

### Café Church

Making fruit fish and drawing  
(see page 6)



World day of prayer

(see page 8)



Janet and Val  
(see page 7)

## The Messenger

Christ Church Barnstaple  
Methodist and United Reformed Church  
**April 2025**

Baptism of Clara Burke  
(see page 4)



Clara's Birthday Cake



Website: [www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](http://www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)

Address: 8 Bear Street, Barnstaple. EX32 7BU

## April Diary

Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Revd Stephen Caddick Causeway Service
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 4.30pm	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Morning Worship: Local Arrangement Café Church
Mon	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out Joanna Blake: Talk about "Mary's Meals"
Thur	17 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm 2.00pm	Soup and roll lunch Communion service led by Rev Stephen Caddick
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Prayer and reflective worship led by Rev Marilyn Tricker (see also page 5)
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>EASTER DAY</b> Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Rev. Jonathan Richards
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship: Heather Bolt
Mon	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out PC Nick Harrison: Scams to be aware of

### Regular meetings:

Tuesdays: Rainbows and Brownies 5.30pm (term-time only)

Wednesdays: Parents and Toddlers 9.30am (term-time only)

Thursdays: Circuit Zoom Service 7.00pm

Fridays: Hobnob 10.00 – 11.30am (except Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday)

If you are visiting Christ Church today we extend a warm welcome.

**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](http://www.methodist.org.uk))

### **Contacts:**

Rev. Tracey Darling 01271 649955 [tracey.darling@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tracey.darling@methodist.org.uk)

Rev. Stephen Caddick: 01271 345956

Alison Cairns (Church Secretary) 343154 [alisoncairns@hotmail.com](mailto: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:* 01271 371808      *Circuit Administrator:* 01271 379116

*Christian Aid Reps:* Janet Marshall and Paula Littlewood

Janet: [jcbmar18@btinternet.com](mailto:jcbmar18@btinternet.com)

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572712444101>

Please send information and photos of church events to Amelia Burke.

[ameliablackwood97@gmail.com](mailto:ameliablackwood97@gmail.com)

Last day for May Edition 21-04-2025

### Notes From The Elders Meeting on 10th March

- Causeway - worship for adults with learning disabilities meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at 3.00pm. This is confirmed as a church organisation. All are welcome.
- Save the Date! The Church Away Day will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Further details to follow.
- A Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. All are encouraged to attend.
- Health and Safety Policy for "users and hirers" and Safeguarding Policy have been updated. Both will be updated annually. Thank you, Maureen and Jack.
- New Church Treasurer needed please. Kathy can share information about what this involves.
- Afternoon Tea on Saturday 31st May

### Our Easter Message

On Easter morning many churches will use this call to worship:  
Alleluia! Christ is risen! – to which the congregation will joyfully respond: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!** (Alleluia = Praise the Lord)

For those full of energy, there will once again be a sunrise service on Easter Day at the top of Codden Hill – sunrise on April 20<sup>th</sup> is about 6.00am! This local tradition goes back many years, and there is something very special about gathering there, absorbing the views, maybe the mist in the valleys, and – on a good day – watching the sun appear over the horizon; even, on one occasion, a skylark rising up singing. As daylight grows, time to enjoy the view out towards Lundy; time to pray for the people, the communities, far below – families with excited children, some people getting ready for work, others delighting in an extra hour or so in bed. And time, up on Codden, for those gathered to share very simply in bread and wine, and readings and songs of resurrection.

This hymn celebrates resurrection and the hope that it brings:

See what a morning, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan,  
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for he lives,  
Christ is risen from the dead!  
*(Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, Singing the Faith 309.  
If you don't know it, you can find versions on Youtube)*



### Thank You to ...

- Those who worked hard on the Church Cleaning Day, especially cleaning the central lights in the foyer!
- All involved in Clara's baptism service and the lunch – such a happy time of celebration.

We would like to thank all those who came to celebrate the baptism and birthday of our daughter Clara. We are grateful and appreciative for your wishes, cards and gifts. Thank you for helping this wonderful day be so special and enjoyable, it was such a lovely service and lunch that everybody helped put on. Our family who attended had such a lovely time and felt so welcomed.

George and Amelia Burke

### Other news:

**Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm:** there will be a Celebration Service at Christ Church for the life of Chris Bright; followed by refreshments at the church.

#### **A message from Rev. Tracey Darling** (our Superintendent Minister):

To confirm that Deacon Sheralee Devitt will be joining the Circuit from 1st September 2025 (subject to confirmation by the Methodist Conference in June). Please pray for Sheralee, her husband and daughter, as their time in Norfolk draws to an end and they prepare to move to North Devon.

**Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>** will be the Church Away Day, at Westward Ho! Baptist Church.

All are welcome – time to relax, talk and pray together. Includes lunch. Further details to follow.

Christ Church Barnstaple

### **AWAY DAY 2025**

### **Embracing our future**

Saturday, 14 June, 10.00am to 4.30pm

at Westward Ho! Baptist Church

Coffee/tea and Lunch will be provided

We look forward to a day relaxing together with God, giving us time and space to share how we can prepare our Church for our new deacon and move forward with confidence in the coming years. There will be opportunities for spiritual reflection and renewal through optional activities, including a display of talent within our Church, workshops and a walk as well as opportunities to be artistic and creative.

Most importantly we plan on making it an enjoyable day for everyone!

The day will be affordable for everyone with just a suggested voluntary contribution towards costs.

More details and a booking form (asking for a deposit of £5 if possible, requests for transport etc) will be available soon

**but please save the date now.**

## World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service was attended by a good number from Christ Church. This year it was planned by women from the Cook Islands and the parish church was decorated appropriately. The theme was centred around God's relationship with each of us and how wonderfully we have all been made. Tea and cakes were served at the end of the service. Next year it is our turn to host this annual ecumenical service. The pictures below and on the back of this issue of *The Messenger* are of the display, representing the Cook Islands.

'The message that we, as women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.' WDP Cook Islands 2025.

The Cook Islands consist of fifteen islands in the South Pacific Ocean, twelve of which are inhabited. The islands are named after Captain James Cook, who visited the islands in his 1773 and 1777 expeditions. The islands are a majority Christian nation, with strong community and cultural values that derive from their belief in God.

(Photos on back page)

## Dates for your diaries.

**Advanced notice that the Christian Aid Big Brekkie this year will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30-11.30am. We hope you can come.**

**Circuit Lent Bible Study: 'In the Shadow of the Cross'** continues at Sticklepath Methodist Church, on Wednesdays at 2.00pm (April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>). The final session, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, explores the Passover meal. Everyone welcome.

**Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm:** Church Meeting. All are welcome.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

1.00pm Frugal Soup and Bread Lunch (with donations box for Christian Aid Myanmar Appeal)

2.00pm Communion service with Rev. Stephen Caddick

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** (Please note: NO Hobnob today)

**10.30 am Churches Together Walk of Witness** – meet in the Square; finish outside St Peter's, followed by refreshments in the House of Prayer.

OR,

for those who would prefer to sit quietly:

**10.30 am at Christ Church** – a time of prayer and reflective worship for Good Friday, led by Rev. Marilyn Tricker

### **Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

Holy Communion: Rev Stephen Caddick

## Young Families Work News

### Cafe Church (photos on back page)

Café Church is a separate afternoon event held on the second Sunday of the month. We are grateful for the team who have set up the Facebook page which publicises this as a regular event.

In Cafe Church last month we read and discussed the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. The children searched around the church to find pictures of baskets of food, representing the vast amount of food Jesus shared by breaking apart the bread and fish given to him. On the activity tables, the attendees could create fish shapes using slices of colourful and delicious fruit, as well as the opportunity to decorate their own baskets. The children then enjoyed a retelling of the story and discussed the themes surrounding it, and how it applies to their own lives. The children also enjoyed the chance to write their own prayers and some of them read their prayers out to the attendees. Finally we finished this enjoyable evening with fish finger sandwiches for our tea.

Amelia Burke

### Parents and Toddlers

Parents and Toddlers have their Wednesday morning meetings in term time. They were pleased to welcome Jenny G back with her help in the kitchen; as snack time is eagerly anticipated when you've had a busy morning moving around on the new sit & ride car or walking your baby doll around in the pram.

### Sunday Club

The start of March brought us Lent and the beginning of the second half of Spring term. The children of Sunday Club, which runs during part of morning worship, learnt about the Ten Commandments and the bravery of Queen Esther.

16th March was a very special day as we joined with the family and friends of Clara for her Baptism and to celebrate her first birthday. Particular thanks to all for a splendid 'bring and share' lunch, including the wonderful centrepiece of a colourful two-tiered cake.

March concluded with the celebration of Mothering Sunday. We hope you remembered to change your clocks. April will include the school holidays. Sunday Club will be focussing on the events of Holy Week and the first Easter. April Café Church coincides with Palm Sunday.

Maureen Thomas on behalf of the Young Families Work teams.

### Causeway

#### Causeway Meeting Sunday 2nd March 2025

A good number of us, including visitors from Northam Lodge, enjoyed singing God's praises and sharing our news. This was followed by a time of prayer. Gemma, Sharon & Mark read the Bible account of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector to us all, then Marilyn reminded us of the purpose of Lent.

That is, we must admit we have done wrong and ask God to forgive us. She challenged us to spend more time in prayer and Bible study as we wait the 40 days up to Easter.

Jo, Aiden and Summer demonstrated how to make pancakes. This was a special treat and we all enjoyed sampling them at the end. By mixing all the ingredients together and then sharing the delicious pancakes, we were encouraged to share care and love with each other - just as Jesus did.

### Friendship group

#### 10th March

Our speakers were Mayor Janet Coates and Councillor Val Elkins (past mayor and member of Christ Church) who gave a talk about the role of Mayor of Barnstaple. They both gave us an interesting insight into their duties and explained their regalia that they wore. Janet Coates was inaugurated as Town Mayor for May 2024-May 2025. She has lived in Barnstaple since birth and spent most of her teaching career in schools in North Devon.

24th March Our speaker will be Shirley Baxter on Working in Prisons.