

The Messenger

“He said to them, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Christ Church Barnstaple
Methodist & United Reformed Church



Mark 10:14

September 2023



The Christ Church Annual Picnic



**Farewell Revd
Jonathan Froggatt**



**Great fun at
The Giant Wiggle**



Joyful: Baptism of Serena

September Diary

Sun	3rd	10.30am 3pm	Morning Worship & Holy Communion: Revd Sue Macbeth Causeway Service
Sun	10th	10.30am 4.30pm	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement Café Church
Mon	11th	10am	Sound it Out
Fri	15th	10am	<i>Deadline for October Messenger</i>
Sun	17th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Revd John Robinson
Wed	20th	7pm	*** Church Meeting ***
Sun	24th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship: Revd Don—Harvest Festival Harvest Praise CANCELLED
Mon	25th	10am	Sound it Out
Sat	30th	6.30pm	Quiz and Supper Evening

Sunday 1st October at 3pm - Causeway Harvest Service

Regular meetings :

Tuesdays - Rainbows 5.30pm (Term-time only)
 Wednesdays - Parents & Toddlers 9.30am (Term-time only)
 Thursdays - Circuit Zoom Service 7pm
 Fridays - Hobnob 10am (except Bank Holidays)

Harvest Festival Service — Sunday 24th September

As last year, we will be pleased to receive gifts of food items or money for the local Food Bank at our Harvest Festival services.

The most urgently needed items include: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, long life fruit juice, tinned fruit, tinned/instant custard, sponge puddings, dried milk, instant coffee and cooking sauces.



If you are able to help decorate a window, please contact Alison.

Message from Revd Don

Dear friends,

As we prepare for harvest it is good to have something else to give thanks for and celebrate in the life of the church.

Many of you know I am no great gardener, far from it, but even I realise I may be somewhat mixing my metaphors to talk about signs of fresh green shoots at harvest time but please bear with me for a moment.

Exciting things have been happening in the last few weeks. It began at Christ Church Barnstaple on the first Sunday in July with the reception into membership of two new members, continued with baptism of a very special young lady on the third Sunday and then, on the first Sunday in August we welcomed another member of the church family into membership.

A week later on the second Sunday of August I had the joy of receiving a member of the Sticklepath Church family into membership. This being followed by the Christ Church picnic held at Pilton Bluecoat School on a day that was neither too hot (unlike last year) nor too wet (like the previous year) but just right. It was good to be together eating sandwiches and cakes (so many cakes!), playing games, chatting, singing hymns and sharing together in very informal worship which included dancing, but thankfully not by me.

Another of the many events that have happened is the Caterpillar Hunt organised by Action for Children around Barnstaple, the trail ending at Christ Church with refreshments and a modern day feeding of the 5000 as rather than the expected 25 participants, over 200 children and adults gathered in the church, all having a wonderful time.

I find it all hugely encouraging and a reminder that if we continue to be faithful through the hard times God will bring a harvest beyond our expectations.

God bless,



Prayers for September

3rd September

God of today and of all eternity,

we thank you for the privilege of being your disciples, and of being part of a fellowship of followers from whom we can learn and be inspired.

And we praise you for your reassurance that, whatever the cost and whatever we might lose, in you we will find riches beyond our imagining or deserving.

Thank you for everything. Amen.

10th September

Holy God, we reach out to you in thankfulness knowing that you will bless us with stability in turmoil, courage in conflict, and grace in unity.

May we both challenge and change those things in ourselves, in our church, our community, and our world, that dishonour your love for us and spoil our relationships with one another, so that we may grow in the likeness of your Son, and bring peace where there is brokenness – to your glory. Amen.

17th September

Gracious God, there are debts to you and to others that we cannot pay. There are mistakes that we cannot undo. There are words that we cannot unsay. But because you forgive us, we can take another step, face another day with confidence, and rejoice at your love for us and for all creation. Amen.

24th September

Loving God, your generosity is as vast as the sky, as deep as the ocean, as stunning as a sunset, as beautiful as a smile, as mysterious as silence, as profound as birdsong, as unique as love.

We can only stand in awe and ask that you help us become more like you: more generous, more compassionate, more just.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Rev Jonathan's Circuit Farewell Service

On the last Sunday of July, members and friends from across the Circuit braved the rain for Rev Jonathan's farewell service at Christ Church, Braunton. There was a warm, friendly atmosphere, the rain soon forgotten. The beautiful flower arrangement was adorned with Cornwall flags where Jonathan and Louise are off to for their next Ministry.

Don was taking the service, and led us through some wonderful hymns including, *Praise to the Lord, the almighty* and *I cannot tell why he, who angels worshipped* amongst others, and then finishing with *Lord for the Years*. Liz Preece was playing the organ, and the singing was wonderful. Don preached on two readings, Matthew 16 v 13-25 and Hebrews 12 v1-3. Prayers were led by Rev Stephen and Pastor Jason, from Calvary Chapel, Woolacombe.

At the end, Eff and Sue made a presentation from the Circuit, and Alison had a gift from Christ Church Braunton. Rev Jonathan spoke briefly about his Ministry here, thanking people for their friendship and support and reminding us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Afterwards the tables in the Church Hall were laden with savoury and sweet snacks, and we all enjoyed chatting to each other. It was a very happy afternoon, and a good way to say farewell to both of them.

(Photo - front cover)

Eddy

The Action for Children Giant Caterpillar Wiggle

What a morning! The Giant Wiggle was enjoyed by some 145 children and 98 parents and carers – most of whom came back to Christ Church for activities and refreshments! It was exciting to see the church so busy, and a challenge for the kitchen team, who coped magnificently (and were still smiling at the end!) Many thanks to everyone: to all involved at the church; to Jess and Dawn and the Action for Children team – especially Cosmo, from Action for Children, who got lots of high 5s, hugs and thumbs up! And thanks to the shops, and the Museum, who joined in the fun.

Revd Marilyn and the AfC Support Group

Grandma Maureen and Bella wrote:

With great enthusiasm our family of caterpillar detectives set off to find ten locations where the giant caterpillars could be found in Barnstaple town. After a quick start from the museum and meeting several fellow detectives in the High Street, Grandma was lost on one clue. Fortunately, Daddy remembered that Colin the caterpillar lives at Marks and Spencer (thank you to Eddy and the team). It took much energy to go the length of High Street so we were grateful for the fruit drinks from the team at Iceland.

All the caterpillars were lovely – our favourite was the pastel coloured one in the Binge Box. Bella's concluding sentence on the morning was "I want to do the caterpillar hunt again."

Jenny wrote:

What a joy to see so many people, children and adults, filling Christ Church on the 26th July, for the 'Giant Wiggle' Caterpillar Hunt. Well done to the Action for Children team.

(Photos: front and back covers)





Here is the letter received from Christian Aid thanking us for our donation from Christ Church Barnstaple. We raised an amazing total of £928.36 , many thanks to everyone for your support.

Janet and Paula

*Thank you for your Donations
Thank you for your incredible support this Christian Aid Week.
Together, Barnstaple Christ Church has raised to help families around the world transform their own lives.*

You only need to look to Esther Saizi in Malawi to see the lasting impact gifts like yours can have. Esther previously struggled to obtain fair prices for her crops. But when she joined a pigeon pea programme run by a Christian Aid partner and started to sell as part of a cooperative, she was able to earn much more.

'I was able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price with a better market,' she explains. 'It provided financial stability.'

Esther is doing amazing things for her family with her pigeon peas. She bought tools for her daughter Ziwone's carpentry business and pays for her daughter Rashida's school costs.

It's thanks to people like you that this transformation has been possible for Esther and her family. Thank you, Barnstaple Christ Church for your life changing gift. With heartfelt thanks,

Your Christian Aid Week Team

Make Polluters Pay Action Day Saturday 23rd Sept

Dear All,

You are invited to our local protest to the government via our MP, Selaine Saxby. Please meet in the Square, Barnstaple, by the Clock Tower, on the 23rd at around 12:45 pm.

Selaine Saxby will be meeting with us at 1pm. and will be available to answer questions. Please see the link below to Christian Aid information:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change/make-polluters-pay-action-day>

It is very exciting to note that Selaine is in Barnstaple that day and willing to meet with us. Let's show her that a great number of her constituents are pressing for her to represent us, in taking action within parliament.

At this stage, please put the date in your diary and try to come along if at all possible. All we require is up to an hour of your time and please invite friends, family and all who care within local organisations and churches.

Margaret Robinson, Christ Church Braunton

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
? Quiz Night ?
? Saturday 30th September ?
? First question at 6.30pm ?
? Teams of up to 6 people ?
? £6 per person includes ?
? a light supper ?
? If you're not in a team, come along ?
? anyway and join another team ?
? or make a new one! ?
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Events Group

We are now looking forward to our next event, the very popular Quiz Night on **Saturday 30th September at 6.30pm.**

Many thanks to our resident Quiz Master Mr Dave Stevens. It's only £6 per person, with a light supper and tea /coffee included – what a great evening!

This is a very popular evening, start getting your team together or join a team on the evening. Teams of up to 6 people. Please let me know if you have a team to assist me with numbers for catering, ring me: Joy Morley 01271 376171

Winter Fair: Saturday 18th November – we will be having our very popular gift stall, so please save any new items/unwanted gifts for this.

Looking forward to seeing you and to you joining us for fun, friendship and fellowship.

Joy, Elaine and Liz



My Naaman biscuit



The cast of the Naaman story

Café Church

The Story of Naaman



Café Church is a relaxed café-style service with creative activities, a time of worship and a delicious tea.

Christ Church Picnic

Music, games, food & fun!



Young Families News

Thanks to our lovely volunteers **Sunday Club** has been running throughout the summer holidays. Though always informal it was even more relaxed with a planned story and an activity usually based on our Roots material. Children and young people can drop in and feel welcome whatever their age, as was the case when we celebrated Serena's baptism on the 16th July. We welcomed her cousins as well as other of her friends to share our time together in Sunday Club, after having been an important part of her moving baptismal service in church. With the feeling of a party atmosphere, after the story, there were activities and word searches and puzzles – and of course colouring (!) to suit the different ages. Our special time ended with the cutting of a delicious baptismal/birthday cake in church kindly made by one of the mums. This was followed by a mini feast before Serena set off for her birthday party!
(photos: back cover)

Café Church in July was, as always, a happy and fun occasion as the following account - written by one of our mums - shows. Many thanks to her for her lively report...'

The theme was Naaman: Healed of Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14).

We were treated to a wonderful performance featuring a parent playing the lead role of Naaman magnificently, that engaged all the audience. It even amused our youngest child who, I think, thought Naaman dipping in the Jordan River (behind some blue cloth!) was a great game of peekaboo!

Despite it being a last-minute arrangement for the children to get involved, they got dressed into costume and did a superb job.

We all enjoyed decorating the biscuits, the 7 dips for Naaman craft, and of course colouring!!

Everyone got involved in wiggle time during the songs and praise, which led onto food with a new sandwich choice of cheese and onion and a delicious home baked chocolate cake!'

Our **Annual Church Picnic** took place on Sunday August 13th. We were so fortunate with the weather. Just before the picnic started, despite having the possible – and very welcome - use of the school hall should it rain, we bravely made the decision to stay outside in the fresh air - when it promptly rained!!

But it soon stopped and we were blessed with the much-needed window of dry weather during the hours of the picnic. Then it rained again! But by that time we had made good use of the wonderful school facilities, very much enjoying the opportunity of being together. Some of the picnickers chose

to stay under or near the shelter, others under the magnificent giant trees and one brave group sat on their blanket on the field itself! They happily ate and chatted, and intermingled whilst the children energetically made their own fun and entertainment with the hoops and the balls and the table tennis area, and of course all the climbing equipment where they practised and showed off their balancing and swinging skills!

(cont.)

The afternoon was brought together in worship, so beautifully and fittingly put together by Don accompanied by the musicians. The three of them involved us all, with the children contributing to the prayers and joyfully singing and dancing together to the lively songs. To use some words of those who came, to describe their experience, it was a happy and wonderful afternoon of fun, chatter, friendship, community and excitement for which they were grateful. We now all look forward to next year!

And finally...We hope you have had a happy break over the Summer. Now, as it comes to an end, we very much look forward to welcoming all the children and young families back to our different activities after their holidays, and to hearing their many, and no doubt, exciting stories!
With love and blessings from us all,

The Young Families Work Team

Parents and Toddlers We have had our final session until September. Many new families have been attending regularly, many of the children with grandparents. Moving to a morning has proved very successful. We said goodbye to Freddie and Ronnie who will start school in the new term. We wish them well and presented a Bible story book to take with them. Time will soon slip by until we are back enjoying all our many activities especially the trampoline and music sessions where we sing and the children "play" the instruments with Chris on the saxophone. Thanks to all the regular volunteers and others who filled in for illness or holidays. We start again on September 13th.

Sandy on behalf of all the team.

Help needed please

We have a number of partially completed blankets and individual blanket squares. These were to be sent with the shoeboxes but are incomplete.

Is there anyone who feels they can help put some of these together please? If you are skilled and interested please contact Alison Cairns.

We will find a charity to send them to, whether local or overseas.

I have already contacted the organisation to whom we used to send them, but they no longer make collections in our area.

Many thanks,



Alison

Sing for your Supper

What a lovely evening we had, singing lots of favourite old hymns and learning some new ones. Some were quite a challenge but we persevered, assisted greatly by Andrew's wonderful piano accompaniment!

For the last hymn we suggested 'The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended'. The first two and last verses of this beautiful hymn were always sung by the choir here at Bear Street at the close of the evening service in the 40's and 50's.



We really enjoyed the evening, not much of a voice left afterwards — but the supper was delicious! Well done and thank you to Andrew for playing, Don for leading, and to Eff, Elaine and Jenny who did a tremendous job providing the supper.

(Photos: page13)

Tony and Celia

The Messenger

Since the last edition of The Messenger there have been a few changes.

This month we are using the new photocopier situated at Christ Church to print all the pages of The Messenger, instead of sending the photo pages away to be printed separately. This will hopefully save on costs and make it easier for Paula, who does a heroic job printing, folding and stapling around 100 copies each month.

If there are any hiccups in the new process, please forgive us — we are doing our best!

The Messenger is available in digital form and can be emailed — this version is in full colour on every page and looks really great. It also saves on paper and printing. If you would like to receive The Messenger in this way, please let Revd. Don have your email address. This is the ideal way to send The Messenger to friends or family who are not local, and saves you the cost of postage!

This digital version is also available on our church website:

<http://christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk/http-christ-church-barnstaple-org-uk-wp-content-uploads-2019-11-november-2019-pdf/>

The paper copies will remain free of charge as we don't want anyone to feel they can't afford a copy. However, if you feel able to contribute, there is a collection box with the paper copies in the vestibule.

As always, thanks so much for all your support,

Bruce and Liz

News from Amigos and Kira Farm

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'"

Lamentations 3:21-24

Extract from the recent Amigos Prayer letter...

'We give thanks that most of the Kira Farm trainees have settled after the break. Please pray for them that they will be able to hone their skills as they now undertake some larger projects. In order to encourage extra inspiration, the trainees spent time at MoTIV, an organisation in Kampala that specialises in inspiring creative entrepreneurs through training them in high quality machinery. Electrification is increasingly happening in rural areas and our desire is to help these wonderful young people to be able to make the most of these changes.'

Following on from this, some of the young people explored how to use electric sewing machines and do overlock and embroidery whilst eleven others took part in a catering class, learning kitchen rules, food theory and how to prepare salad dressings, snacks and juices.

This is all part of Amigos' vision to lift the lid off young people's expectations about what is possible. Our prayers go with them all.

Anthea

Causeway

Our July 2nd Causeway Worship focused on Foreigners. Alison, our speaker, began by talking about the Books of the Bible. This was followed by our dramatised Bible reading from the Book of Ruth. The 'Residents of Bethlehem' expressed how they felt when Ruth, a foreigner, appeared with Naomi in their town. The story had a happy ending with the marriage of Ruth to Boaz, the birth of Obed an ancestor to King David and to Jesus.

Then Alison led us into thinking about how we treat foreigners, reminding us that God loves everyone, even those who are foreigners to us. Our songs included 'A new commandment I give unto you to love one another' and 'Let us love one another'

It was both an enjoyable and thought-provoking time together. (photo: opposite)

August 6th Causeway Worship: While Rachel Greenland was at home from her work with Mercy Ships she came to our Causeway Service and talked with our Minister, Don, about her calling to work in Africa.

We saw pictures of the Hospital Ship while based in Senegal, crew members at work in many different occupations, patients before their treatment and happy smiles after their free treatment.

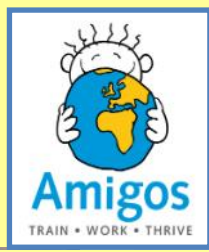


(cont.)

Learning kitchen rules



Sewing class



Causeway Service



Sing for... 



...your Supper 



We heard the story of how 2 little African girls with twisted legs were healed by the Mercy Ships team so they could walk. Mum, Dad and the two little girls aged 6 and 8 live in a village high up on a mountain. Because their bones weren't strong, their legs grew twisted and they couldn't walk. There were no doctors nearby, and they couldn't afford the hospital treatment. Then they heard about Mercy Ships and the free care they could receive there, so they travelled many miles to the ship by horse. The treatment was very successful and changed all their lives. They have now returned home, and can walk to school and have fun. They can all now look forward to a better future.

Then we heard the Bible story of how Jesus healed the man unable to walk.

Singing 'Amazing Grace' and 'Give thanks' completed our afternoon together perfectly.

Deacon Joan Cole will be our speaker at our next Causeway Service on September 3rd at 3pm.

Our Harvest Causeway will be on 1st October .

Do come and join us, you will be very welcome.

Gill and the Causeway Team

Friendship Group

When you receive The Messenger there will still be one meeting from the Summer Programme – Monday September 11th at 2.30 pm at Gill Greenland's home. By then I am sure you will all have received our Winter Programme.

The first one is on October 9th - a talk on Fire Safety which should be interesting for us all.

Your programme gives the tea rota. If any date is not convenient, please change with someone else and let Rose know.

Look forward to seeing you all,

Rosemary

News from the URC

1. General Assembly 2023

History was made at the 2023 United Reformed Church (URC) General Assembly when its first black and ethnically-minoritised Moderator was inducted. Ordained in 2018, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson became Moderator at the annual meeting held from 30 June to 3 July in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Items on the 2023 General Assembly included: the welcoming of two new congregations (the Bristol Korean Church and the digital “yoURChurch”); Legacies of Slavery and proposals for repairing justice, such as mandatory anti-racism training; ways to support the Transcarpathian Reformed Church in Ukraine; opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill; the appointments of Synod Moderators; proposals for a formal ministry of URC Children’s, Youth and/or Family Minister; and the Church Life Review.

2. South Western Synod

There will be a different and very special Synod meeting on Saturday 23 October in Bridgwater. Essential Synod business will be limited to time in the afternoon. The bulk of the day will be devoted to “Making Christ Known” – our explorations of tools and resources to help congregations seek, serve and share Christ in our communities. We have been invited to get involved in this.

The heart of this synod gathering will be workshops we create. Our focus is upon ideas, resources, tools, organisations and more that any churches have tried or used that might be helpful for others to learn about. They might be things that added to your Bible study or home groups. They might be helpful materials for worship. They might have benefited your work with different generations. They might have enhanced your impact locally. They might have been excellent evangelistic resources. We really do want to find out what has been used, how it works and any tips for others wanting to do the same.

Have a look at the questions below:

1. Have you tried something over the past few years that has been good for some aspect of Church Life? If so, what was it? (or if there are many, what were they?)
2. For each thing you are sharing, please give us a very brief description (enough to help us tell others what they may discover e.g. a few sentences or point us to a website, book etc.)

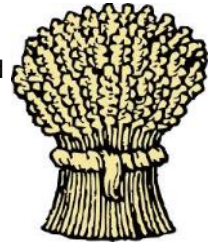
There may be ideas that we can take from the Circuit where resources were discussed in a recent meeting. If you would like to come along to the meeting or have any ideas that we could put forward please let me know as I will be attending.

I still have two spaces left in my car!

Paula Littlewood

ORIGINS OF THE HARVEST LOAF

For many years I have made a Harvest loaf for the church and when my children were of school age for the Harvest Festival at school. My father was a baker and I remember him making a harvest loaf each year for my eldest brother, by the time it was my turn to take an offering for the school harvest I think he had run out of steam.



The loaf, traditionally made with the first wheat of harvest, has an interesting symbolism. Originally the first harvest was at Lammas which began on August 1st. In fact, Lammas means loaf Mass and the harvest loaf was served at the first communion of the harvest season, or at the Harvest Festival.

The loaf is constructed using threes to symbolise the Trinity. First 3lb flour is used, the dough is divided into three, then three again, one part of the three is cut into three again, one piece used for a plait, twenty-four pieces for the stalks and thirty-six pieces for the ears, all divisible by three.

The time of harvest meant so much more to the population in earlier times and was a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving. At the time of harvest the grain store must have been low or empty and to see the barns full of grain again would have been a time of great relief and praise. In some rural areas until relatively recently, the church congregation would march to the bakeries where those working there were blessed by the clergy. In much earlier times the first loaf of harvest was thought to have magical powers and was cut into four pieces and placed as protection at the four corners of a barn.

A time of harvest marked the last point of contact in the year between the agricultural world and the church. The first was Plough Sunday in early January, this was a time after Epiphany when the first work would begin in the fields after the Christmas activities. The next would be Rotation Day in May the days before Ascension Day, when God's blessing would be sought on the growing crops. Harvest Festival as we know it did not start until the early 1800's when a vicar in Cornwall introduced the idea of having a harvest festival in church with hymns expressing thanks for God's bounty.

There are many traditions around harvest, many of them Pagan in origin, one such is the gathering of the last ears of corn and making into a corn dolly and keeping until the next year as a talisman of good luck for the next harvest. Traditionally, harvest suppers were hosted by the farmers and later the churches, this was a popular tradition that kept farming folk going until the Christmas celebrations.

Today the service of Harvest Thanksgiving is a movable feast and most churches ask for donations of non-perishable foods to donate to the food bank, very sensible but not so much fun. I notice that usually some attractive garden or locally grown goods appear, to make a more interesting display.

Traditionally Lammis buns were distributed at the Harvest Service, so unless I have run out of steam as well, I will make some for the congregation to have with coffee after the service. Good food and plentiful company are so important to our well-being that I hope there will be a revival of the harvest supper tradition.

Music to listen to: Autumn from the Seasons by: Joseph Haydn

The Autumn Leaves by: Nat King Cole

HARVEST LOAF (WHEATSHEAF)

INGREDIENTS

3lb wholemeal bread flour (1.5 kg)	1.5 pints tepid water (850ml)
3 tbs oil or 3 oz lard, Trex or butter	3 tsp easy blend yeast
3 tsp salt	1 beaten egg

METHOD

1. In a large mixing bowl place the water and fat of choice.
2. Add the flour, yeast and salt and mix until the mixture has come together, place on a floured board and knead for a short while, no need to knead wholemeal flour for long it won't make any difference. Just have the dough pliable enough to model the wheatsheaf.
3. Have ready and greased the largest baking tray you have that will fit into your oven. Cut the dough into three pieces. Cut one of the three into three again. Retain one third of this piece to make a plait around the stalks. Cut another into twelve for the stalks. Cut the remaining piece into thirty-six for the corn ears. It's a good idea to cover the pieces with a clean damp tea cloth to avoid drying out.
4. Using a rolling pin, roll a circular shape with one third of the dough and a rectangular shape for the stalks, using beaten egg join the two together on the baking sheet.
5. Brush the lower half of the loaf with beaten egg, roll the twenty-four pieces into stalks and affix to the loaf. Brush the top half with beaten egg. Roll another third of the dough into small balls and affix to the top half of the loaf, once all are evenly distributed cut through each ball with small sharp scissors and open up to represent wheat heads. Cut the remaining piece of dough into three, roll and plait and place on the loaf. Tidy any bits of stray dough that need tidying and brush with beaten egg.
6. Place in a hot oven fan 225 or Gas 8 and cook for about 30 mins. Turn down heat to about 140 fan or Gas 2 and cook for about an hour until thoroughly dried out. It may take longer. This loaf is not for eating but for display and needs to be thoroughly dry to avoid it going soft and bending when displayed.

(Photo: back cover)

Jennifer

Notes from the Elders Meeting on 4th July (no meeting in August)

- News of the fellowship was shared, and prayers were said for all those who are unwell, bereaved or needing extra love and support at this time
- Sandra Yeo to be welcomed into membership at the Communion Service in August
- Sharps box, gloves policy etc. now in place
- Next Oasis service will be on October 29th
- The “Digibox” musical hymnal will be used to accompany hymn singing more often
- Planning is underway for the period following Revd Don’s retirement. The Circuit Leadership Team are also considering the planning across the circuit
- Rainbows and Parents & Toddlers are increasing in membership
- Finances were discussed, we need to look again at increasing our income and/or decreasing our expenditure
- Car parking—the notices have helped, but the property committee have been unable to source bollards. Plan to watch, wait and review
- New photocopier is needed (*N.B. This has now been replaced*)
- Website—is being updated, aimed at providing more info for anyone searching for a new church or church-based group activities
- Church phone—landline is to go and the contract with B.T. ended, being replaced with a mobile phone
- Next meeting: September 13th

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. 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

Revd Don Macalister

01271 345313

dasmacalister@icloud.com

Elders

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Kathy Jeacock *(Church Treasurer) 373555*

Chris Marshall
Janet Marshall
Anthea Coates

Liz Seymour
Shirley Baxter
Eff Poole

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

Website

www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

The Giant Wiggle Event



Hunt the Caterpillars



Harvest Loaf



Congratulations to Sandy Yeo, (left) welcomed as a member of Christ Church



Serena, her parents and Revd Don



Party Time!

Serena's Baptism



Eff, Dot and Joy were delighted to join Heather and John Andrew, Presidents of the North Devon Show this year