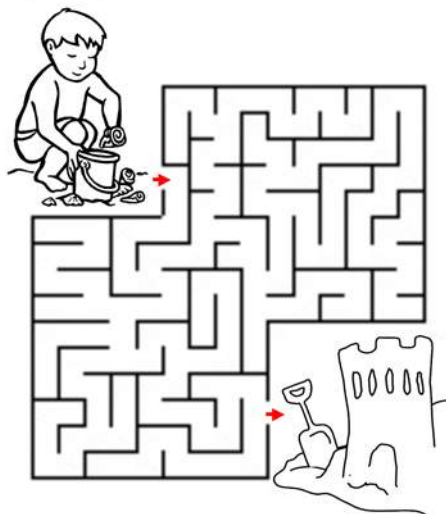
# Summer Fun

## Summer Word Search



## Summer at the Beach Maze

Help the little boy find his sand castle.

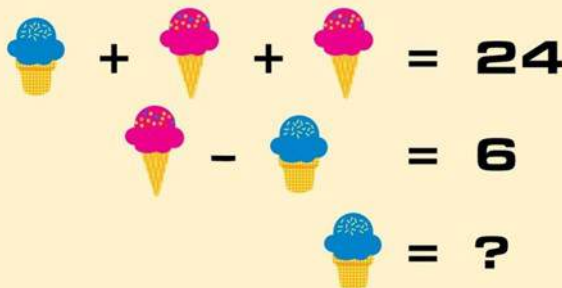


BEACH  
CAMP  
FUN  
HOT

SUMMER  
SUN  
SWIM  
WATER



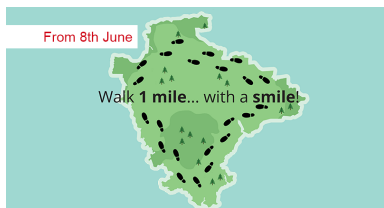
## Can You Find The Answer ?



## And finally...

How many words of three letters or more can you find in 'Summer Holidays'? A small prize for the person who can find the most if returned to Kathy or Anthea by the 21<sup>st</sup> July!

During 'Carers week' (8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June) Devon Carers sent out a challenge to all carers to 'Walk a Mile with a Smile'. The aim was to get as many carers as possible to walk a mile, with the hope that the total number of miles walked would be enough to cover the distance around the perimeter of Devon.



We were requested to send in a photo and a write-up of our walk, with the chance of winning a Luxury Food Hamper from Powderham Castle.

Brian and I walked our 'Mile with a Smile' at Rosemoor during it's first week of opening! We were in Heaven! No wonder we could smile!

Also, much to our surprise, our photo won the competition. We look forward to receiving our hamper next week.

Elaine

## Keeping busy during Lockdown

I had the bright idea that, although I'm not a brilliant needlewoman, I could make skirts for the granddaughters. Knowing that they like skirts to twirl right out, I did the necessary "sums" to produce full circle skirts in two different designs, to use the available fabrics in their preferred colours. Using calculations on circles, I managed the designs and to make the skirts. They are modelled by Elizabeth and Rebecca. I've been doing their maths with them most days, but I don't think they're ready to do circle "sums" yet. It would be good if they understood that maths had enabled Grandma to produce skirts that twirled well!

EP

This year, due to the Coronavirus, the annual 'Rainbow Run' in aid of the Children's Hospice South West could not take place in the usual way. However, our 13 year old grandson, Harry, decided he would do a Virtual Rainbow Run on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, so, accompanied by his Mum, they completed a 4 mile run in just under 43 minutes raising £400 for the Children's Hospice. This was a major achievement for Harry, as unfortunately he suffers from EB simplex and he ended the run with badly blistered feet. Congratulations Harry, you are an amazingly courageous lad.



Elaine and Brian Stevens



Chris Punt has sent us photos of taking his grandchildren Sam and Ameli. to the beach, the blackbird nesting in his shed and showing us that the sweet peas are still coming!



For all those separated from grandchildren or children or relatives we know how hard it has been!



## Eco Church

### What is a Carbon Footprint?

A **carbon footprint** is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of **carbon** dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). When you heat your house with oil, gas or coal, then you also generate CO<sub>2</sub>. "Carbon" is shorthand for greenhouse gas emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. These gases are released by many different types of activity – not just the burning of fossil fuels, but also farming, deforestation and some industrial processes.

*"Living in a way that honours rather than threatens the planet is living out what it means to be made in the image of God. ....What we face today is nothing less than a choice about how genuinely human we want to be."*  
(Dr Rowan Williams)

### Instant ways to reduce your carbon footprint

- Walk or cycle more, drive and fly less
- Stop eating (or eat less) meat
- Plant a garden – especially if you grow fruit and veg
- Eat food that is **LOAF** – Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade
- Line-dry your clothes
- Switch to sustainable, clean energy
- Repair, re-use, reduce, recycle

### How to measure your carbon footprint

Go to [footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://footprint.wwf.org.uk) and complete the carbon footprint calculator. It's really easy and only takes a few minutes. It then tells you your carbon footprint in tonnes and compares it to the UK and world average.

### Off-setting your carbon footprint

The most important thing to do is reduce your carbon footprint as much as possible. Once you have made all the changes you can, you then try to become *carbon neutral*. This means donating to projects which will either absorb carbon or reduce its impact.

The charity suggested by A Rocha is *Climate Stewards*.

To find out more, go to [climatestewards.org](http://climatestewards.org) where you can calculate the carbon usage of your car, your flights, your home, your food – just about all aspects of daily life. Based on a cost of £20 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> it calculates how much you would need to donate. It then offers a range of projects in countries including Uganda, Nepal, Kenya and Mexico which are promoting and supporting sustainable projects such as tree planting, biosand water filters and provision of smokeless metal stoves.

As soon as we are able to resume normal Church life we will be calculating the carbon footprint of our church building. We are already doing what we can to reduce it as we work towards our Silver Eco Church Award.

It's essential and urgent that we become more aware of our impact on this beautiful world which God has given us and to do whatever we can to care for it.

Liz Seymour





Barnstaple Christ Church  
Mrs V Wilson  
The Haven  
Lillabourne  
Barnstaple  
Devon  
EX31 1PX

29 May 2020

Dear Mrs Wilson

Many thanks for your kind donation of £245.54 on 20 April 2020 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your gift will help support our work in 40 of the world's poorest countries.

By raising funds for Christian Aid you will support our work around the world. We encourage communities to work together to bring about change. Extreme weather in the Philippines is a matter of life or death. Christian Aid partners in the Philippines, like Centre for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD), are committed to helping women and men in vulnerable communities to become more resilient, to anticipate and respond to disasters and adapt to the effects of climate change. Jenny Echano Espinola is a volunteer responsible for ensuring her community has a plan; to be prepared for disasters. Households know the quickest and safest escape routes and receive timely and clear instructions via hoisted flags, sounding alarms and announcements over loudspeaker. Thanks to Jenny's tenacity and the support of Christian Aid partner CERD, the community is now better prepared for disasters, and ultimately safer.

Before the project, everyone acted alone. Now, we're better organised. Each one of us knows what to do, where to go and what to bring.' (Jenny Echano Espinola)

With support from people like you, Christian Aid partners like CERD, with volunteers like Jenny, are transforming and strengthening communities.

Christian Aid believes in strengthening people to find their own solutions to the problems they face. We do whatever is needed to support poor people and their communities, whether it's speaking out against the causes of poverty or funding vital work on the ground. The generosity of our supporters means we are currently able to support over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference.

Please accept our sincere apologies that there has been a delay in us processing donations during this current pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Souster

Financial Processing Assistant

Reference: OR17516:B319212/23

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Email: [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org) • [christianaid.org](http://christianaid.org)

If you would like to change the number or type of communications you receive from Christian Aid, or stop hearing from us altogether please call us on 020 7523 2493 or email [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org)

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REGULATOR



## Looking forward – but how did we get where we are?

As a committed hoarder, I have a house full of stuff, much of which is paper and a lot of which contains words, names etc which have to be shredded rather than just put into recycling. This week, I found the minutes of the Church Council of Barnstaple Methodist Church dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 1988. As it's more than 30 years ago, I think I can reveal some of the comments. I have spoken to those who are still with us, who contributed to the discussion and have their permission to include quotes, but I do so without names.

Under the heading "Inter-denominational conversations" The motion "that conversations be entered into with the local United Reformed and Baptist Churches to examine the possibility of purchasing a development site in the Town Centre with a view to erecting a new Church building" was proposed and seconded.

Some of the contributions to the discussion, in the order recorded:-

"Our church had been built more than 100 years ago as an act of faith and that this heritage should not be lost for the future. The premises were adequate for our needs and were well situated in the town centre. There would be many difficulties in three churches using the same building and as it was understood all three chapels were listed, it would be difficult to arrange sales at prices which would enable a sharing scheme to proceed."

"There are certain advantages to the proposition which was only that conversations be entered into so that possibilities could be discussed with the two other churches. A new building would take us into the next century and we could hand over to our descendants a building to serve future needs and for them to treasure as much as we treasured the existing building. **The United Reformed Church had already voted in favour of conversations and might favour union.** However, it was anticipated that the Baptist Church would wish to maintain its own identity."

"This can be compared with two local cricket clubs about five years ago. At Bideford, three clubs have joined together and gone from strength to strength. However, in Barnstaple, three clubs had entered into similar negotiations for merger which had been blocked by some of their elderly members. All three clubs had now declined and Braunton club had emerged as a new force. Our church now had a similar choice to make and as our church's decline could be traced over more than a decade, the time had come for new friends to be made. Whilst old friends may be lost in the short term, there would be a long term benefit."

"Too much money and effort was being spent in the upkeep of a deteriorating building and I hope that a new building will take place."

"Listing of the building was not necessarily a problem and could be dealt with later. There would be problems – doctrinal, administrative, financial, personal and legal – but these should not prevent initial talks. Whilst talking did not make things happen, not talking would not allow it to happen."

"The recent Gift Day had raised only £291, compared with £600 in 1987. People were beginning to question spending so much money on the building."

In the next two years, £20 000 would be needed for necessary repairs and a further £32 000 for general housekeeping and paying of bills. These sums could not be raised."

"The reliance upon Gift Days and Bazaars was not the answer as they would not look after the church for the future."

"Someone questioned whether God could work through a disunited body and said would like the three churches to unite."

"The Church Council must not evade its responsibilities. It must be concerned not only with the fabric of the building but must also plan for the future and explore potential from wherever it may come."

"Having experience of sharing schemes in various places, discussions on matters currently before the Council were always difficult. However, with faith in God, the answers would come especially after tolerant, Christian discussion. The proposed conversations were an opportunity to be grasped and that risk should be taken. We should not be afraid to start on conversations and that God should be allowed to do His will and work."

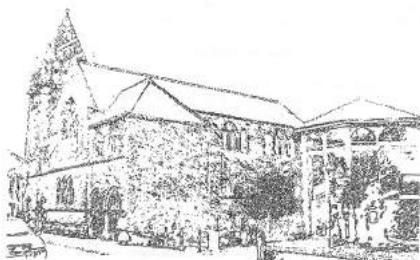
"The talks presented the greatest ever opportunity for Methodism in Barnstaple. If anything could stop developments it would be difficulties in finding a suitable site as all three free churches would want to maintain a town centre presence."

By 16 for and 1 against, the Chairman not voting, the motion was passed.

6 persons were appointed to represent the Church Council at a meeting planned provisionally for 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1988. One of these is still a member of our united church.

Interesting when we think of our current "Community Links Project"!

Eff Poole



## Weekly Meetings

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

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

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

#### Sunday Offertory for April 2020

		<b>Cash</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>
<b>April</b>	5th	£0.00	£0.00
	12th	£0.00	£0.00
	19th	£0.00	£0.00
	26th	£0.00	£0.00

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Currently this offertory is £1910.00 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	Kathy Jeacock (treas)	Jenny Newman
Alison Cairns	Chris Marshall	Eff Poole
Anthea Coates	Janet Marshall	Liz Seymour
Staveley Dawson	Jack Neville (sec)	Elaine Stevens

Church Secretary	373555
Church Treasurer	374085
Room Bookings	379116
Circuit Administrators	

Editors:

David Wilson	374020	david.devon@mac.com
Kathy Jeacock	373555	kjeacock@hotmail.com
Website		www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



**Out and  
about at  
last!**



**Grateful thanks to  
Norman for tidying  
and cleaning the  
rubbish from the  
Church front  
entrance.**



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bill Shillabeer. Together with his wife Phyl, Bill played a big part in the life of Christ Church Barnstaple for many years and that of the wider Methodist Circuit. He was a man of gentle humour and great faith and will be missed by so many. Please keep Bill's family in your prayers in the coming days and weeks.

