

Christ Church Barnstaple Methodist/United Reformed News Update July 2025

Embrace the Future – with Hope!

**The next News Update will cover August and September,
and will help prepare us all for welcoming Deacon
Sheralee into the Circuit**

*Could you (or someone you know) become more involved in
producing future editions of the News Update (or help revive The
Messenger, with its extra news, and pictures?*

PLEASE speak to one of the elders!

Website: www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk

Address: 8 Bear Street, Barnstaple. EX32 7B

**News about the Away Day at Westward Ho! on June 14th can be
found on the centre pages.** Please keep and use the prayer on the
sheet as we continue to think and talk together about the future
work of Christ Church, and our involvement in the wider community.

**The Welcome Service for Deacon Sherallee is on Monday
September 1st at 7.00pm here at Christ Church Barnstaple**

We gather to welcome Sherallee, her husband and daughter, as they
join us here in North Devon. ALL are welcome at this special service.

Sheralee will be a Minister in the Circuit, working with Rev. Tracey

Darling; as a Deacon she has a ministry of 'Prayer, Witness and
Service' alongside the Presbyter's ministry of 'Word and Sacrament'
She will be working with Christ Church Barnstaple, and also with the
congregations and communities at Newport, Sticklepath, Fremington
and High Bickington.

July Diary Dates

Sun	6 th	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Rev. Stephen Caddick Causeway Service
Wed	9 th	2.30pm	Worship Group meeting – at church
Sun	13 th	10.30am 4.30pm	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement Café Church
Mon	14 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out Friendship Group: Games Afternoon
Wed	16 th	7.00pm	Church Meeting (in the church)
Sun	20 th	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship: Deacon Joan Cole At STICKLEPATH: Farewell service for rev. Stephen Caddick
Wed	23 rd	10.00am	Review Morning with Deacon Ruth and Rev. Tracey. ALL welcome
Sat	26 th	2.30 pm	Games Afternoon 2.30 – 4.00pm
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement
Mon	28 th	10.00am	Sound It Out

Regular meetings:

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

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

Thursdays: Twins (Multiples) 10.00 – 12.00am (term-time only)

Thursdays: Circuit Zoom Service 7.00pm

All welcome on any Friday:

Hobnob Coffee Morning 10.00 – 11.30am

Special Events in July

Sun. July 20th 4.00pm at STICKLEPATH Methodist Church:

Farewell Service for Rev. Stephen Caddick and Sharon

Wed. July 23rd 10.00am at Christ Church: A really Important Date:

Rev. Tracey Darling (our Circuit superintendent minister) and Deacon Ruth Richey (Mission Area Lead North - South West Peninsula Methodist District) will be meeting each church (in their own church building) for worship and discussion. Information from this will help the Circuit Leadership Team prepare a 5 year plan for the Circuit. This is a good opportunity to follow up the Away Day, as we share together and explore God's calling to Embrace the Future. All are welcome to join in these conversations now!

Looking Ahead: Christ Church Annual Picnic

Sun. August 10th 12.20 - 3.30pm

In the Grounds of **Pilton Bluecoat Academy** (hall if wet)

ALL WELCOME Bring your own picnic Food and Drink.
Time to chat - lots of space – play games – enjoy fresh air
Finish with a short time of worship,

Friendship Group: Summer meetings (at 2.30pm)

Mon. July 14th Games Afternoon and Tea

Mon. Aug. 11th Quiz with Dave Stephens

Music For Summer Thursday July 10th 7.00pm

At Christ Church Barnstaple

A Concert with Barnstaple Community Choir

Barnstaple Community Orchestra and Guests

Organised by Barnstaple Lions Club

Raffle and Retiring Collection

What happened on the Away Day 2025?

On Saturday 14 June around 28 people gathered in the hall of Westward Ho! Baptist Church to “Embrace our Future”. It was all very informal with quiet and creative rooms available off the hall. We began with a short time of worship linking our thoughts for the day with Pentecost and sang the hymn “Come to us, Creative Spirit”.

We are indebted to Deacon Ruth Richey, Mission Area Lead (North) for the South West Peninsula District of the Methodist Church. Ruth led the day and was joined by Deacon Joan Cole who joined Ruth to help tell us about the history of Deaconesses in the Methodist Church and the role of Deacons in the church today. I found the explanations very helpful in understanding about these Ministers who are dedicated to a life of Prayer, Witness and Service. The Methodist Diaconal Order is “a Christ-centred, prayerful, pioneering Religious Order committed to modelling God’s love in action”.



Deacon Ruth called
on us all to
‘Embrace the Future’

We need
to remember
that God
is always with us.

We spent the day café style in small groups around tables with paper table cloths. We were asked to write down what our Church does currently – and then think WHY we do these activities. Then we were challenged to think about their purpose going forward.

A bit like gardening: you look at your garden, and think how it could be improved – take some plants out or move them around, or plant new ones to make the garden grow better. It was thought-provoking and challenging but also a time of love and teamwork. Everyone took part and we learned more about each other.

After a delicious lunch, we gathered around a large tree that Ruth had drawn. This was the focal point of our afternoon worship. We filled in the trunk and branches with words describing what had helped make us the people who we are today, and what had been important in our growth as a Church community. We added fruit: the positive thoughts and fallen leaves: things we identified as negative. Finally we were invited to add a personal word or phrase to summarise how we felt because of the day.

You will have heard more from Marilyn on the Sunday morning, but there will be more feedback and thinking to do before Sheralee joins us in September.

Paula Littlewood

A Prayer at the Away Day

(shared by Jenny Newman)

As people tend their gardens may we plant seeds of hope everywhere, with faith-filled prayer, words of encouragement, and joy. As we prepare for all that is to come our way, using the tools of faith, hope and love, love for our God and love for one another. Your words of hope and life will keep us planting, reaping and sowing. In time, You will help what You have called us to plant to sprout. We shall recall the Past, celebrate the Present and embrace the Future. Lord, please accept all these prayers in and through the Name of Your dear Son, Jesus. AMEN

Christian Aid Week 2025 Update: (from Janet Marshall)

The total raised by Christ Church from collection envelopes, the Big Brekkie and the plant sale this year was £656.75 A good effort!
Total from the Barnstaple Christian Aid Group: £780.25

Parent and Toddler Group: (from Joy) We are enjoying using our outdoor space - 10 happy children! And thanks to Christopher for the pleasure of enjoying home made ice cream too. Our numbers were swelled by a visiting family from Wales and a new grandma and child. We continue to be a friendly and cheerful group.

The Resource Library has moved!

(But did you even know we had a Resource Library?)

When you are next in the main Church please have a look at the bookcase with the Resource Library on the left-hand side at the back. The resources are there for use by worship leaders, preachers and anyone else who is interested. The library has been rather hidden away, and therefore not used much in the past, so we are trying to make it more accessible. There are bibles, prayers, ideas for children's and all-age worship, and various other religious books. If you do borrow something to read at home, just leave a note to that effect in the notebook.

If you have any books that you think would enhance the collection and which you are happy to give us, we would be grateful for donations. Any feedback gratefully received. Happy reading!

Paula Littlewood and Alison Cairns

Christ Church Barnstaple Elders' Meeting Monday 9th June 2025

The meeting began al fresco in the car park when we observed the route taken by recent visitors to the adjacent property. The police are involved. Possible action for discussion in the agenda proper.

The meeting then moved indoors and was opened in prayer by Rev Stephen with an expectation of the Holy Spirit being with us (it had been Pentecost the previous Sunday).

- The death of church member George Hopkins had been announced. His funeral is on Thurs. 26th June, 1pm at Bratton Fleming church. Others in need of prayer were heard about.
- It was agreed we might follow a course for people interested in Church Membership. This would likely be in the Autumn.
- Concerns for those responsible for church security were highlighted. Imperative that the front church door should be closed at all times.
- Changes in safeguarding issues nationally would impact locally in the next few weeks.
- Thanks to the team who organised the Saturday afternoon games session in church, including Afternoon Tea in May.
- The Worship Group would meet face to face. A request that Tuesday Prayer Group might also meet in person in addition to the Tuesday morning Communion Service was discussed. Some would like this but a decision would need further prayer.
- There was now a bookcase at the back of the church with resources for worship.
- Date for Church Meeting 16th July 2025 at 7pm.
- Rev Marilyn gave us an up to date account of the current situation with Family Hubs and a meeting with Ian Roome MP.
- Details of Church Away Day and yes its not too late to sign up.
- Stewardship to feature in the services at CC led by our own members during June.
- Screen removed from the central position in the church.
- Other property action points included getting a new contact firm for fixing the boiler in Ladies Toilet and fixing the bottom of the Church Noticeboard.
- The Young Church still going strong with individual helpers sharing their talents (ice cream!!).
- Success of the last Saturday Games afternoon in the church.

Date of next Meeting: Tues. 8th July 2025 at Christ Church.

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:

Rev. Tracey Darling 01271 649955 tracey.darling@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Stephen Caddick: 01271 345956

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

Kathy Jeacock (Church Treasurer) 373555

Church Elders: Chris Marshall, Jenny Newman, Staveley Dawson, Janet Marshall, Shirley Baxter, Elaine Stevens, Anthea Coates, Jennifer Allen

Pastoral Team (Church Friends): Shirley Baxter and Elaine Stevens

Room Bookings: 371808

Christian Aid Reps: Janet Marshall and Paula Littlewood

Janet: jcbmar18@btinternet.com

Information for the August/September News Update: to

Paula Littlewood (paula_littlewood@btinternet.com) or to Rev. Marilyn Tricker (marilyn.tricker@outlook.com) by Monday 21st July – so copies can be printed for Sunday 3rd August