

The Messenger

“You also, like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist & United Reformed Church



1 Peter 2:5

December 2021 & January 2022



More pictures on back cover

December 2021

Most activities are cancelled or postponed until further notice but look out for updates as things start to change.

As the church magazine is printed once a month you may 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

After a few weeks we're beginning to get used to singing with a mask on and not sitting too close to our neighbours. But we're looking forward to making sure the organist knows that they're not alone in the building!

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

Calendar

December

| | | | | |
|-----|------|---------|--|-----------|
| Sun | 5th | 10:30am | Rev Don Macalister | Communion |
| Sun | 12th | 10:30am | Alison Cairns | |
| Sun | 19th | 10:30am | Rev Don Macalister | |
| | | 6:30pm | Carol Service Eff Poole | |
| Sat | 25th | 10:30am | CHRISTMAS DAY Rev Don Macalister | |
| Sun | 26th | 10:30am | No Service | |

January

The Plan for January was not available at the time of printing, but there are some provisional dates:-

Covenant Sunday - including January Communion Service, provisional date Sunday 16th January.

Christ Church AGM - including delayed election of elders, provisional date Sunday 30th January. This would usually be preceded by a bring and share lunch, but on this occasion, to limit contact, it will be a bring and **don't** share lunch. Final arrangements for this meeting will be sent out with information about the election of elders and other post holders.

Sound it Out started meeting up again in person, instead of on Zoom, in November - they're working hard to ensure they provide a covid-safe environment - this means that numbers may initially be limited. For information on Sound it Out please see page 7. Parents & Toddlers and Café Church are hoping to be next in line to complete their trial runs and open up again to meeting face to face in Christ Church.

Message

'The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.'
John 1 v 14.

Dear friends,

I love those words from John's gospel not only for the deep truth they express but because of their beautiful poetry. They are words that remind us of the amazing gift of God in revealing God's loving nature in a human being, living among us and full of grace and truth. What a beautiful image.

As both a preacher and a keen photographer this verse also says something about the power of God's Word being revealed, being seen at last. Perhaps like me you think visually at least as much as verbally and as powerful as the spoken or printed word is, it is certainly true that a picture can often paint a thousand words.

So, to hear God's Word, to read the old familiar Christmas readings is powerful, but not the same as seeing with our own eyes. But we can see; maybe not directly but we can see that same presence and image of God in one another, that same love, that same grace and truth, even that same glory of God empowered within us.

Later on in John 14 v 17 Jesus talks of God's other gift – "the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

At Christmas we celebrate the gift of God coming to us in a child not only because God's love and grace and truth were visible but because, through God's presence with us and in us, that love continues to be revealed to the world when we open our hearts, receive the gift, and follow Christ.

Every blessing to you all this Christmas and my prayers for healing and peace for the world in the New Year.



Prayers for December

5th December

Advent God, you prepared your people for your coming, you gave your Word to us through prophets and priests, through stories told and retold, through the history of time, through the written word, through the spoken word, but always your word. As Christmas lights begin to dazzle us, we know that your glory is way beyond their transfixing power. Advent God, we adore you, and come to you just as we are. Amen.

12th December

Blessed God, hear our prayers of sadness and regret for times when we have been blind to the needs of neighbours, deaf to the cries of the distressed, silent at the sight of the abused, careless with the frightened and supportive of greed and corruption. We confess our obsessions with things material and frivolous, fripperies wrapped in tissue paper. Open our ears and eyes, and our hearts, to be more receptive to what we see and hear from those we meet. Amen.

19th December

Lord Jesus, born for us in a borrowed stable, a long way from your home, we pray for:
those a long way from their homes...
those with nowhere to lay their heads...
those with nothing to keep them warm...
those with no one to care for them...
those with no one to share Christmas with...
those with no rejoicing to do...
Amen.

26th December

Incarnate God, after yesterday's joy and celebration, we may feel drunk on the treasures you have given us. Today we breathe, and ask: while we were so busy celebrating... What did we miss?
What did we fail to see or hear?
What did we fail to feel and sense?
Lord, show us the treasure we may have missed. Amen.

Prayers for January

2nd January

Almighty God, king of creation, You are our Day Star in the murk of a winter's morn, and our guiding light at all times.
We set our faltering feet upon the path of the New Year, raising our eyes in faith to the light of your love; lead us onwards with hope and strength. Amen.

9th January

Holy Spirit, where people need energy, come like fire;
where people need peace, come like a dove;
where people are lonely, gather them together.
Reveal Jesus to them in fire, in calm, and in community. Amen.

16th January

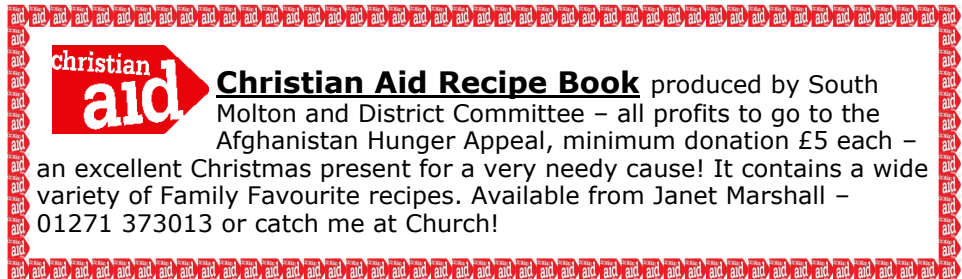
Lord God, we confess that the daily grind consumes us. We struggle to see beyond the needs of day-to-day life. We are chained to earthly demands. Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of faith and imagination; we look to you for transformation. Forgive us for failing to open our minds to the miracles of living; open our eyes, change our thinking and understanding. Come, Lord, transform our way of being; make us vessels wherein the ordinary becomes extraordinary, for Jesus' sake. Amen.


23rd January

Sometimes our vision is limited; not so much tunnel vision as a warped way of seeing, wrapped around ourselves and the world as we know it. Our pictures of Jesus have been formed by rose-tinted paintings – a man dressed in spotless white, blonde and blue-eyed. Yet you forgive us our childish and short-sighted understanding, Lord. Correct our vision, we pray, so that we may see the poor carpenter of Galilee, Jesus the Jew. Thank you for forgiving us when we think everybody is like us. Amen.

30th January

Lord, we thank you for not leaving us content. You do not allow us to wallow in self-satisfaction, thinking we are in control. Instead, you unsettle us with your truth. You disturb us into new ways of thinking. Thank you, Lord, for continuing to challenge us; may we prove worthy of your attention, able to accept your truth and act upon it. Amen.



 **Christian Aid Recipe Book** produced by South Molton and District Committee – all profits to go to the Afghanistan Hunger Appeal, minimum donation £5 each – an excellent Christmas present for a very needy cause! It contains a wide variety of Family Favourite recipes. Available from Janet Marshall – 01271 373013 or catch me at Church!



Merry Christmas

If you would like to wish friends at Christ Church a Merry Christmas, save trees and benefit Christian Aid all at the same time, then please ask the duty steward to add your name to the 'big card' in the vestibule and put your donation in the Christian Aid collection box. We hope to raise £187 for a cow.

In order to limit unnecessary contact, there will **not** be a table for 'internal post' for cards. If cards are left in church they are likely to still be there after Christmas.

What's happening?

A brief report on some of the things under discussion at the last elders' meeting, on November 24th 2021.

- Pastoral matters were reported and prayers said for all those mentioned.
- Community Links Project -
 - Stage 1 - the restoration work along the south elevation of the church is now successfully completed. Work along the western wall will, we hope, be started in the spring of 2022.
 - Stage 2 - There was a brief discussion on a webinar in December about Living Lives UK, Befriending, Age Concern and One Barnstaple. The group set up to work out the way forward have ongoing meetings.
- Finance - The annual accounts for 2020/2021 have been returned from independent examination and were distributed to the elders and finance committee. Copies will be available at the AGM. (If you would like a copy before then please let me know (Kathy 01271373555))
- Property -
 - The dishwasher in the kitchen is now working again, thanks to the persistent efforts of some determined people.
 - The shed door has been removed due to its dangerous state. The rest of the shed will be removed in due course.
 - Repair of the damage to the door at the side entrance of the church is in hand.
 - An engineer is booked to look at the heating system which keeps blowing a fuse.
 - The display of the toilet twinning certificates and roof cleaning are in the pipeline.
- The young church -
 - See separate report in the Messenger.
 - In addition, we're delighted that one of our young people would like to volunteer to help with Sunday Club as part of their D of E Bronze award.
 - Yeo Valley School look forward to re-establishing their links with Christ Church - we hope to see their Harvest quilts hanging in the church soon.
 - The district Carol Service for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides has regrettably been cancelled on health and safety grounds.
 - For the same reason there will not be a Christingle service at Christ Church on Christmas Eve.
- Eco Church
 - Liz challenged us to choose, and act on, one of the leaflets to be found on the ecochurch website, (mentioned on pg 9 of the November Messenger).
 - (Heating, Use of cling film, bin twinning.....)
- Church re-opening
 - There was some discussion of requests for using the building. Problems with cleaning, sanitising and booking need to be resolved.
- Christian Aid -
 - See separate report in the Messenger



Greetings from Norah Bellot Court

Here at Norah Bellot Court we are trying to get back to some sort of normality (with a few setbacks along the way!) We are in need of volunteers to help us run activities – this is not as daunting as it sounds and will be fun!

Types of volunteering could be:

- Helping with chat groups
- Helping with "Friday Club" or "Rainbows" (both have various activities)
- Helping with Bingo or Bowls
- Something you might like to suggest

Please contact me (Sally) in the first instance and I will pass your interest on to the Scheme Manager.

Sally Blackmore, Norah Bellot Court, Vicarage St, Barnstaple EX32 7ES
or email sally.blackmore@mha.org.uk

Take care everyone and keep safe,
Thinking of you and praying for us all, Sally



SOUND IT OUT

IS BACK!

Contacts for information:

Sally:

sally.blackmore@mha.org.uk

Norah Bellot Court, Vicarage St,
Barnstaple EX32 7ES
01271 379787 (Norah Bellot Court)

Rebecca:

rebarlett101@gmail.com

Hello Everyone!

SOUND IT OUT IS BACK!

(Singing for Memory)

SECOND & FOURTH MONDAYS

10.00 – 11.30am

Christ Church, Bear St, Barnstaple

Coronavirus Regulations in place

Contact Sally, Rebecca or Marilyn

The Sound It Out team



Parents & Toddlers Group



Having fun!



Young Families & Sunday Club



Snack & chat



Remembrance Sunday



A special boat for COP26

Young Families Work News

We are approaching that time of year when there is great excitement in the air with the children...! Yes, Christmas is coming! Not surprisingly, it is something that we are beginning to focus on with the children in Sunday Club; telling the Advent stories leading up to Christmas Day itself.

But before that – what have we been doing? Since writing last time we have enjoyed a Light Celebration as an alternative to Halloween, thanking God for the many different light sources but most of all for Jesus coming to be the Light of the World. Then after fun and refreshments the children each went home with a party bag, thanks to Maureen! The story of the Widow's mite took us into a beautifully set up temple with Eddy telling us the story, whilst the rest of us acted out our parts as a posh rich person and the poor humble widow, all of us putting our respective contributions and pennies in the treasure chest. We heard the importance of sharing and being generous. Coin rubbing was one of the fun activities. Then on Remembrance Sunday Marilyn kindly brought in her portable television so that, true to previous years, we were able to go live to the cenotaph for the two minutes silence. The children were amazingly quiet, particularly the very youngest ones who seemed to sense the importance of the occasion. It was very encouraging too to hear how much the children learn about the significance of this time of Remembrance at school and the way they observe it there.

Now on to the season of Advent when we shall be hearing the stories of Elizabeth, Zechariah and the birth of John the Baptist, followed by the Annunciation, leading up to the story of the first Christmas. There will be craft activities around such things as the joy of waiting for a baby, making a star chart Advent Calendar, and then of course making Christmas decorations. No doubt these will naturally lead on to a special celebration on one of the Sundays, over snack time! Then into the new year and more celebrations, with Alison telling the story of the Wise Men.

Games, fun, laughter and music are always important ingredients of our times together, as is prayer time when all the children love to read the prayer or be included in it, in some way, if they cannot yet read. There is always a very resounding 'Amen'!

We are looking forward to going back into services with the congregation over the Christmas period, especially on Christmas Day when the church family will be worshipping and celebrating together on this special day. There will be no service on Boxing Day – and therefore no Sunday Club!

Other news is that we have been able to welcome back some of our families to Parents and Toddlers. It has been a real delight seeing them, and marvelling at how much the children have grown, and those we once knew as babies have now become very active and captivating toddlers! However, as we want to be as safe and careful as possible, numbers are limited, so families are coming only by prearrangement with us. We are very much hoping though that we will be able to increase our numbers after Christmas. If you would like to be in touch about this, and are interested in joining the waiting list, please contact Anthea on

01237 471740.

And further happy news is that we are looking forward to welcoming Yeo Valley School back into Christ Church again for their Year 5/6 Carol Concert for their families this month. We are really pleased to be able to open our doors to them once again as they have greatly missed their visits to us, as we have missed theirs. We are hoping too that they will be able to come and hang up the Harvest quilts they are presently making. Similar plans made last year to hang them up in church had to be abandoned when sadly, the lockdown took over...

We will look forward to updating you in the New Year.

Meanwhile, we hope you have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

With special Christmas love and blessings from the Young Families Work Team

Anne's Christmas cards are available to buy/order, directly from Anne, like they were last year. Please get in touch with her to let her know what you would like and arrange how they can be delivered or collected.

If you can't get in touch with Anne, I can pass on a message.

Kathy 01271 373555



A message from Will Seymour....

This month after years of hard work I graduated from Oxford with a PhD in Computer Science. It's been an incredible experience, and one that I wouldn't have been able to have without my family at Christ Church. I'd like to say a massive thank you to Eff and Kathy for teaching me maths, to Don, Terry, and the late Alan Finch for encouraging me to get involved with IT arrangements in the church, and to everyone in the Church family for supporting me along the way.

Will

Our grateful thanks to Will too, as he continues to support Christ Church with his technical expertise. For those that are not aware, Will set up the church website some years ago while still at Pilton Community College. See back cover for a graduation picture - congratulations on behalf of us all.



The **Foodbank** remained open throughout the pandemic, responding to the needs of many individuals and families, and adjusting ways of working to be 'Covid safe'.

With winter, and Christmas, approaching, and prices rising (especially fuel costs) the need for food parcels is high. Any donations to our Foodbank Box in the entrance area will be welcome. **There is particular need for:**

- Tinned meat
- Tinned fruit
- UHT milk
- Custard – Jam – Individual sponge puddings
- (But, please, NO Beans, Tinned Tomatoes or Spaghetti!)
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Longlife fruit juices
- Thank you

Puzzles

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | P | R | A | N | C | E | R |
| P | C | U | P | I | D | P | E |
| L | M | N | B | A | T | R | N |
| O | D | L | N | C | K | V | N |
| D | S | C | O | M | E | T | O |
| U | E | N | E | X | I | V | D |
| R | E | H | S | A | D | Z | L |
| R | B | L | I | T | Z | E | N |

Can you find all nine of Santa's reindeer or find your way up the tree?



Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and, of course, Rudolph

News from Amigos and Kira Farm

***"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness! Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."* Psalm 100:1-5**

To quote from Amigos November Prayer news:

'We have so much to praise God for, this month and every month! As we are quickly approaching the end of 2021, we can't help but reflect on what has been quite a remarkable 21 years of Amigos!'

And we here in Christ Church have been a part of some of those years in many different ways, sponsoring Amigos' projects and also raising money to enable some of our own young people to have that never to be forgotten experience of visiting Kira Farm - something that hopefully some of us will be able to do in the future.

It has been great to hear this month that **Scovia, along with the other trainees, has now graduated** after another amazing year at Kira Farm. It has not been an easy year with all the challenges and uncertainties that they have been presented with but they have proved to be 'resilient, gifted and inspirational.' And they have now set out - women and men with equal dignity - holding the skills needed to sustainably work their way out of poverty with hope for the future. They will be change makers in their communities. **For them, a new chapter begins.**

Having had the privilege of meeting some of the students at Kira Farm on Zoom in October and hearing their stories, in November we were treated to a further heart-warming and moving **Zoom meeting with Uganda**. This time we had the joy of hearing about the life-changing impact **Child Sponsorship** is having on vulnerable families living in poverty across Uganda. Again we heard from the families themselves as well as those who work with them. The programme not only transforms the life of each child who is sponsored but the lives of the people around. The whole family flourishes and it has a ripple effect. There are now well over 400 children being sponsored. But it would be even more brilliant if that number could grow!



Amigos

The next opportunity to hear more encouraging and life-changing stories, **direct from Uganda by Zoom**, will be in December when we will hear from and meet those who are involved in the **Sustainable Community Development groups**. Farmers and families in rural areas learn and practise the amazing benefits of conservation farming, the importance of planting trees, and a plethora of simple, innovative ideas that will transform their humble lives. Details of these Zoom meetings will be on the website - <https://www.amigos.org.uk/> under Amigos Live events.

And this Christmas, Amigos has a special appeal to celebrate both Christmas and their 21st Birthday - **Be the Key**. To quote...*'we want to see Ugandans using the key you give to open the door to a new day*



Hooray! Sound it Out has restarted



Graduation Day at Kira Farm

Amigos & Kira Farm News



The Building of Joshua & Mary's House ¹³



Be the Key—Amigos Christmas Appeal

and work their way out of poverty with dignity, through Kira Farm Development Centre and our Sustainable Community Development.' If you would like to donate please go to their website or ring the office on 01271 377664 where you will get a very warm welcome.

And finally, we ask that you continue to keep Amigos and its life-changing work in your prayers. Many thanks.

Anthea



SAINT STEPHEN

Feast day 26th December in the West. All that is known of Stephen is in the Acts of the Apostles. He is mentioned in Acts 6 as a Hellenistic Jew selected to participate in a fairer distribution of welfare to the Greek-speaking widows. He was one of the seven deacons in the early church appointed by the apostles, to distribute aid to the poorer members of the community. He was the eldest of the seven and therefore called the archdeacon. It is assumed that he was a Jew by birth, he was learned in the scriptures and the history of Judaism.

Stephen was a convert to Christianity and said to be full of faith and the Holy Spirit and to have performed miracles among the people. It seemed that Stephen mainly preached his Christian message in the synagogues of the Hellenistic Jews. He aroused the opposition of the Cyrenians and the Alexandrians and those that were of Cilicia and Asia.

Stephen's Christian teachings had been challenged, but apparently he bested them in debate. His rivals were furious at this humiliation and bore false testimony that Stephen had preached blasphemy against Moses and God. He was dragged before the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of Jewish elders, accusing him of preaching against the Temple and Mosaic Law.

In his teachings he said that God was everywhere not just in the Temple which was a mere building. He accused them of killing Jesus who was the chosen Messiah just as they had killed the prophets of old.

The crowd could contain their anger no longer and picked up stones to throw at him. Stephen looked up and said "Look I see the heavens open and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God." The people in the crowd who threw the first stones, laid their coats at the feet of Saul (later known as Paul the Apostle). Stephen prayed that the Lord would receive his spirit and his killers be forgiven, sank to his knees and fell asleep. Saul approved of their killing him. He is the patron saint of Deacons and has long been invoked for his power of curing headaches, he is also the patron saint of bricklayers and stone masons. He is often depicted in art with a book of the gospels, a stone and sometimes a palm of martyrdom.

BOXING DAY PIE

INGREDIENTS

Packet of ready-rolled puff pastry, or use favourite recipe

Sauce

2 ounces (50gms) plain white flour

2 ounces (50gms) butter or margarine

½ pint milk

A little mustard and creamed horseradish sauce if liked, salt and pepper seasoning

3 ounces (75gms) gruyere cheese grated

A little white wine or dry sherry if desired

Filling

Left over cooked sprouts, chestnuts, cubed parsnips, potatoes etc, cubed turkey, ham, pigs in blankets. In fact anything savoury left over from Christmas dinner. Allow enough to fill your chosen pie dish.

- 1 Make the sauce and in a large bowl mix with the prepared filling. Allow to cool if you have time.
- 2 Place all in your chosen pie dish. If your dish has a lip, brush with water, cut strips of pastry to go along the edge.
- 3 Brush this pastry with water and place the remaining pastry on top. Neaten the edges, make a hole in the centre to release the steam. Decorate with leaves if desired, brush with beaten egg.
- 4 Place in a very hot oven on a pre-heated baking tray, and cook until it looks golden and puffy. Then turn down the heat for a while longer to make sure innards are piping hot and bubbly.

Serve immediately with salad or anything simple. I made ours with home-made pastry, but it took quite a time, not the sort of thing you want to be doing on Boxing Day. I used all vegetables from the day before lunch. I think it important to include sprouts and chestnuts as these really sing Christmas left-overs. Ian loved it and we had it next day cold with salad. Any cheese will be OK, but the combination of gruyere is particularly yummy.

Note It is important to remember that as you will be using pre-cooked food it should NOT be re-heated.

Boxing Day Dance Music by Hoggetown Fancy (also watch on YouTube)

Jennifer



Guider Awards and Appreciation

Congratulations to Hilary Richards and Nicola Wilkins who recently received 30 year service awards.



HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

WORKS

Action for Children Boxes

As these boxes have not been emptied since before the first lockdown, I would be grateful if they could be passed to me so that the contents can be sent to **A for C**. Also, if you donate by cash or cheque to this cause, I would be pleased to receive it. I can collect from you if you are not able to bring your donations. We have heard that **Action for Children** has been very busy working locally and nationally with families during the pandemic and would appreciate our donations. If you are not already a regular supporter of **A for C**, I can supply you with a lantern collection box or receive your donations. Thank you. Eff Poole. Tel. 373543.



Christian Aid corner

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal: Impossible choices At Christmas, we all have decisions to make whether it's which presents to buy or who to invite for lunch - but imagine having to make the impossible choice of drinking dirty water or none at all.

In South Sudan, flooding and droughts have become more frequent and severe because of the climate crisis, leaving people hungry, homeless, and without a means to earn a living. Exacerbated by years of conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a growing humanitarian and hunger crisis, which is also forcing people to make impossible decisions.

"We were in desperate need," said Adut Mariu who lives in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. Adut is a 27-year-old, married mother of three young children.

"To look after my children, they had to drink the dirty river water. The water has many diseases. There is cows' dung, there is donkeys' dung... People also wash in there." The River Makadh runs through Adut's village of Biet and was the community's only source of water.



It is dirty and unreliable. It dries up during long periods of drought and floods during heavy rainfall, rising to dangerous levels and spreading contaminated water. Adut said: "Then when the flood came, it came at full force. This village was under water. No one could move. The flood destroyed everything. Because of the flood, crops were destroyed, cows and goats were dying because they had nowhere to graze. You would see chickens standing in the water and later see them dying. These flood waters cannot be stopped." Thanks to Christian Aid's local partner, Support for Peace and Education Development Program (SPEDP), Adut's community were able to build a borehole to extract water from a naturally occurring source. "Now we get water from the hand pump. We don't send our children to the river," Adut said. "The water from the hand pump is very good. It's disease free. We drink it with peace of mind." The pump is helping the village's 700 families to gain access to clean drinking water. Water-borne diseases have fallen, and Adut has more time for other activities like farming. She's also the caretaker of the borehole and keeps it in good working



order. To support Christian Aid's work in South Sudan and other countries suffering from the effects of climate change, you can download church resources and give to the Christmas Appeal at caid.org.uk/christmas. With clean water, nutritious food and ways to earn money, mothers on the frontline of the climate crisis like Adut won't have to make such impossible choices. Photo credits: Christian Aid/ Silvano Yoked. Thank you to our regional coordinator for supplying this article. - We hope you might also consider helping Christ Church to buy a cow for Christmas as mentioned in last month's Messenger. The Christian Aid collecting box is in the foyer if you would like to donate to help us reach a target of £187 to make this gift. Many thanks again,

Janet Marshall & Paula Littlewood



Why a cow?

In Bangladesh, your gift of a cow could help provide families with a constant supply of milk to drink and sell at the market.

Where does your money go?

Your gift purchase acts as a donation to our 'Agriculture & Livestock' fund.



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 - 6.30pm | Rainbows | |
| | 5.30pm - 7.00pm | Brownies | contact Nicola Wilkins |
| | 7.00pm - 8.30pm | Guides ... | tel 07813620615 or 01271377154 |
| Wednesday | 1.30pm - 3.00pm | Parents & Toddlers | |
| 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 Chris Punt tel 343716 or Staveley Dawson tel 373213 |

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)

Weekly Offertory for 2021

| | | Cash and Envelopes | Gift Aid |
|----------------|------|--------------------|--------------|
| October | 3rd | £79.02 | £10.00 |
| | 10th | £181.00 | £245.00 |
| | 17th | £97.00 | £0.00 |
| | 24th | £64.10 | £5.00 |
| | 31st | £66.50 | £0.00 |

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Currently this offertory is £181.00 per month. Many thanks to all of you. If you have given me an envelope number your gift will be included in the offertory in the accounts, otherwise it has been recorded as a donation. *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 Janet Marshall 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

tel. 01271 345313
dasmacalister@icloud.com

Young families worker

Elders

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 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 |

Telephone Directory (01271)

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Church Secretary | |
| Church Treasurer | 373555 |
| Room Bookings | |
| Circuit Administrators | 379116 |

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The Church Building is Unveiled!



Congratulations Dr. Will Seymour



Boxing Day Pie Recipe—Page 15

