

The Messenger

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

Hebrews 6:19

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist & United Reformed Church



August 2022



**Lovely weather for the
Summer Fair**

More photos on back cover



Jubilee Garden Party

Christ Church Family News

- Welcome back to Rev Don who returns from his 3 month sabbatical. We hope you feel rested, refreshed and re-inspired. We have missed you!
- Many folk have been poorly with Covid - we hope you are feeling much better now, and we continue to send our love to you all

August Diary

Sat	6th	3pm	URC 50th Anniversary at Lavington (see page 5)
Sun	7th	10.30am 3pm	Morning Worship and Holy Communion: Rev Don Causeway Service
Mon	8th	10am	Sound it out
Sun	14th	10.30am 12.30pm	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement Church Picnic (see page 11)
Mon	15th	6pm	***Deadline for September Messenger***
Sun	21st	10.30am	Morning Worship: Rev Don
Mon	22nd	10am	Sound it Out
Sun	28th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Deacon Joan Cole
Regular meetings :			
Tuesdays -		Rainbows 5.30pm (Term-time only)	
Wednesdays -		Parents & Toddlers 1.30pm (Term-time only)	
Thursdays -		Circuit Zoom Service 7pm	
Fridays -		Hobnob 10am (except Bank Holidays)	

Circuit Zoom Service

The Circuit Zoom Service takes place every Thursday evening at 7pm. If you would like to join the service, please email Sue Cresswell suecresswell57@hotmail.com and she will add you to the mailing list.

A new link is sent out each week before the service, it will come from either Sue, Lorna Manning or Rev Don as they take it in turns each month to host it.

Message from Rev Sue Macbeth

Dear Friends,

the second of two pastoral letters – I have been asked by the elders to write the minister's letter for August Messenger and I guess many of you are eagerly anticipating Rev Don's return from sabbatical.

One of the verses of a song I can remember from Sunday School days goes like this:

*Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean and the beauteous land.* (Mrs J.A. Carney 1845)

I like to think of that when I'm down walking on the beach or at the seaside. It is said that the planet earth should not really be called that as about **71 percent** of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all Earth's water. I guess that calculation might not have been well known in 1845.

Along with all the other energy bills which I receive comes a little newsletter from South West Water telling us how they 'bring water to life' and support the lives of people and the places they love for generations to come.

If you were cast off on to a desert island and had no equipment the first thing you should look for is fresh water. You can survive for three weeks without food but only for about three (or even four) days without water.

Jesus had some encounters at the local village wells because everyone went there to get their daily supply of water. Conversations happened and people passed on news and information. An important job for the women was making sure that huge jars of water were kept full at their home. No pipework or running taps or showers.

This might make us think a little more about the water we do use. We rarely have flash floods although some did occur in Barnstaple two summers ago. Then we are even more aware of the structures which are in place to alleviate rare occurrences of flooding.

Living in a tourist area we are more aware of how much water can be harnessed to provide leisure spots- the reservoirs, lakes and beaches where people flock on warm summer days. A regional environmental improvement plan to keep us safe and healthy is important. Simple pleasures like turning a tap on and filling a kettle making a cup of tea is something we take for granted.

Yet in this world of God's creation there are many people who live with unhealthy water supplies, who suffer from increasing flash flooding and have no spare water. This 71% of the make up of our planet is surely a wondrous thing.

Water Aid is a charity which we have recently supported at Christ Church. It was officially established on 21 July 1981. Their first projects start in Zambia and Sri Lanka. Since then they have gone on to supply 28 million people with clean water which 1 in 10 never have.

(cont)

The quiet pool

There is within each of us
a quiet clear pool of living water
fed by the one deep Source
and inseparable from it,
but so often hidden
by a tangle of activity
that we may not know
of its existence.

We can spend the proverbial forty years
wandering in strange deserts,
sinking unrewarding wells
and moving on, driven by our thirst,
but when we stop still long enough
to look inside ourselves, really look
beyond our ideas about water
and what and where it should be,
we discover it was with us all the time,
that quiet clear pool which is ageless,
the meaning of our existence
and the answer to all wanderings.

And as we drink,
we know what Jesus meant when he said
we'd never be thirsty again.

Joy Cowley, from Aotearoa Psalms Flowing Streams NCEC Ed Donald Hilton

Grace and peace

Sue

Prayers for August

August 7th *a prayer written by Richard Baxter in the 17th century*

Keep me O Lord, while I tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of my life; that when you come, I may be found not hiding my talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with my lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for you. Amen.

August 14th

O God, source and guide and goal of all that is and all that shall be, we are glad to come into your presence and acknowledge you as the giver of life. In you, every blessing is ours. Help us not to rest in the security and comfort of that blessing, but to be open to the word that

you bring us that challenges and changes us, refreshes us and renews us. In the name of Christ, your Son, our Lord, Amen.

August 21st

We pray for those in need of healing, whose lives are confined by pain and frustration, whose relationships are marred by the experience of disappointment and betrayal. Touch their lives with your grace, to bring freedom and forgiveness, renewal and reconciliation. Amen

August 28th

Dear God, we thank you for the way in which Jesus welcomed and accepted the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. We thank you that he had time for the people with whom others could not be bothered to spend time; that he welcomed everybody to sit around his table. We remember how Jesus taught his friends that people who put themselves last are first in God's eyes. Help us to think about the people we need to put first: the poor, the lonely, the weak and the vulnerable. Help us to share with them all the gifts that you have given to us, the gifts of our time, our energy, our patience and our understanding. Help us to always remember that nobody is too unimportant or insignificant to receive the peace, love and joy that Jesus gave so freely. Amen.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church

Three churches in our circuit form united churches with Methodists and United Reformed Church members and friends (and several other denominations as well). Christ Church, Barnstaple happily comes together as within a Local Ecumenical Partnership and is a good witness along with Emmanuel Ilfracombe and Christ Church Braunton. It is good to share in our traditions and experiences in this rich diversity. There are also two more Local Ecumenical Partnerships with Methodist and Church of England at Bratton Fleming and Goodleigh.

The United Reformed Church nationally is 50 at the beginning of October. Just a youngster really. Locally we shall have 2 opportunities to share in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the URC.

Local congregations are invited to meet socially with others on Saturday 6th August from 3 - 6 p.m. at Lavington URC, Bideford. There will be an informal programme, which includes an invitation to churches to take along up to 10 photos and 3 objects depicting highlights of our church life as a part of the URC. There will also be 'bring and share' tea, requesting offers of sweet or savoury. We could offer car sharing to this event.

Whatever your denominational background, if you would like to accept this invitation to celebrate with the URC (and if you would like to try to arrange a lift), please contact Alison Cairns by 31st July (*contact details on page 19*).

On Sunday 2nd October 2022 at 10.30 a.m. at Christ Church Braunton we shall have a service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the URC, led by Rev Sue Macbeth and Rev John Robinson.

A warm welcome to YOU is extended and with every blessing,

Sue

Events committee

Jubilee Garden Party

It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying the delights of Bruce and Liz's garden as the sun came out.

A wonderful selection of cakes was available, and a bring and buy stall.

The event was enjoyed by all, so huge thanks to Bruce and Liz for letting us use their garden for our first fundraising event.

Including Gift Aid, we raised £602. Thank you so much to all who helped, gave cakes and attended.

Summer Fair

What an amazing day, it was hot and sunny so we were able to have our stalls outside.

After a slow start it was quite well attended, with a lovely friendly atmosphere. Lots of passers-by came in, and were pleased to see us "back in action"! It was on a smaller scale than normal, but thanks to our wonderful team of helpers, we were able to raise £490.

Thank you to the team, to our loyal supporters who attended, and to all who contributed to make the day such a success.

Future Events

Saturday 15th October – the ever popular Quiz and Supper Evening

Saturday 26th November - Winter Fair

We have welcomed Elaine to our Events committee, and we're all looking forward to having more fun and fellowship as we raise funds for Christ Church later in the year.

Many thanks again for your support at our recent events,

Joy

Foodbank donations

THANK YOU to all who have continued to give. We're all seeing prices increase – but every tin, packet or jar donated makes a real difference to individuals and families in urgent need.

The box for food collections is in the church foyer.

Current needs include:

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Fruit juice (Long life)
- Tinned veg: carrots, peas, sweetcorn
- Sponge puddings; tinned custard
- Snack bars, biscuits
- Instant coffee



Always needed: basics e.g. tinned meat, fish, soup, and fruit.

Vouchers for food parcels are issued by many local organisations and support groups. No one need be ashamed to ask for help.

Phone number for more information: 01237 422243

Some people are able to give financially. To donate online or set up a regular donation, go to: www.northerndevonfoodbank.org.uk

Marilyn

Notes from the elders' meeting on Tuesday 21st June 2022

- Coffee after the service on Sundays. We are keen to get this going again but it can't be done without volunteers prepared to go on a rota to provide it.
There was no response to the request in the Messenger. It was suggested that we could perhaps do it once a month and hope that people appreciated it enough to offer to help.
- Community Links Project phase two. Now that phase one, the building repairs, is complete, the team looking at ways to use the church in the community are moving forward.
Contact has been made with One Barnstaple and it's hoped that a speaker will come along to the next CLP meeting to give information about what is already available for senior citizens and where additional help is needed. We still have good contact with A4C and Yeo Valley School.
- Anthea gave a report on the latest Café Church, Sunday Club meetings and contact with Yeo Valley School – nearly time for this years 'Eggy drop'. Also a reminder of the date for our annual church picnic – August 14th – at Bluecoat School, weather permitting and in church if it's wet.
- Rainbows now have 12 children on their books and, with 2 volunteers, are well staffed.
- Events. The Jubilee Garden Party raised £572 for church funds. (*Final total £602*)
- Christian Aid. The 'Big Brekkie' was thoroughly enjoyed and the diners have requested another one later in the year. Not only did Christian Aid benefit by £182 but four local homeless people had breakfast too.
- The Worship Group has met and plan to organise a Songs of Praise service for Sunday 24th July at 6:30pm. The congregation will be invited to suggest any favourite hymns or readings for inclusion.
- The Causeway services at 3:00pm on the first Sunday of each month are going well. Hopefully the Oasis service held in the evening of the fifth Sunday, when there is one, will start again in the autumn.
- Harvest Festival – Sunday 25th September. Gifts to go to the Food Bank – suitable donations or money.
- Notice boards. A person or group to look at the notice boards to re-assess position, content e.g. using them to show 'what the church is about', attractiveness, etc.
- The 'email prayer group' will hold a Day of Prayer on Tuesday 19th July. Rev Marilyn will lead prayer for the CLP at church for an hour from 10:00am. This is not just for the prayer group but open to all.
- URC 50th anniversary. We are invited to join the celebrations at Lavington on 6th August 3:00pm – 6:00pm including a faith tea. Bring along up to 10 photos and 3 objects showing church life (in our case as an LEP). Alison from Lavington needs to know numbers.
- July elders' meeting will be cancelled except in emergency. Next meeting in August.

Café Church

My listening ears



Showing a Braille storybook



Learning business skills

Richard in computer class



Teaching Swiss students to plant rice

Young Families Work News

Café Church on June 12th was themed around the story of Blind Bartimaeus. Not only did we hear the story told as engagingly as ever by Joan, but to follow up, Alison talked a little with the children about Living with Sight Loss and also introduced the children to braille. Not only did she have some children's books in braille from the library for them to experience the feel and touch of braille but also some spectacles from 'see hear' which show wearers what it is like to have certain eye conditions. The children were quite fascinated by what she shared. The activities reflected the Bible story with word searches and table puzzles as well as the theme of sight loss. Each family was given a copy of the braille alphabet with the suggestion to write their name using it by colouring in the appropriately positioned dots of the alphabet. But the most popular activity was 'the touchy – feely challenge'! This was identifying the objects hidden in bags. There were such wonderful faces of concentration as the children endeavoured to work out what was in each bag! As usual we all had a jolly good sing, the Hallelu Hallelu Hallelu Hallelujah, we'll praise the Lord causing much laughter with its (not so) well-timed energetic alternate standing and sitting!! Other favourites included 'Give me Joy in my Heart' and 'We shall go out with joy'. A delicious tea followed (jelly is now firmly back on the menu!), and then a wonderful letting off of steam with games in the Alan Finch Room!

We now look forward to our next Café Church on July 10th when Dawn Williams and Jess Foy are coming from Action for Children to help us celebrate Action for Children Sunday, our theme being 'Let the children come to me...'

Next month on August 14th will be our Annual Church Picnic from 12.30 – 3.30pm at Pilton Bluecoat School. Fun and games are promised! Please do come. ALL ARE WELCOME! Should it happen to be raining this year it will be held at Christ Church. If you have any questions please contact Anthea, but there are further details on page 11.

Sunday Club and Parents and Toddlers have continued as happily and energetically as ever! Stories and activities in Sunday Club have been around the parables and miracles which we have all been happy to revisit: down through the roof (the healing of the paralysed man), healing Jairus' daughter, Jesus in the Temple, the pool at Bethesda, and of course the Big Feast to celebrate Jubilee Sunday. The children still eagerly volunteer to read the prayers and we all took part in reading the story of the Parable of the Talents this last Sunday. How well the youngest read now and can take a full part after their first year of school. It was a real joy too when Eddy came at the end of June to lead the session, telling the story of the lame man, and then encouraging the children to decorate and send Get Well cards to those they knew were unwell. It was by chance that two of our team, along with others of course, were privileged to receive them, having just succumbed to Covid!!

Yeo Valley School is looking forward to being with us for their Egg Drop and to test out their parachutes (more details next time), and also for small groups to come and visit and look around the church as part of their 'places where we worship' project.

The 'It's Your Move' Scripture Union books have already been delivered from us to those children moving on to Secondary School next year.

We hope that you all have a happy and sunny August with time for holidays and relaxation. And don't forget to come and join us for the picnic on August 14th! Sending you all our love and every blessing,

The Young Families Work Team

Causeway

Following our Causeway Service in July when we focused on the Coming of the Holy Spirit we are now looking forward to our next Causeway Service on Sunday August 7th at 3pm at Christ Church when Rev Marilyn Tricker will be helping us to pray.

Although our Causeway Services have always been planned with those with learning difficulties in mind, we warmly welcome all who would like to come and share in our simple informal time of worship.

Gill G and the Causeway Team

A Challenge – Sunday morning service.

In last month's Messenger there was a wonderful list of all the ways that people who are not able to come to Christ Church can engage in worship with other people. Missing from the list was the excellent Radio Devon Service at 8am on Sunday morning and I wondered why. Then I read an article by Mervyn Kerswell in Jubilate - the magazine for the group of churches in the north of the Circuit. I have his permission to use it here.

These services have now ceased due to a "management" decision at Radio Devon that they are no longer needed as the Covid problem has gone away and that their audience no longer needs the service! How misguided is that!! I have spoken to one of their producers who told me that the only way they will resurrect the morning radio service is if their audience telephone them and complain about its absence. So it's up to you! The more calls they receive the more likely it will be reinstated.

We have lodged our protest, but it needs more than US. If you would like it back please telephone 01752 ~ 260323 voicing your protest. If everyone leaves it to others NOTHING will happen and the service will be lost for good. It's up to you!! Ring or lose it!!

(At the moment there is an alternative West Country service, but it is sometimes difficult to tune into. Radio Cornwall (frequency FM 95.2/ 96.0/or 103.9 MHz) have a more sympathetic management and are continuing their Sunday morning service at 8.00 am.)

So please telephone 01752 260323 NOW!!

So the challenge is- even if you don't need to use this right now, if we don't register our protest it will not be there in the future so please get in touch.

Sue

Come and join us for our...



Christ Church Annual Picnic

Sunday 14th August 12.30-3.30pm
In the grounds of

Pilton Bluecoat Academy

ALL WELCOME



LOTS OF FUN

Bring Your Own
Picnic Food, Drink and Seat!

(In Christ Church if wet)



For more info: phone Anthea
on 07979 393220



LADIES - especially those who used to come to our Ladies Fellowship meetings:

We sadly are unable to start up these meetings at the present time.

We would therefore like to invite you to the Ladies Friendship Group meetings. These have now moved to the afternoon from 2.30 pm until 4 pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday in the month.

We have a varied and interesting programme running through the Autumn and Winter into the Spring and early Summer put together by Rose de la Cour. Celia Huxtable is our Treasurer. I agreed to take over the role of Chair with support from Jennifer Allen, Gill Greenland and Sandy Yeo.

Our first Autumn Meeting will be on Monday 26th September at 2.30pm when our Speaker will be Roger Byrom who will be talking about his visit to Ukraine.

If you are in contact with any ladies from Fellowship please pass on my message to come along. You will all be most welcome.

Contact me if you need to know more: Rosemary Cole

I would also like to say welcome back to Friendship Group ladies,

Rosemary

Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie'

We raised £182 and had a lovely morning. We were grateful to Selaine Saxby MP, and Janet Coates – Deputy Mayor of Barnstaple – for supporting us. Many thanks to all who came,

Janet



Plastic Free North Devon

Big Saunton Beach Clean

Thursday 4th August

6 - 8pm

Friendship Group

Friendship Group leaders:
Celia, Rose and Rosemary



Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie'

Preparing sausage sandwiches
and bacon baps



Deputy Mayor Janet Coates
and ND MP Selaine Saxby
dropped in

Enjoying breakfast
with Selaine



There's always time for a chat



The breakfast team with Janet Coates

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

Clare was born on 16 July 1194; she died on 11th August 1253. Clare is the patron saint of laundry; goldsmiths; bicycle messengers and believe it or not, has recently been made patron saint of television.

Clare was born in Assisi of wealthy parents, unusually for the time she was taught to read and write, in addition to learning domestic skills. Clare was considered beautiful in both body and soul and the pride of her family. Although we do not know for sure, it was assumed that girls of her rank would be groomed for marriage. For Clare the choices available to her as a young woman were not enough for her, she considered that there must be something else out there for her. This she discovered was the teachings of Jesus. One day about aged 12 she snuck away to listen to Francis of Assisi, a well-known local man. Clare was inspired by these words from Francis:

"When the world has knocked down the door to your peace, quickly go inside and remember God. When the world is tempting you to seek physical comforts, sit down and feel the real comfort we have as the life of a brother. When something becomes more important than God, repeat your prayer "God give me a life that is simple and true. God give me a life that is simple and true"

On hearing these words she thought such a life worth living must be a real adventure. Clare was several years younger than Francis but beyond her youthful enthusiasm Francis detected her true spirit. He felt their souls had a common destiny. Clare felt that she had no choice but to live and be like Francis, any other way would not be listening to the voice of God within. Clare and her sister Agnes left home to follow Francis, apparently there was uproar and her parents and several soldiers chased after her. The soldiers grabbed them and tried to carry them home. Clare's strength was suddenly as a thousand angels and her weight was as a mountain. Word quickly went round Assisi that Clare and her sister were great souls.

Clare longed for the simple life of Christ as described by Francis and his guide to devotion and sacrificing the self to the fire of the soul. Clare reasoned that sacrifice is only the clearing away of everything that is not true. Her life of love; sacrifice and devotion had begun. Clare asked Francis to help her dedicate her life to God. Clare took vows on 20th March 1212. This marked the beginning of the second order of Saint Francis.

Clare soon became the Abbess of San Damiano and many others joined her. Most of her time was spent in manual labour and prayer. Clare began using any of her spare time in changing the governing rules established by the pope, to the newly established Franciscan rule. Her request was finally approved three days before she died. The order became known for its life of abject poverty and committed life of prayer. It is considered that due to prayer Clare was able to save Assisi on two occasions. The first involved Clare raising the host up in a window, thereby causing Frederick II's invading troops to fall back. The second: when Assisi was again under attack, Clare and her nuns prayed for the safety of their town, whereby a storm swept in and scattered the attackers.

Clare cared for Francis at the end of his life and was present at his death. Despite ill-health Clare continued to promote the growth of her order. Clare

was canonized in 1255. Today the order numbers more than 20,000 sisters worldwide with more than 70 countries represented.

HOLIER THAN THOU CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients

4 ounces (100g) wholemeal flour
2 ounces (50g) cocoa powder
1.5 tsp baking powder
2 free range eggs
1tbsp honey
1tsp vanilla essence
4 ounces (100g) pitted prunes or dates, cooked and mashed
8 ounces (200g) cooked grated or blasted beetroot
5 fluid ounces (125ml) good quality vegetable or olive oil

Method

Sift dry ingredients into a bowl. Mix the rest of the ingredients together, if you have a food processor or hand-held blender then blast them together, if not give a good mix.

Turn into a prepared tin (6" for a deepish cake, 7" for a shallower one).

Cook at gas 4, Electric 160 for about 30 mins. If it needs longer you may have to cover the top with brown paper. It is ready when a sharp knife or skewer comes out clean.

Optional coating

4 ounces good quality Fairtrade chocolate and 2 ounces (50g) butter

Break up chocolate into a basin, cut butter in pieces into the basin, melt together over a bowl of boiling water. Remove basin from the heat when melted and allow to cool until beginning to thicken, then spread over the cake.

This makes a very moist, scrummy and apparently rich fudge-like cake, so you will only need to give small pieces to guests.

Although it contains no sugar, if giving to a friend with diabetes remember they should have a very small piece as a treat as it still contains carbs and sugar from the beet, prunes and honey.

I had a job deciding what to make to go with St Clare, nothing seemed to work. Then I remembered a cake I had done a recipe for a few years ago as an antidote to Death by Chocolate cake. 'Holier than Thou chocolate cake.' No added sugar and reasonably wholesome. It does not really need the chocolate coating but looks better in the photograph. Enjoy.

Music to listen to:

Clair the moment I met you I swear: Gilbert O'Sullivan

Cantata No 23: Bach chosen because it is a duet and Clare and Francis worked closely together.



Jennifer

Amigos

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

What a joy and inspiration it was to read the article from the Seymours in the last Messenger, the way they are lovingly embracing their extended family in Uganda – and continuing to add to it, now that Hannah and Will have begun their own sponsorship. And to know how they are enabling so many lives to be turned around, not only those of the sponsored children and young people but also their families and communities too – further extended families.

Many of us remember Hannah going to Uganda in 2011 and her enthusiasm when she returned. Then thanks to Jo's initiative in 2017 we set out to send two more of our young people. How I remember making gifts in Sunday Club to sell in the vestibule to the church family; our big raffle; a 24 hour sponsored table tennis marathon; a Ceilidh with wonderful live music from the Oggie Band and delicious food too. We raised the money for the visits. The same year we sponsored a Kira Farm student called Roland Owera. Since then, inspired by both Hannah's and then Maisie's stories and experience from Kira Farm, Christ Church has continued to support a Kira Farm student each year, playing a part in setting them and those around them on their way to hopeful futures.

Our present student is Richard who we hear is a self-confident young man who laughs a lot and spreads joy around the people he is with. He is anxious to learn the skills to fully utilise his land profitably in order to support his and his father's families. He also dearly wishes to fulfil his dream of becoming an engineer. What better place for him to learn the necessary skills - and more - always so grateful...

And oh the joy of a mattress...

'How are you doing my dear sponsors?

Let me hope everything is well with you and your families. I am also fine here in Uganda.

Two days ago they gave us new mattresses. to tell you the truth, I had never slept on a new mattress. I have been sleeping like a baby.

I am happy to inform you that I can now make all joints in the carpentry training. At the moment together with my friends, we are making some tables and chairs for the Kira office. It is a good project to be working on as a team and it teaches me how to work together with others.

More interesting, I am happy that I am learning about computers. I never thought I would ever be able to learn computers. The only place is in the next district which is 4 to 5 hours away from my place, which is very far and I can't afford the school fees there

I am no longer scared about not being able to use a computer, we have a very patient trainer who is helping us learn, we are very slow but our trainer never gets tired. I know by the end of my year of training I will be able to use the computer very well.

Thank you a lot for supporting me this year. I look forward to hearing from you.

God bless, Richard

And finally – something very close to our hearts here in the UK - the Amigos pilot reforestation programme is in full swing. Just short of planting half a million (494,559) trees in 2022 they have been told by Trees for the Future that Amigos 'is one of its best performing partners."

We ask now that you continue to pray for the ongoing work of Amigos and particularly for Richard our sponsored student as he enters his second semester at Kira Farm. Borrowing words from the previous write-up in the Messenger: to be part of the Amigos family in any way is indeed 'a privilege, a joy, and a blessing'.

Anthea



**SOUND
IT OUT**

2022

Dates for July – September 2022
Christ Church, Bear St, Barnstaple
(2nd & 4th Mondays 10am – 12 noon)
11th & 25th July
8th & 22nd August
12th & 26th September

“Sound It Out” is a social group primarily aimed at people living with memory loss and their carers and those who want a bit of company.
We sing, chat, have tea and cake and laugh a lot!
Come and see what we do.

Tearfund Action

During this turbulent time in politics, we are reminded by Tearfund that the climate crisis isn't going away. The interruption in the political timetable caused by the leadership situation will possibly delay action on this urgent issue.

We are asked to pray:

- ◆ for peace, wisdom, integrity and unity for our political leaders
- ◆ for the UK Government to be a force for good, that they will respond to those most affected by the climate crisis and make decisions that care for, not harm, God's creation
- ◆ that climate finance promises will be fulfilled
- ◆ that those living in poverty will have access to the finance and solutions they need to help them respond to the climate crisis

What else can we do?

- ◆ write to your MP
- ◆ sign the Tearfund petition calling on the UK Government to influence other wealthy nations to deliver the \$100 billion of climate finance they promised from 2020. They will be handing this petition to the new prime minister in the run-up to COP 27 in November

www.tearfund.org/forms/climate-petition

PS Take a look at Tearfund's new report – ***Dying to adapt: A comparison of African healthcare spending and climate adaptation costs***. It finds some African countries could face climate adaptation costs up to five times higher than their healthcare spend – despite having contributed the least to the climate crisis.

Liz

Offertory

An increasing number of people are donating money direct to the Church account by standing order. Many thanks to all of you.

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.

Cash offerings can be made at Christ Church on a Sunday morning, there will be an offertory plate on the table in the vestibule. Gift Aid envelopes are also there if you wish to use one. Thank you.

Kathy

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church seeks to express the love of Christ
for everyone.

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)

*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

01271 345313

dasmacalister@icloud.com

Elders

Alison Cairns

(Church Secretary) 343154 alisoncairns@hotmail.com

Kathy Jeacock

(Church Treasurer) 373555

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Liz Seymour

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Please send us articles, poems, book reviews, and photos of Church events

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Summer Fair



The first Christ Church Fair since 2019 was a lovely event enjoyed by all



Jubilee Garden Party



Renovations have continued on the western elevation: Window mullion repaired