

**Christ Church Barnstaple Methodist/United Reformed
News Update February 2025**

Welcome to 2025!

“But what’s happened to The Messenger?” I hear you say. We are grateful to Bruce and Liz Seymour, who have produced The Messenger in recent years; we shall miss them in so many ways when they do finally move away from Barnstaple. Many thanks are due to them and to their son Will, who really got the Church website up and running.

So ... to follow up the plea for help in the last Messenger: we need volunteers – even to produce a simple news update like this one. Liz and Bruce wrote last month: “If you can use a computer and email, you would be able to do it!” Surely there will also be someone ‘out there’ who could look after the Church website, and (at the very least) update it once a month? There’s help and support around – so do please ask for more details

Website: www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk
Address: 8 Bear Street, Barnstaple. EX32 7B

Thinking, planning and praying about the future – these are exciting times! Some of us from Christ Church and the Circuit enjoyed meeting Deacon Sheralee when she came to visit in January. She saw the best – and the worst – of North Devon weather that weekend! More news about plans for September in due course.

Thursday afternoon Bible Study will be taking a break
Watch out though for news about Lent groups meeting locally.
(Lent begins on Ash Wednesday: this year, March 5th)

Hobnob Coffee Morning every Friday, from 10.00 – 11.30am
Half Term Craft activity morning (for all ages) on Friday Feb. 21st.

Please pass this information to anyone you think may be interested

**Job Vacancy:
Chaplain (lay or ordained) at Norah Bellot Court, Barnstaple
Permanent - Part-Time - 15 hour per week
(Apply by 17.2.25)**

Norah Bellot Court, Vicarage Street, Barnstaple EX32 7ES
Methodist Homes retirement living: www.mha.org.uk

Link to job details and application:

https://ce0136li.webitrent.com/ce0136li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC179GF.open?WVID=922610Q5mZ

February Diary

Sun	2 nd	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Revd Stephen Caddick Causeway Service
Tues	4 th	10.00am	Holy Communion: Rev. Stephen Caddick
Sun	9 th	10.30am 4.30pm	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement Café Church
Mon	10 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out Friendship Group
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Revd Marilyn Tricker
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship: Mr. Peter Edwards
Mon	24 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out Friendship Group

Regular meetings:

Tuesdays: Rainbows and Brownies 5.30pm (term-time only)
Wednesdays: Parents and Toddlers 9.39am (term-time only)
Thursdays: Circuit Zoom Service 7.00pm
Fridays: Hobnob 10.00 – 11.30am (except Bank Holidays)

Special dates:

We were sad to learn of the death of Gill Tucker – Gill had come to Christ Church since she was a baby! Her funeral will be on **Wednesday Feb. 12th** – 9.40am committal service at the crematorium, then at 12.30pm a Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, followed by a buffet

Friday March 21st A 'Sing for Your Supper' evening now booked
Watch out for more details!

Saturday June 14th details and venue to be decided – a special Away Day open to all: time to relax, talk and pray together. The day will be led by Deacon Ruth Richey

Notes from the **Elders' Meeting** on Jan. 14th (thanks to Elaine Stevens)

- The meeting was opened with a Prayer led by Rev Stephen Caddick who then chaired the meeting.
- A safeguarding report was received from Maureen Thomas.
- Jennifer Allen's commissioning service as a new Elder will be on 2nd February during the Communion service.
- Baby Clara's Baptism will take place on 16th March, which will also be her 1st Birthday.
- A 'Sing for your Supper' evening is planned for 21st March.
- A person is required to answer any queries that come through the website.
- More people are needed to join the 'Events Committee' to organise future fundraising events. Please see Joy Morley if you are interested.
- We have a Deacon joining us in September, Deacon Sherelee is currently based in Norfolk.
- The Church Accounts have been agreed and signed off.
- £275-58 was donated for the 'Christmas card tree'. This is for Action4Children, to be used locally. Rev Marilyn will deliver the cheque.

- The Emergency lights have been paid for. We received a grant of 50% towards the cost.
- The next Elders meeting – to be rearranged from Feb. 12th

Note from Rev. Marilyn: I delivered the cheque to Action for Children at the Sticklepath Family Hub: They are very grateful! The money will be spent locally.

Please keep Action for Children staff, and future plans for April and beyond in your prayers, as Devon County Council prepare to take over management of the provision for families from Action for Children.

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)

Contacts:

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Rev. Stephen Caddick: 01271 345956

Alison Cairns (Church Secretary) 343154 alisoncairns@hotmail.com

Kathy Jeacock (Church Treasurer) 373555

Elders: Chris Marshall Jenny Newman Staveley Dawson Janet

Marshall Shirley Baxter Elaine Stevens Anthea Coates Jennifer Allen

Pastoral Team (Church Friends): Shirley Baxter Elaine Stevens

Room Bookings: 371808 *Circuit Administrator:* 379116

Christian Aid Reps: Janet Marshall and Paula Littlewood

Janet: 01271 373013 jcbmar18@btinternet.com