

The Messenger

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist & United Reformed Church



“...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” *Isaiah 43:1*

September 2022



Happy Birthday United Reformed Church



Church Picnic

Christ Church Family News

- ◆ Congratulations to all who have had success in recent exams and courses. We send our best wishes for your future plans
- ◆ Now that the intense heatwaves have (hopefully) passed, we hope everyone is feeling refreshed and rested
- ◆ We were sad to hear that Julie Alderson passed away recently. Her funeral service will be held at Christ Church on Thursday 1st September at 2.30pm

September Diary

Sun	4th	10.30am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion: Rev.Don
		3pm	Causeway Service
Sun	11th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Heather Bolt
		4.30pm	Café Church
Mon	12th	10am	Sound it Out
Sun	18th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Rev Don
Mon	19th	6pm	<i>Deadline for October Messenger</i>
Sun	25th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Harvest Festival : Rev Don
		10am	Sound it Out
Mon	26th	2.30pm	Friendship Group: Speaker - Roger Byrom "Travels in Ukraine"
Tue	27th	7pm	Church Meeting - in the Alan Finch Room

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)

Message from Rev Don

Dear friends,

I'm writing this quite soon after returning from three months sabbatical.

In the United Reformed Church ministers are encouraged to take a sabbatical every ten years and the Methodist Church does the same. It's an amazing opportunity, firstly to take a break from the busyness of ministry but also to focus on something different for a while and I am hugely grateful for it.

I chose to primarily focus my sabbatical on looking at hybrid church. Hybrid Church is basically the combination of regular church, where some gather together for worship which is streamed online so that others can join in on the internet, through Zoom or YouTube or whatever.

The word sabbatical of course comes from sabbath and the day of rest. Sadly the sabbath became a legalistic observance of laws prohibiting many normal activities. When Jesus was criticised for allowing his disciples to pick a few heads of wheat as they went for a walk on the sabbath he ended his answer with the words "The sabbath is made for man, not man for the sabbath". A reminder that the sabbath is God's gift to us, a reminder of to have a day of rest each week, away from pressures of work. A time for rest and refreshment.

Reflecting on the sabbath but going slightly off track for a minute I have a confession to make. I used to get really upset that Americans started the trend of Christmas cards saying Happy Holidays.

Maybe I'm getting more relaxed as I age but perhaps I need to remind myself that the word "holidays" came originally from "holy days" - which were themselves days of rest, away from work.

Perhaps I also need to remember that holidays can themselves be holy - times spend time enjoying the world God made and the family and friends God has given to us.

I pray that if you have been away or are going away on holiday or if you are staying at home that you know the blessings of time, time to know and receive God's gift of rest and refreshment.

Thank you once again to all those who made my sabbatical possible. I am especially grateful to Alison, Shirley and all the Elders, to Jonathan, Stephen, Marilyn and Sue and everyone who does so much - not just in the last three months but over years - to do all that needs doing.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Don' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prayers for September

4th September

Thank you, O God, for your guidance and love,
for your presence embedded in our lives through your Holy Spirit.
Thank you that you offer us counsel.

We thank you for your blessings and for the hope you give us.
Thank you for choosing to walk beside us and for being with us on every
pathway and all terrain, as we go through our lives. Amen.

11th September

Lord, who calls the lost to be found,
who seeks to know us and be known, we worship you.

We praise you for your constancy, your faithfulness,
your unending love, and your undiminished passion
for the wellbeing of your people. Amen.

18th September

God of the whole universe, we know that your love is unlimited –
no borders, no barriers, for all people of every language and place.
Help us to see where you are at work, now, close by,
in places we never expected.

Help us to show your love and build your kingdom
in every place we go. Amen.

25th September

God of our family of churches,
this week we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Reform
Church.

We pray in gratitude for the vision of those who came together to form
her, in thankfulness for those who minister in her today, and in trust for
those yet to join her community.

May joy be her strength and love be her legacy.

May she enrich the world she serves
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praying: for one another, for our church community, for our links with the wider community

Thank you to all who made time to pray on July 19th, at church, at home, or
wherever you were that day. I know many have continued to use the leaflet,
with its reminders and various prompts for prayer.

In all our busy rushing around, let's make time to Be Still,
to grow our relationship with God.

Let's be open to God's Spirit to help us grow in love for others
and guide us in ways of serving.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Come, build the Church – not heaps of stone,
in safe, immobile, measured walls,
but friends of Jesus, Spirit-blown,
and fit to travel where he calls.

(Brian Wren StF 679)

Marilyn

Remembering and Giving Thanks

Don and the Elders have been aware for some time of the need for us to remember and celebrate the many special people in our church family who have sadly died since March 2020 when the first lockdown began. The timing of Don's well-deserved sabbatical was an additional complication. Don postponed his sabbatical from the original 2020 date so that he was available to support us during the Covid pandemic, for which we are grateful. A date on or near All Saints Day, November 1st, seems to be a suitable time for a service remembering and giving thanks for the lives of those we've lost. It's a time when churches celebrate all the saints of God – and that means each one of us, saints past and present.

So we have decided to hold a special service of on **Sunday morning, 30th October**. Further details will follow. This will give us an opportunity as a church family to celebrate and remember so many wonderful people who were part of our church life and of whom we have happy memories. We hope you will be able to join us at the service.

In addition, at the request of her family, there will be a service to celebrate the life of Sylvia Jones who sadly died just before the first lockdown began. It will be held on Saturday 17th September at 11.00 and will be followed by a buffet lunch. Sylvia's family extend an open invitation to all who knew Sylvia to attend.

Alison

Harvest Festival – Sunday 25th September



Our 10.30 am service will be led by Rev Don Macalister.

At 6.30 pm, we plan to celebrate with a Harvest Songs of Praise service.

This year, it has been decided that our harvest gifts will be donated to the Food Bank.

Please bring your gifts to either service.

At present, the local Food Bank is particularly requesting :-

Long Life Fruit Juice
Tinned Fruit
Tinned or Instant Custard
Male Deodorants
Sponge Puddings



but will also accept basic store cupboard items.

Gifts of money are always gratefully received by the Food Bank.

We would like to have our church windowsills decorated for the Harvest, and Alison Cairns would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to decorate a windowsill with suitable items for the Food Bank. Arrangements have been made for the front of the church to be decorated with flowers.

East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal

Millions of people across East Africa are facing the threat of famine and their lives are at risk.

After the worst drought in 40 years, men, women and children across East Africa are facing dying from hunger. Millions are taking desperate measures to survive in the face of failed harvests, livestock deaths and water shortages. It is so sad to see people here pushed into hunger from this devastating drought. For the first time there have been four failed back-to-back rainy seasons. Covid-19 has also increased the demand for safe water and hygiene and worsened the lives of struggling pastoralist farmers. With the war in Ukraine causing global food prices to rocket, we are facing a crisis on crisis.

Christian Aid is helping more than 300,000 people by repairing wells, investing in water purification kits and distributing animal feed and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive but there is so much more to do.

Let us keep this crisis in our prayers especially as we celebrate our own harvest when these people have none.



Christian Aid Prayer for East Africa

Loving and compassionate God, when famine stalks the land, nothing grows.

Plants cannot, people cannot, ideas and dreams cannot. Everything withers and dies.

It is a violent aberration of your will for the world, and it is multiplied now by conflict, climate change and Covid.

God of the flourishing field, there is enough to feed us all.

Call us to that sacred sharing, neighbour to global neighbour.

Your gifts of food, water, a chance to live the life so delicately crafted by your divine spirit. We will not turn away but turn towards each other, with generosity and a justice-driven compassion that searches for solutions.

Famine stalks the land - so may our outrage grow, may our determination steel itself, may our solidarity spur us into action.

God of the flourishing field, help us feed each other, Amen

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday 6 August church members from across North Devon (and into Cornwall!) gathered at Lavington Church, Bideford, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Reformed Church. Some churches, including Christ Church Barnstaple, brought displays portraying what goes on in their church life. We were represented by our minister and quite a few members

We were welcomed with a word search/quiz to test our knowledge of the URC. What two churches united in 1972 to create the united church? Most of us knew that - Congregational and Presbyterian. What third denomination joined in 1981? Not so many of us knew that. It was the Churches of Christ.

There was also a display of photos of churches (some of them now closed) and photos of architectural details of others that we were asked to identify.

A happy time was had as we met and caught up with old friends from the other churches that we had not seen for some time. Solutions to the quizzes were given out by Colin Biggs (retired minister and member at Lavington) and modest prizes awarded.

Two retired ministers (see photo) were touched to be invited to cut the celebration cake, superbly made by a Lavington member, and after grace we settled down to a generous and delicious bring-and-share tea. We then moved into the church for a very fitting service of thanksgiving led by Rob Weston, interim moderator.

We left at 6.00pm after a happy afternoon, reminding us of our Reformed heritage.

Tony Coates

(photos: front and back covers)

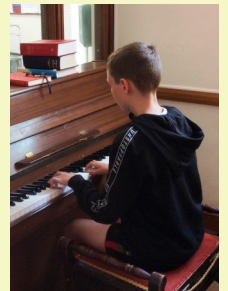
Notes from the August Elders Meeting

- Safeguarding - we discussed the need for continued vigilance around cleaning, especially touch-points around the building
- Vacancies remain for: management of insurance policies, keeper of the keys, and sound desk
- Good news - the Choral Society return, from September
- Huge thanks to Pauline for arranging the welcome return of refreshments after morning worship, it's lovely to have it back
- Discussion continues regarding the young people joining us in church for part of the Sunday morning service
- Evening worship is returning, once a month for now; either Songs of Praise, Oasis, or (in December) the Carol Service!

Café Church



Smiling biscuits and learning actions to a new song. The theme was 'Action for Children'



Puppetry fun and experimenting with music



Kathy and Tony on door duty



Despite the change of venue due to the heatwave, the picnic was a happy occasion of meeting up with friends. The children, as always, enjoyed the freedom and space of the church.

Young Families Work News

Yeo Valley School paid us their first visit since Covid, just before the end of term. How truly lovely it was to see class 4 arriving with huge smiles on their faces, ready to test out their parachutes. It was 'eggy-drop' time at long last! In groups, they had designed and made, with materials chosen by them, small parachutes strong enough – they hoped! – to support a fresh egg in the attached basket as it fell to earth from a height – without it breaking!! And what better place to try them out than dropping them from our church balcony! One by one they were dropped accompanied by excited cheers. They were all safe. Not one broke! The usual refreshments followed – always so looked forward to on the school visits but this time a special treat – an ice cream lollipop! Oh joy! More such happy visits are being looked forward to after the holidays as we think about next term and the lead up to Christmas (help!).

July Café Church was also another welcome activity. As it was *Action for Children Sunday*, we were delighted to welcome Jess and Dawn to tell us something about their work linking it in with the theme – 'Let the Children come to me'. It was so good having them with us. We were small in number, possibly due to the very hot weather – but with their easy presence and cheerfulness they quickly joined in with the groups happily chatting to everyone and contributing to the lovely atmosphere that we all felt. To hear what they and their dedicated teams have contributed to the families in Barnstaple all through Covid and since was amazing – the numbers mind boggling: in Barnstaple hundreds, across Devon thousands. During the talk in worship time, the children each coloured in a picture of a star – the star being the logo of Action for Children.

The children listened well too when Eff talked about how important we all are, whatever our age or size – all equal in the eyes of Jesus – then joined in with 'Jesus loves me this I know' with actions. The fun activity of the day (almost beating in popularity the icing of star biscuits!) was making paper bag puppets, something we probably haven't tried for some time! Such a mixture of people and personalities were produced. The room was alive with quiet activity. Tea was as delicious as ever thanks to the great team in the kitchen, ending in a rather satisfied lull as the children ate their ice cream lollipops!

The Annual Church Picnic did not turn out quite as expected...! Due to the extreme heat (not rain as one might have expected!) we transferred the event to the cool of the church. We were disappointed to have to do so but it was by unanimous vote and with the approval of the families, and in the hope that some other people might be enticed to come. The families arrived in good numbers – picnic rugs and hats included(!) – and were quickly settled.

It was a happy conversational time for the adults, giving a good opportunity to catch up during the holidays, and with old friends too who had come specially for the occasion and were so much welcomed. The children of course enjoyed the freedom and space of the building as usual and being together with familiar activities.

Sunday Club is now in holiday mode. The children still come eagerly bouncing in to be with us, but instead of a particular planned story they can choose to play table games (please does anyone play chess who would be willing to come and help one of our young people anxious to learn?), do puzzles, read or listen to a story, choose a craft or just have conversations with us. They seem to just enjoy being with us on a Sunday morning!

When we write again it will be September with the children back at school and the resumption of our usual activities, with hopefully the addition of some of those we have missed during Covid. Action for Children is hoping to be back with us on a regular basis and Yeo Valley School is looking forward to further visits. At the moment our prayers are with all our children, young people and families as we hope they are enjoying their holiday time together, and then with the children and young people going back to school into new classes or into school for the first time. Our love and thoughts and hopes for the future go with them.

But now we send our love and best wishes to you all, grateful as always for your prayerful support, hoping too that you have had enjoyable times during the summer.

Every blessing from

The Young Families Work Team

Norah Bellot Court

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

OUR COURT NEEDS YOU!



We need new volunteers to help us provide activities for our residents.

Volunteering opportunities include helping to run our various Chat, Coffee and Quiz groups, Indoor Bowls, Bingo, Seated Exercises, the "Matters of Faith" group, join our "Friday Club" team of volunteers or come up with a new activity. We are always open to suggestions. In the first instance

contact Sally via email: sally.blackmore@mha.org.uk
or phone and leave your contact details on 01271 379787
Please pray for volunteers to come forward.

I am also trying to get some "Holding Crosses"
to give to residents if I feel they could use one.
If you have any spare, please pass them on to me.
Many thanks,

Sally



Amigos

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

I wonder how many of you were as delighted as I was when Jacob Kiplimo won the 10,000m final at the Commonwealth Games with his record-breaking run bringing Uganda one of their three precious gold medals. He was no doubt greatly helped to run his race and triumph thanks to the crowd and his supporters cheering him on. What joy! And in the same way Amigos... (to quote) 'we are only able to "run the race" because of the continued support from people like you our "great cloud of witnesses"'. Thank you - for your prayers, your engagement, your financial support - without which we would not even make it out of the blocks!' So what news of Richard our sponsored student this month? We have had to have a catch-up over the past two months with our letters due to computer problems (mine!) so there has been quite a lot of news of which I will only share extracts. He writes so enthusiastically, and is indeed mastering skills, always full of gratitude.....

Dear Anthea and Tony and Friends at Christ Church,

My last letter was about learning computer and going for a term break. Unfortunately, I didn't go home because of the transport fees which have gone so high. However, I had fun staying at Kira. One of the places I visited with uncle Yule was near Lake Victoria and there was going to be a party to celebrate the Queen of England...

...I am happy to hear that people are coming back to church after the Covid virus and the church is growing every time. That is a very good thing because this world needs God more. Please greet all my friends at Christ Church, I love you so much.

...This month has been very exciting for me. We received some visitors from Switzerland and I managed to make some friends but also exercise how good my English is with them. I am very confident with it. I have sent you a photo of my garden and with one of my friends while we are planting rice at Kira Farm (this picture was in last month's Messenger).

Very big blessings and love from Uganda,

And his next letter:

I greet you with joy from Kira Farm.....Life at Kira has not been bad at all for me also. I am happy doing so well, my training is going on so well.

My maize garden is now ready for harvest this week. Tony speaks German? We have a German lady staying at Kira, I will ask her to teach me some words. I speak Acholi, Swahili, and Okuti language, but not so good, I can hear little Luganda and English. So that is only 5 languages...

This month I have been able to learn to build with interlocking bricks. We have just finished constructing a new grain store with these bricks, which is very strong. The advantage is that standard bricks rely on mortar for their support; when the mortar fails, the entire wall will fail but with the interlocking bricks, they have their own support system that does not rely on the mortar.

I am happy that apart from us learning I can teach other people that there is a lot we can do with the things we already have in our hands without looking for more expensive materials like money for cement or stones which are expensive. Apart from that, I am happy to inform you that we have been hosting all the pastors and leaders from the communities where Kira is. For me, it has been so good to receive some greetings from home and my family are very happy I am healthy and also meet the parents of my friends who are leading the community farming groups.

Please, if you have any questions to ask me, feel free, I am so open to hearing from you about life and Kira training. I have sent to you a photo when I was on-site building, enjoy it.

I pray that you stay blessed and all my friends at Christ Church, I love you so much.

Richard

It is wonderful to note in Richard's letters that after such a long time Kira Farm is now able to welcome visitors again. Following the visit from College Alpine Beau Soleil which Richard mentioned in his letter there are more trips coming up including groups from three schools. They offer an opportunity for people to find out what life is like on Kira Farm, experience the range of skills taught there and to give of their time - but also to receive much more.

Thank you, Lord, that Kira Farm offers life-changing experiences, both for those that train there and those that visit. We thank you that Richard is so happy at Kira and gaining an exceptional amount of knowledge and skills from his time there, and we pray for your continued blessing on him.

Anthea

Good news received from Godfrey (previously sponsored by The Seymours)

He has graduated from university with a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Engineering, and now has a good job working as a mechanical engineer in a coffee factory.

Sound it Out

Facilitator Susan Northop (left) and the group singing lustily



Richard on the building site and proudly sanding his stool at carpentry class



Rev Marilyn demonstrating a 'praying hand' - each finger is a guide to prayer

Causeway Service



Sharing news

Dolly Parton

No saint this month (although some might disagree) but I thought you might like to hear about Dolly Parton, who really is an example of Christian service in action. As the Americans would say, she does actually 'walk her talk'. Dolly truly is a very talented lady. Not only has she a beautiful voice and a wonderful musicality, she is a song writer, the fruits of which she performs with sincerity and warmth. Dolly is also a successful business woman and committed philanthropist.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was born in January 1946 in a one room cabin to Avie Lee Parton and Robert Lee Parton in Tennessee, on the banks of the Pigeon River, Pittman Centre. The family were extremely poor, but hard working and God fearing. Her father, described by Dolly as the smartest man she ever knew, was illiterate as he had been given very little educational opportunities.

Dolly gives credit for her musical abilities to her mother, who apparently had a sweet musical voice and despite bouts of ill-health and frequent pregnancies loved to sing to the children. Her maternal grandfather was a Pentecostal Minister and the family were regular churchgoers. Dolly has accredited her business success to her father. Dolly described her family as 'dirt poor', so poor in fact that the local doctor was paid a sack of corn for delivering her.

Dolly began performing and singing on the radio when she was quite young, she also appeared in the Grand Ole Opry. Her rise to fame was hard won, but steady. Alongside her music, Dolly became quite a business woman; when she had accumulated enough money she designed and built Dollywood, a Theme Park in Tennessee. This was mainly to give employment to local people as the area was very poor. It now employs over 40,000 people and gives pleasure to millions.

Since the 1980's Dolly has supported many charitable endeavours, particularly in the area of literacy. Dolly funded the Dollywood Foundation which is concerned mainly with a literacy programme – known as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the programme mails one book a month to each enrolled child from birth until they enter kindergarten. By 2018 Dolly's Foundation had mailed out its 100th million book.

The Dollywood Foundation, funded from Dolly's profits, brings tax revenues and jobs to a previously depressed area. Dolly is also involved in other ventures, including the American Red Cross and HIV/AIDS and related charities. Dolly has even worked hard to preserve the Bald Eagle, she has received many awards for her charity work and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university of Tennessee. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic Dolly donated \$1million to the Vanderbilt Medical Centre towards research.

Although Dolly has received countless awards for entertainment she is most proud of her charitable work. Dolly loves her family and the Lord, her faith has never left her and she works tirelessly to do His work.

Music to Listen to: There was Jesus with Zach Williams
Hello God

TENNESSEE CORN RELISH

Ingredients

2 large onions	1 green pepper
1 red pepper	4 sticks celery
1 tsp salt	1 large clove garlic (minced)
2 carrots	2 oz (50g) sugar
2 tsp mustard powder	1 lb (450g) frozen sweet corn
$\frac{3}{4}$ pint (450ml) cider vinegar	1 tsp mustard seeds
	1 tsp celery seeds

Method

The original Tennessee relish uses 15 heads of sweetcorn. I have adapted the recipe slightly to use frozen sweetcorn, much more readily available unless you have a glut on your allotment or garden plot.

First chop the onions finely. Then chop the peppers, celery and carrots.

Place in a large saucepan with the remaining ingredients. Bring to the boil and cook, uncovered for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.

Pot the relish in warmed sterilised jars and cover immediately with airtight lids. No need to wait for this one to mature, it is delicious immediately, but will keep up to 6 months in a cool cupboard.

Delicious served with veggie or beef burgers, cold meat, cheeses and savoury pies.

Jennifer

Your public library

Libraries in Devon are provided through Libraries Unlimited, offering welcoming spaces and access to a variety of services. These are very familiar to me but a recent email made me realise that not everyone knows what is available. These are just some of what they provide.

It's free to join the library. You'll get access to an unlimited supply of books, magazines, jigsaws, music, information, events and resources. From children's books, fiction, non-fiction, eBooks, e-Audiobooks, e-Newspapers, business information, academic books and local history information, library buildings and digital services offer a vast selection of resources. You can reserve books and other items for a small fee. There are fees to borrow audio-visual items.

Unable to visit the library? The library can come to you.

Volunteers deliver library books and audiobooks to people who, through ill health, injury or disability, cannot visit a library or are too frail to carry heavy books. Barnstaple library has a FABLAB A small-scale workshop offering digital fabrication. It's an open access, not-for-profit, community resource where anybody can invent and make just about anything.

Alison

Oberammergau 2022 – The Littlewood Experience

It was in 2018 that Rod and I booked our trip to Oberammergau. We had planned to join a party being led by our minister at the time, Rev Michael Hopkins, from The Spire Church, Farnham. I had always wanted to go to the Passion Play but organised church trips always seemed to go in May when I was teaching and could not get leave. I promised myself that, when I retired, I would make the trip. I was retiring in 2018 so no excuses but, of course, none of us could see what was also coming in 2020! I was very disappointed when I saw all our plans for 2020 getting crossed off the calendar by Covid including our trip to Oberammergau. However, we were told the village planned to put the play on in 2022 and we would be guaranteed a holiday at the same price if we left our booking in place so that is what we did. In the meantime, we both retired and moved from Surrey to North Devon.

When our itinerary arrived, we found that others were joining the party who were not from the Farnham area including Maureen and Chris Thomas from our very own Christ Church and one of my oldest friends from university, Angus, who just happens to be Eddy's cousin!

Our trip to the Passion Play was combined with 5 nights in the Austrian Tyrol and we set off on Sunday May 15th, arriving at our hotel in Wildschonau in time for supper. There were various day trips organised: to Salzburg, Kitzbuhel, the spectacular 16th century castle at Tratzberg, the Gramaialm National Park, Innsbruck and Rattenberg plus a cruise on Lake Achensee. We also seemed to fit in an extraordinary number of Gothic churches which, I have to admit are not my scene.

One day Rod and I "bunked" off and spent the day in Wildschonau. Our hotel had secure tourist passes for us all which enabled us to go up the cable car free of charge to Marchbachjochalm. It was a sunny day and the views were out of this world. On the mountain top there was a tiny chapel where we spent a little time in quiet contemplation before we took on the walk down back to the village – a two-hour stroll interjected with two stops for coffee and lunch and, of course, apple strudel – how do they make it taste SO delicious?!

Finally, the day came for us to head to Oberammergau. It was an incredibly hot day but we were told it could be cold and wet in the evenings so I had a fleece, jeans, coat, and umbrella in my rucksack that I somehow got through security. However, none of that was needed as it was so warm! The Passion Play ran from 2.30 to 5pm and then, after a supper break, from 8 to 10.30pm.

It was quite simply, brilliant. It was all in German but we had been given a book with it translated into English and, anyway, we knew the story!

It started with Jesus as a young man embarking on his mission of preaching and healing. This was interspersed with tableaux depicting scenes from the Old Testament. There was a cast of hundreds including a talented choir, all from the village apart from just one professional singer.

What did I find particularly moving? The agony of having a crown of thorns pushed onto your head and nails hammered into hands and feet. The scream of the men as they were crucified haunts me still. I also realised that Judas probably never intended to betray Jesus to his death and he, too, was let down by the cruel system. Pilate was one of the most menacing men imaginable. But the end came and then the news of the resurrection; Mary Magdalene spoke of how she had seen the risen Jesus and all was well. You know the rest!

I feel so fortunate to have now seen the Passion Play and to have shared a week with such a great band of people with old friends and new ones. Such an experience! It could not have been a better trip so we will not be going again but I thoroughly recommend it for 2030.

(Photos – back cover)

Paula Littlewood

Letter of thanks received from Christian Aid for our Big Brekkie

Thank you for raising funds with a Big Brekkie. Your gift of £182 will have a real impact on our global neighbours and we're extremely grateful for your support. Christian Aid's life changing work is only possible because of the incredible generosity of our amazing supporters. Thank you to everyone who helped with your Big Brekkie. To the poster-putter-uppers, porridge-stirrers and egg-scramblers, pot-washers and breakfast-eaters who all played their part, we hope you had a fantastic time!



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.

Events Committee

Quiz Night - Saturday 15th October at 7pm

Our next event is the Quiz Night. Our quiz master will be Dave Stevens.
Please note later start time of 7pm

We will be serving tea and homemade biscuits in the interval, but feel free to bring any snacks you want with you.

The cost is £5 per person and we are hoping for teams of 6, but please come if you are on your own and join up with new friends to make a team. So if you belong to an organisation or another church group, start asking them to join us for a fun evening.



Winter Fair - Saturday 26th November

We are already looking forward to holding our Winter Fair.



Stalls will include: Ann's cards, Books and Puzzles, Children's toys and Games, Cakes, Christmas stall and Gift & Craft stall. Plus, of course, the ever popular refreshments and a raffle.

Please save this date in your diary and start collecting items to donate.

In preparation for the craft stall, Liz has knitting patterns for Christmas themed items; please contact her if you would like to do some knitting. If you have any other craft skills, any small items you can make (especially Christmas themed ones) would be most welcome. Also, any unwanted gifts for the Gift stall.

Many thanks for your continued support. Looking forward to some more fun and friendship as we raise funds for Christ Church.

Hope to see you there,

Joy

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

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

Website

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

50th Anniversary Celebration of the United Reformed Church



Oberammergau

2022

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"It was quite simply, brilliant."



Recipe - Page 14



Rev Don & Eddie, looking refreshed - Page 3