# The Messenger

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

## Christ Church Barnstaple Methodist & United Reformed Church



November 2022

Galatians 6:9

## Harvest at Christ Church





**Sunday Club at the Harvest Service** 



'God's Guys' by the window they decorated

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

November/ early December Diary			
Sun	6th	10.30am 1pm 3pm	Morning Worship and Holy Communion: Revd Don Church AGM Causeway Service
Sun	13th	10.30am 4.30pm	Morning Worship: Revd Robert Manning Café Church
Mon	14th	10am 2.30pm	Sound it Out Friendship Group
Sat	19th	Evening	Barnstaple Community Choir Concert
Sun	20th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement
Sun	20th	4pm	*Deadline for December/January Messenger*
Sat	26th	10am - 2pm	Christ Church Winter Fair
Sun	27th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship: Revd Don Advent Songs of Praise
Mon	28th	10am 2.30pm	Sound it Out Friendship Group
			DECEMBER
Sun	4th	10.30am 3pm	Morning Worship and Holy Communion: Revd Don Causeway Service
Fri	9th	7pm	Barnstaple Jubilee Singers Christmas Concert

#### 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)

## Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 6th November

The meeting will start at 1pm. Please bring your own packed lunch if you are staying on after morning worship, we'll make you a cup of tea! The meeting will be held in the Alan Finch Room, and microphones will be used.

#### Message from Revd Don

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" Philippians 1:3

Dear friends,

November is the month that we as a nation remember those who died or suffered because of the conflicts of war. In all our lifetimes the wearing of the 'Red Poppy' has always been a symbol of the special work of the Royal British Legion.

The idea of helping and supporting those who have served in whatever capacity always brings a very poignant reminder of the importance of the part we have to play to serve and support. There are still conflicts around the world and people from our armed forces have died or suffer mentally and physically and will continue to do so as conflicts continue. To me the wearing of the red poppy is a small way of identifying our support and our remembrance.

Of course, as Christians, we pray for conflicts and war to stop and people to live in harmony. However we also need to be there for those who have suffered and support the different bodies that are supporting our men and women of the armed forces.

Whatever the world throws at us there is hope for the future to overcome the difficulties that may occur in our everyday lives. Jesus gives us a new hope. Jesus said 'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' Matthew chapter 11:28. God through Jesus Christ is our Hope of a better future. Knowing his presence through all of life's joys and sorrows gives us the confidence and courage to go on.

Grace and peace,

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#### **Prayers for November**

#### November 6th

We praise you, loving God, for the breath of life, for the assurance of eternal life, for the lives of all those we love, and for your kingdom where all fear will pass and all questions be answered, as we grow into life in all its fullness. Amen.

#### November 13th

Holy God, you are the creator of all, so we trust you for our world and beyond. Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace, so we trust that wars will one day end. Holy Spirit, you are the breath of life, so we trust you for all creatures and all creation. Holy God, even in the midst of the most difficult of times, we trust you for eternity. Amen.

#### November 20th

God of all, thank you for showing us that you meet us where we are, drawing out the best from us even when we are at our worst. Help us to change our thinking and our attitudes, to acknowledge the cost of forgiveness, and to give our all to you and those around us. Amen.

#### November 27th

We praise you, living God, for the words of Scripture that breathe life into our prayers, urgency into our complacency, energy to our discipleship, depth to our faith, and warn, challenge and equip us to prepare for Christmas more deeply, more fully, more honestly and more purposefully. Amen.

#### **Rev Dan Haylett**

We were delighted to welcome Rev Dan Haylett to Christ Church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October. He is the newly appointed Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter District of the Methodist Church, the position recently vacated by Rev Graham Thompson. He had travelled from Exeter to be with us and met others from around the circuit before returning. He spoke to us of generosity, healing and thankfulness based around the story of the ten lepers in Luke's Gospel. Christians should aspire to be 'people of the tenth leper'. As the young people left for Sunday Club activities he commented on how blessed we were to have children as part of our fellowship. (photo - page 20)

#### Notes from the elders' meeting on Monday 10th October 2022

\*The return of children for a brief time at the beginning of Sunday Worship has received many more positive responses than negative. The risk assessment will be looked at again and updated for the young people joining the adults in Sunday Worship, handling hymn books and seating plan.

\*The worship group have three volunteers to lead worship on Sunday 20th November – the next local arrangement at Christ Church. (They would very much like a fourth – please see Don or Jenny Newman if you would like to take part.)

\*The election of elders and other officers will take place at the Annual Church Meeting - on November 6th at 1:00pm in the Alan Finch Room. Don and Alison will be organising the paperwork for nominating elders to go out to all members in mid-October.

\*The group to look at the notice boards has been set up – they will arrange their own meeting.

\*The Community Links Group have met and it was agreed that the elders could be circulated with the minutes of the meeting. Among things discussed - increasing publicity about what we offer already and being realistic about what other activities we can undertake.

\*Copies of the Church Accounts were distributed and will be available for the Annual Church Meeting. Although the bank balance is better than anticipated, we are not yet back to covering our weekly costs.

\*Property: Many issues have been resolved but one or two are still a 'work in progress'. (Hopefully by the time you read this the main entrance door will have been fitted with a new overhead door closer.)

\*Young Church: Café Church, Sunday Club and Rainbows all continue to thrive but all are looking for more help. Café Church needs people to help with craft activities, Sunday Club needs help with a widening age range and to cover sickness and those with other worship commitments on Sunday mornings and Rainbows are looking for someone to lead Brownies as the Rainbows move up the age groups.

\*Events and other dates can be found elsewhere in the Messenger.

Next elders' meeting Wednesday 9th November.

#### **Church Friends**

The Church Friends, Pastoral Visitors, were set up quite a few years ago so that all would have someone to contact whenever they had a need. Currently we have 14 Church Friends, including myself as Church Friends Coordinator. I am responsible to keep Rev. Don fully informed of any problems and also, with the permission of those involved, the serving Church Elders too. Christian caring grows out of our understanding of the nature of God and our experience of receiving his love and care in our own lives. As we experience problems in our own lives, we come to realise how deeply we depend on the loving support we receive from others, we are increasingly moved to reach out in friendship to those around us.

Caring involves the ability

to listen,

to accept,

to be available,

to be patient,

to keep confidences,

to be sensitive to another's pain and loneliness,

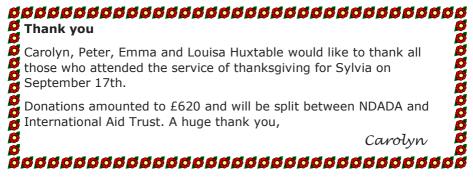
to be non judgmental,

and to be able to offer words and prayers of hope and encouragement.

Everyone needs to have a point of contact so that no-one will feel that they are alone. All should feel that they are an important member of our Church family.

If you feel that you would like to become a Church Friend or would like to be assigned a Church Friend for yourself, please contact Shirley Baxter, Church Friends Coordinator, on 01271 375560. Thank you.

Shírley





We had a lovely evening on Saturday 15th October, with 7 teams, and Dave Stevens as our Question Master. We raised £195 for church funds, and we had a lot of fun and laughter!

Thanks to all who attended and supported us.

**Events Committee** 

(photos - page 13)

## Winter Fair

## Saturday 26th November

10am - 2pm



We are really 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. This year we will be having the Fair across the middle of the day, and will be serving delicious light lunches.

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

If you have any craft skills, any small items you can make (especially Christmas themed ones) they would be most welcome.

Also, any unwanted gifts or Christmas decorations, books, games and puzzles. **Please bring these to Church from Sunday 6th November.** 

Donations of cakes and biscuits would be much appreciated, and should be brought on the day.



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

Hope to see you there,

Joy

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



Café Church



Decorating gingerbread men

Singing the 10 lepers song

#### **Causeway Harvest**

On October 2nd the table was decorated with flowers, wheat and many items for the Food Bank which everyone brought.

Alison Cairns was our speaker and she reminded us that some families live in a single room with just a kettle to cook with so they are restricted in their choice of foods.

Alison passed around fruits from different trees e.g. a spiky green fruit which we discovered contained a shiny brown conker and a hard round green fruit enclosed a walnut!

Harvest hymns, a Bible reading, our prayers and plenty of news was followed by a cup of tea and lemon cake that Sarah had made especially for us.

Each returned home with fruit of their choice with a prayer attached to it! (see photo opposite)

Our next Causeway Services will be at 3pm at Christ Church on November 6th, and then on December 4th. Do come and join us,

Gill and the Causeway Team

#### Young Families News – including a rather different slant from usual!

This past Sunday was one of nostalgia...

Firstly, as we hurried into the Alan Finch Room before worship, we passed Noah's Park on our left. Not only did we see a beautifully cleaned space attracting us out into the fresh air, thanks to Staveley and the Property Group, but there, at the far end, proudly stood...Our Marvellous Mural... in its rightful place at last! And what a journey... For those that don't know, here is the story: Three years ago in the summer of 2019 we held a very exciting intergenerational Holiday Club on the theme of Creation – God's Wonderful World. Jo, our Young Families Worker at the time - with her great experience and knowledge - had been inspired earlier in the year to explore the possibility of inviting Lucy Jackson, an arts practitioner, to run a creative workshop for us. Lucy, of Marvellous Murals fame agreed to design a mural to further enhance Noah's Park. Jo was then successful in getting a grant from the Davie Barnstaple Trust to fund the project and for Lucy to run the workshop for two days alongside the other activities that are always a part of our Holiday Clubs. Then, not only did we invite our usual 5-11 year olds but also residents from Norah Bellot Court along with the children's families, to join us for our activities in the afternoons. Everyone who was with us or visited us over those two days - many people - had the chance to contribute to some part of the mural. It was amazing. It was completed with much joy and satisfaction. Due to various circumstances we were not able to put it up in the appointed place for some while but it survived all the outside elements and lived through Covid. And now thanks to the Property Committee and especially to Nick Henderson who has taken care of it, varnished it and framed it, it is now up for all to see. And it is a wonderful sight - set to stay now for many years to come - stunningly proclaiming the story of creation and our wonderful world - a message for all time. Please do go and look at it. Thank you so much Jo for your inspiration, for Our Marvellous **Mural** – as well as many other projects. Dreams realised. (photo - page 20)

Then secondly on this past Sunday, who should we see coming through the doors to worship but Gail Wall and her husband Robert. What a wonderful surprise, and what a joy to see them. For those who don't/didn't know her she was the first person to be appointed to the post of Young Families Worker, her task to analyse the needs of the families in the area and to establish a range of appropriate activities - including Holiday Clubs! She was with us for 7 years leaving to move to New Zealand to be with her children and grandchildren. It was a coincidence that she arrived on this particular Sunday as one of her projects whilst in post, was to plan and organise our other murals with a group of College students: God's hands gently cradling and caring for our world on the wall in Room 1, and then of course the story of Noah's Ark so amazingly told on the wall in Noah's Park. Two of the most wonderful stories in the world now accompanying one another with shouts of joy, and there to stay. So a Sunday blessed with many memories that have reminded us of the legacy that each of our Young Families Workers has left. And another chance to say thank you to them both. They were (are!) much loved and have been much missed, each having brought their unique gifts and skills to our Young Families Work - a vital part of Christ Church life.

**Sunday Club.** Joy of joys, we joined the congregation for worship on Harvest Festival Sunday, taking in our gifts to add to the many others that had been brought for the Foodbank. It was quite an adventure, but so much appreciated by all of us. We were at last a visible part of the whole church family again where we want to be, and it felt good. Now hopefully we are back to stay as a vital and much needed part of our Sunday morning programme.

**Parents and Toddlers.** Thanks to Joy spreading the good news, we have been really delighted to welcome two new families to our group. Full of enthusiasm, they have quickly become part of the group - which now boasts three grandfathers and a great-grandmother! It is so lovely to have them all – toddlers, parents, and grandparents – all enjoying the toys (yes all of them!), the company and the cup of tea in a happy relaxed atmosphere. We are there on Wednesdays 1.30-2.30 pm. More details from Joy Morley 01271 376171

**Cafe Church in October** was as happy and lively as ever. The theme was Jesus Healing the Ten Lepers. The favourite activity was of course the food one! Gingerbread men were lavishly decorated and then quickly consumed! Other activities included having the opportunity to colour a large cut out cardboard figure to display the contrast of a well person on one side and a very unwell one on the other. Thank you cards to colour in were very popular too...only one leper came back to thank Jesus! During worship time led by Don, which of course focused on the story, the children enjoyed singing and learning a song from the video 'Only One Came Back', the catchy music and words staying with many of us afterwards! Many thanks too to all of you for all your prayers and ongoing support - It means a lot to us.

With love and every blessing,

#### Anthea and the Young Famílies Work Team

#### Seen on a Dartmoor Church Notice Board A Last Beatitude – Blessèd are the ones we overlook

とうじょうりじょうようがく ひょうよう

And blessèd are the ones we overlook; The faithful servers on the coffee rota, The ones who hold no candle, bell or book But keep the books and tally up the quota. The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',

The quiet ones who organise the fete, Church sitters who give up their weekly hours, Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate. God knows the depths that often go unspoken Amongst the shy, the quiet and the kind, Or the slow healing of a heart long broken Placing each flower so for a year's mind. Invisible on earth, without a voice, In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

Barnstaple Jubilee Singers Christmas Concert Christ Church Barnstaple

Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

Anon

Christmas songs and carols, refreshments

かわせい じょうゆ じょう

Free admission, but donations invited for Christ Church and North Devon Hospice

#### Amigos

#### Kira Farm – news from Richard

It was so good to hear from Richard again. His letters always bring a smile to my face as they are always wonderfully positive and full of joy - each time telling of the many new things he is learning day by day - the knowledge, the skills, and this time the new-found understanding of himself through his special discipleship family. All these, and more, he will be taking back, not only to his family but into his church and into his community. . It is truly humbling – and moving - to know that it is possible to make such a difference to someone's life in this way and to hear the impact that Kira Farm is having on Richard's life in so many different ways. His gratitude and love know no bounds...

#### A Gift of Family

Dear Anthea and Tony and all my friends at Christ Church,

I am so pleased to hear from you all the great things that are happening in your life. I know you do love me so much because of this reply about everything. Thank you for that love for me. I am sorry to hear that the heat isn't so good for you. I heard some news that it was so hot than even Uganda's sunshine. I think it was like Kitgum in my village when it is shining, it can be so hot also.

I am so happy that I am on Kira getting this wonderful training. I have gained so much confidence with my skills, something that is making me happy because I am so sure by the time I finish my year I will be able to start up my own businesses and support myself in life and also my church youth members in so many ways. I had a chat with my pastor about some plans; it is now up to him to decide what I will be doing in church when I go back. My garden is so healthy at this time. I looked at the maize outside of Kira, it is a surprise for me to have a garden like this looking so healthy. I have planted for the second season now. I believe this time the crops are better than the first because I gained experience. I will send you a photo next time so you can see it also.

Before I started this training, I used to also suffer a lot with personal frustrations due to the so many challenges I would face in life. I





Richard: "Meet my urban family, I am 4th from the left."

A fun evening had by all - Page 7-The 'Bonkers Conkers' won-just **Quizmaster Dave on** fine form

never knew how to share my problems with people for help but, through the discipleship training I am learning to open up for help, My life is becoming more free day by day.

I have got a lot of help but I am also learning how I can be of help to people who are struggling with personal problems within my group – we call the groups families. In this email, I have attached a photo for you. They are very good friends and they have now become a special family to me. My family is called the Urban family because we take care of urban farming on Kira Farm.

I believe you have discipleship families at your church also. The German lady has gone back now but her language was very hard for me. I taught her Acholi; she was learning so many languages from Kira.

Thanks a lot for your help which has enabled me to meet the wonderful family in my life. Please send greetings to all my friends at church.

I love you so much.

*Be blessed,* Richard

We thank God for Richard, and for all that he, too, teaches us through his letters.

Anthea

#### **News from Flavia**

Flavia was fascinated by the picture we sent her of the page in the Messenger where we wrote about her and included her photo. She asked us to send her pictures of Christ Church, so we sent one of the Candlelight Carol Service. This was her reply: *Thank you for the photos of inside your church It really looks beautiful. So many lights, it is not like my church in Kitgum, but I think you don't dance a lot on Sunday service.* 

Bruce and Liz



#### **Christian Aid Charity Gifts**

As our thoughts turn to Christmas, might you consider a charity gift this year?! When you buy a virtual gift from Christian Aid Charity Gifts, you or your lucky recipient(s) don't get an actual goat or a pair of chickens (although it would be pretty cool if you did).



What you do get for each gift is a physical or print-at-home card. Each card explains a bit more about the gift and tells a story about someone – a real person – who benefited from a similar contribution. Every gift you buy supports Christian Aid's work and helps transform lives around the world. Every purchase acts as a donation, and our local partners use the money to work on a specific programme or project. All our charity gifts have a fun card explaining more about the gift and its project – write your message in it and give it yourself or send it direct.

Gifts start at £15 and postage is included. You can view and buy the gifts online at:

www.christianaid.org.uk/give

and because your virtual gift is actually a donation it can be gift-aided too.

Janet

## **CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING**



**Thursday 3rd November** 

9.45am - 12 noon

Singing from the choir of South Molton Community Primary School 10.15 am

Stalls, Bring and Buy, Raffle

Entrance and Coffee £2 - You'd be so welcome!

#### SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Margaret of Scotland born 1045 was an English princess and a Scottish queen. Margaret was born in Hungary but exiled to England when she was twelve. Her family later took refuge in the Court of King Malcolm III of Scotland, after their ship travelling from Northumbria was blown off course by a storm. This spot was later known as Saint Margaret's hope. Eventually Margaret and Malcolm fell in love and married. It was an exceptionally happy and fruitful union and through Margaret and her daughter, Matilda, the English royal family can trace its descendants to pre-conquest times. Through her the Scottish court achieved a higher standard of civilization; consequently its reputation was improved. Margaret was also the principal agent in the reform of the Scottish church, which had reached a low ebb. The practice of Easter communion and Lent was introduced and abstinence from servile work on Sundays.

Margaret revived the Abbey of Iona which had fallen into decline. She built Dunfermline along the lines of Westminster Abbey, to be a burial place for Scottish Royalty. In the realms of politics and religion, her influence was decidedly English so she was both praised and criticized.

Privately, her time was devoted to prayer, reading and lavish almsgiving and to ecclesiastical needlework. Margaret had great beneficial influence over the king. Initially she found him rough but he came to accept her values. He 'saw' that Christ truly dwelt in her heart. Although illiterate, he loved to look at her religious books and had them decorated in gold and silver. One such book survives and is housed in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. They had eight children, two of which became Kings of Scotland. Her daughter, Matilda, married Henry 1 of England.

As a pious Christian, she established a bridge across the Firth of Forth for pilgrims travelling to St Andrews in Fife, which gave the names of South Queensferry and North Queensferry their names. Margaret died at Edinburgh Castle in 1093, shortly after hearing the news of the tragic death of her husband and son in battle.

Margaret was canonized in 1250 in recognition of her personal holiness, fidelity to the church and her charity work.

#### **RECIPES: CRANACHAN**

#### **Ingredients**

2 tbsp. medium oatmeal 12 oz. (300g) fresh raspberries ½ pint (350ml) double cream 2 tbsp. honey 2 – 3 tbsp. whisky (optional) <u>Method</u>

- 1 Spread the oatmeal on a baking sheet and grill until it smells nutty. Allow to cool.
- 2 Crush half the fruit and sieve to remove pips. Sweeten with a little of the honey.
- 3 Whisk the cream until just set and stir in the remaining honey and whisky.
- 4 Stir in the oatmeal and whisky and whisk a little more until thickened.
- 5 In Sundae glasses or a large glass bowl, alternate layers of cream with the remaining whole raspberries and puree, allow to chill for a while before serving.

Delicious served with these Oaty Shortbread biscuits....

#### OATY SHORTBREAD

#### **Ingredients**

10 oz. (275g) rolled oats 4 oz. (100g) plain flour 6 oz. (150g) caster sugar

 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. bicarbonate soda 1 level tsp. salt 8 oz. (225g) softened butter



#### <u>Method</u>

- 1 Pre-heat oven to 150 fan 4 Gas. Whizz the oats in a processor until quite fine. Add the remaining ingredients and whizz again until the dough comes together.
- 2 On a lightly floured surface roll out the dough to about 5mm. Cut into desired shape with cutters and place on a baking tray.
- 3 Bake in the oven for 15 20 minutes until golden and slightly firm. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Then enjoy with a cup of tea, or Cranachan.

Jennífer

#### The Flower Room

We will be reducing stuff in the flower room very soon. Please collect any of your vases by the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Many thanks,



Pauline and Gill

#### Sidmouth Toy and Model Museum



Sidmouth Toy and Model Museum is located in a building previously used as the Sidmouth United Reformed Church in Chapel Street.

One corner of the museum houses a selection of memorabilia from the old church. Last year when we visited, the proprietor had a long conversation with us, one of the

things she said she would love to have to finish the Church memorabilia corner were a couple of the old 'Green China' cups and saucers and plates.

With permission from Christchurch, I delivered 2 plates, 2 saucers and 2 cups on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, they were immediately placed into the display cabinet and the owner was delighted and is very grateful to Christ Church for their generosity.

(photo page 20)

Elaíne



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone at Christ Church for your harvest donations to the Food Bank.

### The food weighed just under 200 Kgs

### and £50 was also donated.

This will all be put to good use!!

#### 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



## 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: <u>www.methodist.org.uk</u>)

If you are visiting Christ Church today we extend a warm welcome. Please take a Messenger home with our good wishes.

#### Christ Church Minister Revd Don Macalister

r 01271 345313 dasmacalister@icloud.com

#### Elders

Alison Cairns (Church Secretary) 343154 alisoncairns@hotmail.com Kathy Jeacock (Church Treasurer) 373555

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

#### Website

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk



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Celebrating 50 years of the URC at Christ Church, Braunton