

**Christ Church Barnstaple      Methodist/United Reformed**  
**News Update August/September 2025**

**Welcome Service for Deacon Sheralee Devitt**  
**Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm**  
**here at Christ Church Barnstaple**  
**ALL are welcome at this special service.**

Please come to welcome Sheralee, her husband, Brendan and daughter, Leah, as they join us here in North Devon. 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'. She will be working with Christ Church Barnstaple, and also with the congregations and communities at Newport, Sticklepath, Fremington and High Bickington.

**Coming out shortly: a "post Away Day" special edition of this magazine which will include feedback from the meeting held on 23 July as part of the Ilfracombe & District Circuit Church Review**

**Could you be the next Church Treasurer?**

A new treasurer is needed urgently. Please speak to Kathy or any of the Elders if you think you can help

Website: [www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk](http://www.christ-church-barnstaple.org.uk)  
Address: 8 Bear Street, Barnstaple. EX32 7B

## August Diary Dates

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Rev. Sue Macbeth Causeway Service
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 12.30pm	Morning Worship: Val Kift Church Picnic (details elsewhere)
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 2.30pm	Sound It Out Friendship Group: Quiz with Dave Stevens
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship: Heather Bolt
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship: Alison Cairns
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday – NO Sound It Out	
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Games Afternoon 2.30-4pm
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship: Local Arrangement

**Each Thursday at 7.00pm: Circuit Zoom Services (please ask an Elder if you wish to receive the log on details)**

**Each Friday, 10.00 – 11.30am: Hobnob Coffee Morning open to all**

**During School Holidays** there will be NO meetings of:

Rainbows or Brownies, Wednesday morning Parents and Toddlers or Thursday morning Multiples group (unless by special arrangement)

## September Diary Dates

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Circuit Welcome Service for Deacon Sheralee Devitt (followed by refreshments)
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning worship with Holy Communion: Rev. Tracey Darling Causeway
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Sound It Out
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 4.30pm	Morning Worship: Pastor Jason Thorpe Café Church
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship: Deacon Sheralee Devitt
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Sound It Out
Sat	27 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Games Afternoon 2.30 – 4.00pm
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL: Rev. Terry Spencer (followed by lunch)

Regular meetings restarting in September:

Tuesdays: Rainbows and Brownies 5.30pm (start 9 Sept)

Wednesdays: Parents and Toddlers 9.30am (start 10 Sept)

Thursdays: Twins (Multiples) 10.00 – 12.00am (to be confirmed)

**Friendship Group meetings for September tbc. Winter programme will be circulated in October. Please ask an Elder if you are not yet a member of the group but would like to join. All welcome.**

**Parent and Toddlers Group report** - we have had a happy term. 2 children starting school in September were presented with books of Bible stories. Their grandparents are going to continue to come in as helpers which is great news. Also 2 of our mums are expecting babies anytime soon so we wish them well.

Wishing all our children, parents and helpers a lovely summer break. See you all on the 10th of September.

## **Special Events in August and September**

### **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.

### **Annual Harvest Festival service**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am

The service will be led by Rev Terry Spencer and followed by a bring and share lunch. All are welcome to either or both. Details about gifts tbc but we will be distributing all foodstuffs and donations of money.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **Quiz and Pasty evening with Dave Stevens**

**Saturday 18th October at 7pm**

All are welcome to join in this popular event. Get your thinking caps on! Bring a team or come or join one on the night.

#### **Winter Fair**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 10am - 2 pm**

This year we will be serving light lunches and refreshments.  
Our stalls will be Books and Puzzles, Cakes, Gifts, Raffle.  
We will start collecting from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We look forward to seeing you at these events which are important fundraisers for the Church as well as being a lot of fun.

## **Notes from the Elders meeting held 8 July 2025**

(with thanks to Elaine Stevens)

\*Thanks are recorded to Gill Greenland for her time as a Church Friend. She has now stepped down and those members that were on her list have been moved to other church friends.

\*Rev Tracey Darling is overseeing those who wish to become church members.

\*Safeguarding report tabled.

\*There is a bookcase at the back of the church with resources available for everyone in the Circuit to use/ borrow. Donations of suitable books welcome.

\*Thanks were expressed to Marilyn for the work she does to prepare the monthly news sheets.

\* All the A4C Children's Centre hubs have been closed. Multiples group hope to continue to meet at CC.

\*Church Away Day enjoyed by all who took part.

\*Finance. There is enough money in the CFB for Kathy to be able to pay for 3 of the quarter assessments.... But, depending on how much the utility bills will be, will determine whether there will be sufficient for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment.

**Note: A NEW TREASURER IS NEEDED URGENTLY.**

\*We have had one quote for a new water heater for the Ladies toilet, but Staveley will get another quote.

\*Nick Henderson will replace the broken door closure on the main door.

\*All the work with Children and Young Families is going well.

\*Events: Quiz and Pasty evening will be on Sat.18 October; Church Fair on Sat. 8 November. Harvest Festival service is on Sun. 28 Sept. and will be led by Rev Terry Spencer and followed by a harvest bring and share lunch.

\*If anyone is willing to take on, or help with, the monthly news sheet, please speak to Marilyn.

\*Deacon Sherelee's welcome service will be recorded so that it can be seen by more people than those who are able to be present at the service. Seth Conway Media will look into this.

\*Date of next Meeting: Monday 4 August at 7.15pm. September meeting date tbc

**From our Treasurer, Kathy:** A very big thank you to those of you who have increased your regular offertory to Christ Church. It enables us to focus better on the opportunities of the future. Over the last year we have invited people to contribute to particular maintenance issues. In the current financial climate, some people feel more able to make a 'one-off' gesture, rather than commit to an on-going increase in their financial support of Christ Church. There are two outstanding jobs that we hope will be completed soon: the replacement of the water heater in the ladies' toilets and sorting out the mechanism on the front door so that it can be locked open when necessary (for mobility scooters or children's buggies etc). The cost of the water heater is in the region of £600, cost of fixing the front door is not yet known. If you feel you could help support either of these upkeep costs, please place your donation in an envelope in the Sunday offertory. (If you are a tax payer and are happy to gift aid your donation, please use an orange envelope.)

Our combined gas & electricity charges for May (the most up to date I have) totalled £2262.30.

**Christian Aid Week 2025 final totals:** as well as our own efforts raising £780.25, the Barnstaple group of churches (7 in total) which Paula and I also look after raised an additional £870.25 which brings the grand total raised between us during Christian Aid Week 2024 to **£1527**. A good amount of these donations were also gift aided so Christian Aid will receive a further 25% on top of the gift made.

*Janet Marshall*

## **Are you missing The Messenger?**

You may have noticed that, recently, our former magazine “The Messenger”, has been replaced by a monthly news update. Like “The Messenger” the plan is to produce this for 10 months of the year (with two-monthly editions for December/January and August/September).

At present our plan is to produce just a news update with essential information, diary dates etc, generally without reports of past events or general information as we used to have in “The Messenger.” Photos are possible but won’t appear in as great a number as they used to.

**But what do you think?** Do you agree with this approach? Is there anything you would particularly like to see go in or stay out? Do you think 10 editions a year is about right or would 6 be sufficient (so that each one covers two months)? Do you think we should revive “The Messenger”, with its extra news, and pictures?

**Please feedback ideas to us but, very importantly, could you (or someone you know) become more involved in producing future editions of the News Update or The Messenger if we return to that format?**

**PLEASE speak to one of the elders, Marilyn or me if you can help and/or have feedback. Thank you**

It’s your Church so therefore your magazine!

*Paula Littlewood*

### **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)

Alison Cairns (Church Secretary) 343154 [alisoncairns@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jcbmar18@btinternet.com)

**Information for the October News Update:** please by Monday 15 September to Paula Littlewood ([paula\\_littlewood@btinternet.com](mailto:paula_littlewood@btinternet.com)) so copies can be printed for Sunday 28 September