

The Messenger

“For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

2 Timothy 1:7

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist & United Reformed Church



March 2023



Causeway
Holy Communion Service



Friendship Group



Café Church

A number of our Christ Church family have been unwell recently. We send them all our best wishes for a speedy recovery and assure them of our love and prayers.

We were sad to learn of the death of Graham Brown. Please remember Jean and the family in your prayers at this sad time.

March Diary			
Sun	5th	10.30am 3pm	Morning Worship and Holy Communion: Revd Don Causeway Service
Sun	12th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Deacon Joan Cole
Mon	13th	10am 2.30pm	Sound it Out Friendship Group
Tue	14th	6pm	<i>Deadline for April Messenger</i>
Sun	19th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Revd Don (Mothering Sunday)
Sun	26th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Revd Don
Mon	27th	10am 2.30pm	Sound it Out Friendship Group
<p><i>Holy Week and Easter Services</i></p> <p><i>6th April, Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 2.30pm.</i></p> <p><i>7th April, Good Friday service at 10.30am, followed by Hot Cross Buns</i></p> <p><i>9th April, Easter Day, morning service with Communion at 10.30am.</i></p> <p>Regular meetings :</p> <p>Tuesdays - Rainbows 5.30pm (Term-time only)</p> <p>Wednesdays - Parents & Toddlers 9.30am (Term-time only)</p> <p>Thursdays - Circuit Zoom Service 7pm</p> <p>Fridays - Hobnob 10am (except Bank Holidays)</p>			

Lent Course for 2023 "Followers of Jesus"

There are Zoom meetings and 'in person' meetings planned.

Please see Page 5 for full details

Message from Revd Don

Dear friends,

Light is fascinating.

Great painters spend their lives trying to capture in two dimensions the essence of what light reveals in a multi-dimensional world. So not only are shadows used to bring out the contours but colours and lines are used to bring out a sense of time, of the vibrancy of youth or the subtlety of age.

Some time ago by using a special filter on the lens of my camera I started experimenting with light, or more specifically with infrared light. From the start I was amazed by the different view of the world it produced. Dark trees against a bright blue sky became almost brilliant white against a black sky as the leaves reflected the infrared light, a light normally completely invisible to human sight.

It reminded me of W. Chalmers Smith hymn which begins with the words "Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes". Beyond our sight is a whole universe of light revealing aspects of nature we couldn't imagine.

As we go through Lent on our journey to the darkness of Good Friday and on towards the light of Easter Day perhaps we will be reminded by God once more that the way we see things is not always, or not often, the full picture.

The last verse of the hymn says "Great Father of glory: O help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee. And so let thy glory, Almighty, impart, through Christ in the story, thy Christ to the heart."

The point is that the blinding glory and depth and range of God's being is largely invisible to us, beyond our seeing and understanding, but is most clearly revealed to us in meaningful and understandable ways through Christ. As though Christ is the filter through which we must look to actually be able to see God.

As we focus on Christ may we see God's love for us, bringing light to the dark places of our lives, bringing life.

Grace and peace,



Prayers for March

March 5th

Lord God, your ways are not our ways.
You are far greater and more splendid
than anything we could begin to imagine.
As we gaze upon you, we too want
a new way to experience you today – wherever we are.
We crave the courage to follow you in spirit and in truth.
We want to be transfigured in your presence.
We want to adore you with our very beings.
We want you, God. Amen.

March 12th

Close your eyes and imagine being at that well where the spring of water wells up to eternal life. Knowing that as they were for the Samaritan woman, God's love and forgiveness are freely there for the taking. Imagine being bathed in the water of life. Tell Jesus how much you love him. Amen.

March 19th

Then the man said, 'Lord I believe' and he worshipped him. All-seeing God, when we come out of our shadows and into your marvellous light, how can we do anything but worship you. Your eternal light makes everything so bright and clear. We adore the mighty one who has the power to make us see. Bless you, Lord. Amen.

March 26th

Loving God, we thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus. Help us to see that he shared this earthly life fully, its joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats, bliss and pain. May we draw comfort from the knowledge that he is with us in good times and bad, and understands all our experiences. Praise to you, O Christ. Amen.

Causeway

Our first Causeway Worship this year was certainly very different and very, very special. We sat around a semicircle of tables and after our time of eating, news and prayers Don and Marilyn shared the most wonderful simple communion with us all. (Photo - front cover)



As one of our friends said afterwards
'That was just so amazing!'

Do come and join us for our next
Causeway on March 5th at 3pm
at Christ Church.

Gill and the Causeway Team

Lent Course: Followers of Jesus

A Bible Study group will meet at church (Room 4) on Thursday afternoons in March from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. All are welcome. Dates: March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Please let Rev. Marilyn know if you hope to come so materials can be sent round in advance. (Then on April 6th at 2.30pm we will join the Maundy Thursday service being held in the church).

The Bible Fellowship group meeting on Zoom is also using the course materials: Mondays at 2.00pm on March 6th , 20th and April 3rd . Contact Eff Poole to join in.

For a copy of the course to use at home, contact Rev. Marilyn.

Thursday evening Zoom services in March will follow the theme
March 2nd Nicodemus (Sue Kendall)
March 9th Mary & Martha (Rev. Stuart Innalls, South Molton)
March 16th The Woman at the Well (Rev. Jonathan Froggatt)
March 23rd James, Son of Thunder (Alison Cairns)
March 30th Mary Magdalene (Rev. Sue Macbeth)

Rev'd Marilyn

World Day of Prayer

This service this year will be at Grosvenor Church at 2pm on Friday, 3rd March.

It is entitled "I have heard about your faith" and has been prepared by women of Taiwan. The service will be followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.



Our first Email from Rachel Greenland, who is serving with Mercy Ships

9th Feb 2023

Hi everyone,



After being here 2 and a half weeks now, I'm excited to say, we are sailing tomorrow! There have been many challenges to overcome, and we still have more! But, I'm happy to say that all the navigation systems are working, and some internet is back. We are therefore able to leave tomorrow and start the sail to Senegal!

The sail will be special as the Africa Mercy, (which I have mostly served on) will be leaving at the same time, and we should sail parallel to each other until we get to Senegal. The Africa Mercy will sail onto South Africa. We on the Global Mercy will dock in Dakar, where the final set up will begin prior to the patients arriving.

It has been a good 2 weeks here. It was disappointing to have a delay to sail, but I have to remember some crew here have waited over a year to be able to sail to Dakar, and start up the hospital! The phones and pagers are now working. All the doors are opened with our ID badges on this ship, but the system isn't working so anyone who arrived recently can't get in any cabins or the hospital! I can't yet get into our cabin if the door is closed and I can't get into ICU either! This could be a problem! :)

Since I've been here, there has still been plenty to do. There has been ordering supplies, unpacking supplies, checking things work!

This week we had a fun afternoon when non-hospital crew were invited to have a tour of the hospital decks and have some fun activities in the ward areas. My station was in ICU. I set up little Ted in one of the ICU beds. The school kids loved this! Then we had an injections station and the crew got to try injecting oranges. However, the galley ran out of oranges, so we had to use kiwis! This made it all the more interesting, as when they injected the kiwi. Juice squirted out from the previous holes! Again a highlight for the ship kids! :)

These last 2 days we have been making the hospital 'sea-safe'. Everything is now strapped to the wall or tied down to the floor. The Captain will inspect it later to ensure it won't go anywhere during the sail!

We have had team-bonding time, preparing for arrival, and praying for these next few months. Approximately 80 new nurses will be arriving soon after we arrive in Dakar!

Enjoy the photos. I will try and send photos from the sail while we are sailing, internet depending. (Photos - back cover)

Praying people please pray for:

Smooth sail!! Calm seas!

Return of full Wi-Fi and the data systems so we can open the hospital.

Protection from Covid for patients and crew.

Energy for many crew doing very long hours to sort out the computer system problems over the last 3 weeks.

Missing you all. Love,

Rachel

Mercy Ships is a global Christian charity that follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus to bring hope and healing to those suffering from disability, disfigurement, and disease.

We deploy hospital ships and partner with African nations to transform surgical systems and provide free surgery to those most in need.

We believe every person is valuable.

<https://www.mercyships.org.uk>

Events Group

As we look forward to the Spring we have three events planned:

Cream tea with a couple of stalls at the Church in spring or early summer.

Quiz Night on Saturday 30th September

Winter Fair on Saturday 18th November

We would like others to join us to organise events, please contact one of us, we would love to hear from you.

Joy, Elaine and Liz



Easter cards are now on sale,
in aid of Christ Church funds

Café Church



Eff giving the story talk



Sunday Club



Food Craft



“Sunday Club is always a happy and busy place”

Young Families Work News

Café Church this month was themed around building activities, prompted by the story of Solomon building a temple in God's name (mixed in with a bit of Valentine's Day love!). Activity time was much enjoyed with a variety of bricks and materials ranging from cardboard boxes to cheese and crackers!! Churches, houses and giant columns sprung up in different places. There was Lego and wooden bricks of all shapes and sizes. There was Jenga whose blocks definitely had many other uses besides the one stated in the game rules(!), and also of course there was a well stocked junk modelling corner!! Not to mention of course the food craft! Did you know that you can fashion church buildings and houses using cheese and cucumber on cream crackers! Naturally they didn't last for long - fun to do but even better to eat!

We even designed a wall too, each of us being given a paper brick to write our names on and decorate. Displayed together they showed that we are a part of our church built on the rock of Jesus and his love.

As Eff further pointed out in her story talk and as the song we sang later reminded us, Jesus gave us the new commandment to love one another as He loves us. She also emphasised that the church is not the building, but it is the people that are the church - all shapes and sizes, just like all the different resources we had been using! Thank you Eff for your talk and Marilyn for the accompanying colourful slides. Our thanks too to those who made music for us and accompanied our singing, to those who brought and organised and arranged the tea - as delicious as ever. We were also grateful to all the people who helped with all the clearing up. The junk modelling corner had been great fun - but was not easy to leave. How could these wonderful models be taken home?!

However, hasty photos were taken so they have now in a sense survived. It was indeed once again a Café Church full of friendliness and love, felt by so many of us. This spilled over into the hearts left on each table to celebrate Valentine's Day and many now so beautifully coloured in. How lovely too for the team to receive some messages of thanks for an enjoyable and happy time.



We very much look forward to our next Café Church on the 12th March and to seeing you there.

Sunday Club is also always a happy and busy place to be with stories and activities and games and chat. Over this past month we have heard the story of John the Baptist offering baptism to all those who asked forgiveness, and wanting a fresh start, and then Jesus approaching him to be baptised as well in order to start his ministry.

Then came the story of Jesus beginning to call his disciples together to help him 'fish for people'. The challenge of sharing the Beatitudes with the children followed with the promise that God is always with us and brings good things in hard times.

To illustrate this the children made Joy Jars, decorating jars with coloured tissue paper strips, and then writing or drawing different things that give them joy, to pop inside. Then should a day get difficult they can take them out of the jar and look at them to remind them of their happy times. The older children were given the option to think through and make a list of Principles to Live By. Next came 'Salt and Light' with the fun of drawing patterns in a sand tray whilst the children talked about ways of helping others. Cafe Church Sunday was a 'free' Sunday for them to choose an activity, but being close to Valentines Day we talked a little about love, and how much God loves us and shows us the way both to love him and to love one another. The children chose to decorate wooden hearts and make cards. The morning actually turned out to be a family Sunday Club, as we were joined by a visiting grandchild and his mum, plus two of the other mums! It was absolutely delightful.

Parents and Toddlers has been thrilled to welcome four new families to the group over the past month. We are all enjoying the buzz and the chatter with everyone making themselves so much at home. The children are settling in really well making the most of all the toys and playing with one another. They love the music and songs provided by Christopher, and they love the teacakes and snacks and fruit! We are a larger group now which is really lovely and encouraging, but we have plenty of room for more! So do please get in touch with Joy (01271 376171) should you know of others who would like to come and join us.



We finish this time of news today with the prayer that Eff gave us at the end of her Cafe Church story talk. It is a prayer reminding us of God's love and our love for one another:

Thank you, Lord for your love to us. Please help us to love each other.

Thank you for the times we have together as your church.

We ask your blessing and love for each of us and for our friends who are not with us today because they're on holiday, or unwell, or doing something else.

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria who have lost family and friends, those who are injured, and all who are struggling to survive when they've lost their homes and everything.

Thank you for those who are working tirelessly to help. Be with them giving them strength and support to keep going when all seems so hard.

Thank you that you hear our prayers and answer them. Amen

We all now send our love to you, with thanks for your continuing support of our work with the children.

Every blessing,

The Young Families Work Team

WaterAid - Lent "Jars of Change" Appeal

Water Aid is the charity we have chosen to support for another year. **WaterAid** work in 27 countries to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. Their vision is of a world where everyone, everywhere has safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene. But global progress towards that vision is shamefully slow.



- One in 10 people still don't have even a supply of clean water close to home
- Every 2 seconds, a woman gives birth without clean water
- One in 5 don't have a decent toilet
- Nearly a third can't wash their hands with soap at home
- 88 children die every day as a result

Clean water should be normal for everyone. But for too many people, it's not. We can help change this. With our help, families can stay healthy, break free from poverty and thrive. No one should have to sacrifice their future because of a lack of clean water. But around the world, millions of girls have no choice but to do just that. In communities without clean water, it's often girls who walk for hours to fetch water, instead of going to school. And it's girls who are expected to stay at home and care for relatives who fall ill after drinking dirty water. With clean water close to home, girls can stay healthy, go to school, and take control of their futures.

16-year-old Seido has never been to school. She'd love the chance to learn – but that's a privilege she's given to her younger siblings. Instead, she spends all day, every day, fetching the water her family needs to survive. The closest source to her home in Oromia, central Ethiopia, is a muddy pool five hours' walk away. After making the exhausting round trip, there's little time for anything else – let alone education. The water she fetches is dirty and filled with parasites. Diseases like dysentery are common, but for Seido and her family, there's simply no other option.

Like Seido, Malala – who lives in the village of Ambohimanatrika, Madagascar – is also 16, and her family's oldest child. But that's where the similarities end. Until recently, Malala and her sisters had to fetch water for their family, struggling to carry full containers along the steep path. Boiling the dirty, algae-filled water wasn't enough to stop them getting ill and missing precious days of school.

WaterAid worked with Malala's community to bring a reliable supply of clean water to Ambohimanatrika – this Lent, we can help more girls like Malala transform their futures too. Please take a "Jar of Change" from Christ Church, or make your own at home. Every day during Lent that you use water (so EVERY DAY!), give thanks for your access to clean, safe water and pop a coin (or note!) in the jar. We will bring them back to church for the Easter Sunday Morning service, and hopefully together we will have raised a fantastic contribution to this very worthwhile cause.



www.wateraid.org

Amigos and Kira Farm

"The LORD will keep you from all harm — he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Psalm 121:7-8

Exciting Days on Kira Farm

It was such good news to hear that the 2023 group of 50 new trainees had arrived safely on Kira Farm in January, enthusiastic to learn and prepare for a new future. Twenty five young men and twenty five young women from many different parts of Uganda, have since been acclimatizing and settling into their new life. For many of them it has been the first time to sleep in a bed and be warm at night , to enjoy a good shower and to have three meals a day. They have come ready and eager to learn farming and vocational skills such as such as building, carpentry, fashion, tailoring and bee keeping. But in addition they will find that they are learning about 'healing, community, communication, forgiveness and love for oneself.'

We at Christ Church, will very soon be hearing the name of the young person we will be having the privilege to sponsor this year, and look forward to meeting and being introduced to them in next month's Messenger.

Meanwhile we pray for all the trainees that God will give them wisdom to choose skills that will assist their journey to transform their lives and communities and also that they won't feel limited in choice because of their academic background or gender.

Also we pray for the trainers, Justin, Alex, Mwajuma, Lydia and Vincent, that God will give them the skills and patience to train their groups of trainees well.

Anthea

Friendship Group

We had a wonderful cake icing demonstration at our February meeting. As it was Celia's birthday - we gave her the cake! (Photo: front cover)

We are looking forward to our March meetings.

On **March 13th** We are having a talk from the Ilfracombe Harbour Master on Nautical Experiences

And on **March 27** a talk on the Children's Air Ambulance.

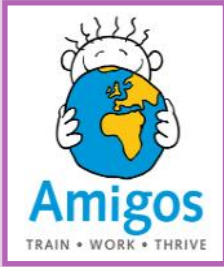
Both talks given by ladies, I'm looking forward to both.

Hope to see you there,

Rosemary

Due to the Coronation, our AGM is now on 15th May

Amigos



Excited new trainees!

Sound It Out



Singers enjoying the action songs

Notes from the Elders meeting on 1st February 2023

- There were several members of our fellowship who are in need of prayers. These were named and then Don led us in Prayer.
- The next meeting of the Community Links Project will be on 16th Feb.
- Lightweight chairs for the Alan Finch room are being investigated.
- Easter services:
6th April, Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 2.30pm.
7th April, Good Friday service at 10.30am, followed by Hot Cross Buns
9th April, Easter Day, morning service with Communion.

(Please note there will be no communion on 2nd April)

- Harvest Festival will take place on 26th September.
- Church Quiz - 30th September, to include food.
- A 'Sing-for-your-Supper' will be organised in the future.
- An 'Afternoon Tea' fundraising event will take place at a date yet to be arranged.
- There is a shortage of volunteers willing to serve tea and coffee after the morning services, at times this may result in NO REFRESHMENTS being served on some Sunday mornings when no-one is available to help.
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs are taking place.
- A sponsored walk for Christian Aid has been suggested for 13th May. Details to be confirmed.
- Traidcraft is no longer in operation.
- Sunday Club needs help on Sunday mornings to set up tables and chairs.

Next Elders meeting to take place on Wednesday 8th March.

Cost of The Messenger

As with most things, the cost of printing and posting The Messenger is on the increase. At the last Church meeting we discussed all the options but were unanimous that the Messenger should remain free to all.

However, it costs around £500 a year to print and to post copies to those unable to pick one up in Church. If you no longer need your copy posted to you, please let Revd Don know. If you would like to make a contribution, there will be a plate next to the copies of the Messenger in the vestibule on Sunday mornings.

Changemakers Conference 2023 – Real people, Real Change.



Join Christian Aid's virtual supporter conference on Saturday 4 March 2023, 10am-4pm, on Zoom.

This year's conference will include an exciting range of stories of our work, from staff members from across the globe, and a first look at this year's Christian Aid Week film. Highlights will include:

- ◆ Introducing Christian Aid Week 2023 – get behind the story, watch the premiere of the video, hear about fundraising ideas and resources
- ◆ Celebrating the impact of the funds raised in Christian Aid Week 2022
- ◆ Campaigning - why we need to talk about climate justice
- ◆ The challenge of fundraising during a cost-of-living crisis
- ◆ Stories of how we respond to humanitarian emergencies around the world
- ◆ Discovering Christian Aid's amazing story over the last 75+ years

Connect with the people and stories behind the global work of Christian Aid. Find out how you can make positive change by acting on climate justice. Join with fellow volunteers across the UK as we share creative and successful fundraising ideas for you to try, and leave feeling inspired and equipped for Christian Aid Week.

You don't have to be at the whole event to get involved. The Zoom webinar will be open from 10am – 4pm, so feel free to come and engage with as much as you are able!

Register now at www.christianaid.org.uk

Would you be interested in joining a sponsored walk from Fremington Quay to Christ Church to raise money for Christian Aid whilst having a natter, getting some fresh air and enjoying tea and toast on arrival at Church? I am hoping to arrange this if there is sufficient interest and we can find a date in May or June to suit the majority of people who wish to take part.

Don't forget this year's Big Brekkie is at church on Saturday 20th May 2023.



Janet and Paula

DAME CICELY SAUNDERS

Dame Cicely Saunders is recognised as the founder of the modern Hospice movement. Cicely founded St Christopher's Hospice in London in 1967, the first hospital that linked expert compassion; care and pain and symptom control. It is widely accepted that Dame Cicely revolutionised the way in which society cares for the ill, the dying and the bereaved. Dame Cicely had a sincere and deeply held Christian faith, it had been her vision to create a home for the dying in an Anglican religious community, but widened her vision to include and welcome patients and staff of all faiths or none. Her Christian faith was her cornerstone and her moral compass never wavered in spite of, at times severe criticism.

In many ways Cicely had a privileged upbringing, she was educated at Roedean then St Anne's College Oxford, starting her college education in 1938 – 1939, then trained during the war years as a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital Nightingale School of Nursing from 1940-1944. She then completed her University course between 1944 and 1945. Cicely trained as a Medical Social Worker, then as a doctor, qualifying with Honours in surgery. It is apparent that Cicely had a first class brain, she began her academic career by studying politics, economics and philosophy.

Due to her strongly held faith she wanted no part in anything to do with war and felt called to nursing. After qualifying she took a job at St Joseph's Hospice, a Catholic establishment in London. Here she carried out much research in the use of morphine for pain relief.

In 1948 Cicely fell in love with a patient, a Polish-Jewish refugee who was dying of cancer. He bequeathed her £500 about £20,000 in today's value. This donation helped germinate the idea of a loving place to care for the dying, the germinated seed was watered, flourished and became St Christopher's. After losing her father and another close loved one, Cicely fell into a state of pathological grieving, but the deaths had shown her that as the body becomes weaker, so the spirit becomes stronger. After eleven years of the seed being germinated she had drawn up a comprehensive plan and sought the financial aid needed after reading Psalm 37 "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust in him; and he will bring it to pass."

In 1963 Cicely became friends with another Polish emigree, Marian Bohusz-Szysko, at the time he had an estranged wife but five years after her death he married Cicely, he was 79 and she 61. They had fourteen happy years together, he died peacefully at the age of 94 in St Christopher's Hospice. Cicely died aged 87 in St Christopher's Hospice.

It is because of the dedicated work of Cicely and others of a like mind that we can be aware that at the end of life, although the body is weakened the spirit is strengthened, and we and our loved ones have the opportunity to be given loving palliative care if needed.

APPLE PIE AND CUSTARD CAKE

When deciding what recipe I could make to go with an article about Cicely Saunders, I wanted something typically British and if possible something with a London flavour. What could suit a Londoner better than apple pie and custard, I decided to have it in a cake that could be easily eaten with a fork. That was the plan, I visualized a beautifully proportioned cake, with a deliciously crumbly topping.

Things did not go to plan, the cake tasted delicious but looked like the surface of the Moon. I altered the recipe but did not have time to make another cake. I decided to still include the photograph and adapt it as a metaphor for life.

I did not bin the cake, its looks belied its tastiness, it also caused us to laugh and cheered up a grey day; so here is the adapted version which I think should work well.

Recipe

4 oz (100gms) self raising flour	6 oz (150gms) butter or margarine
6 oz (150gms) caster sugar	2 oz (50gms) custard powder
3 eggs	Few drops of vanilla essence
1 large cooking apple about 12 oz (300gms) or equivalent in smaller apples	

Crumble topping

4 oz (100gms) self raising flour
2 oz (50gms) demerara sugar
2 oz (50gms) butter or margarine

Method

1. Make the crumble topping and set aside
2. Place all other ingredients, except the apples in a mixing bowl
3. Mix well with an electric beater or by hand, place in an 8" spring-sided greased and bottom lined tin
4. Peel the apple and slice into segments, push down into the cake mixture
5. Sprinkle the topping onto the cake mixture and bake in a pre-heated oven 180 fan, Gas 4. Cook for at least 35 minutes then test with a skewer. Make sure you test a cake bit rather than apple
6. Leave for a few minutes in the tin, then cool on a wire rack, serve with a cup of tea and a cheerful smile

Music to listen to: Joseph Haydn: London Symphony



Jennifer



Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children - our neighbours - in southern Turkey and northern Syria, following the earthquake that has devastated hundreds of lives. Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma in the middle of the night.

We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,

those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;

those who have lost loved ones;

those who wait for news and

those digging through rubble to save others.

Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them.

Amen

www.christianaid.org.

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.

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

Revd Don Macalister

01271 345313

dasmacalister@icloud.com

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Janet Marshall
Anthea Coates

Liz Seymour
Shirley Baxter
Eff Poole

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

Website

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

Mercy Ships Update



Page 6



Thank You - from the King



It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

5th December, 2022

Dear Ms. Cairns,

The King has asked me to thank you for the Book of Condolence you sent on behalf of the minister and congregation of Christ Church Methodist and United Reformed Church following the death of His Majesty's beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The King was greatly touched by the tributes to The late Queen from all the signatories and has asked me to send his warmest thanks for their kindness and his very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Correspondence Secretary

In December 2022 we received a letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace, on behalf of King Charles, for the book of condolence from Christ Church