

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

ISSUE 248

www.christchurchnsfb.org



DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2017

OCT.

Sun. 1 st		Diana Bensted
	11.00 am.	Morning Worship & Junior Church
Tues. 3 rd	4.15 pm.	Rainbows (every Tues. until break)
	5.15 pm.	Brownies (“ “ “ “)
	7.15 pm.	Guides (“ “ “ “)
Wed. 4 th	7.45 pm.	Grapevine
Thurs. 5 th	2.00 pm.	Women’s Club – Cards
	5.20 pm.	Beavers (every Thurs. until break)
	6.15 pm.	Cub Scouts (“ “ “ “)
	7.00 pm.	Scouts (“ “ “ “)
Fri. 6 th	10.00 am.	Parent & Toddlers (every Friday until break)
Sat. 7 th	10.30 am.	Coffee Morning – Parent & Toddlers
Sun. 8 th		Rev. Ruth Moriarty
	11.00 am.	Morning Worship & Rededication All Age Service
Tues. 10 th	2.00 pm.	Friendship Club
Wed. 11 th	8.00 pm.	Deacons Meeting - tbc
Sun. 15 th		Mr Peter Griffiths
	11.00 am.	Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
Wed. 18 th	7.45 pm.	Grapevine
Thurs. 19 th	2.00 pm.	Women’s Club – Bring & Buy
Fri. 20 th – Sun. 22 nd		Brownie Pack Holiday to Cherry Green Trees

Sun. 22 nd	11.00 am.	Rev. Ruth Moriarty Morning Worship
Tues. 24 th	2.00 pm.	Friendship Club
Sat. 28 th	10.00 am.	Gardening in the Church grounds
Sun. 29 th	11.00 am. 12.15 pm.	Rev. Ruth Moriarty Morning Worship & Junior Church Church Meeting & Deacons Election
Tues. 31 st	8.00 pm.	Fabric & Finance Meeting at Lynda's

NOV.

Thurs. 2 nd	2.00 pm.	Women's Club
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ELECTION OF DEACONS

Can Church Members please remember to return their Nomination Papers by Sunday 8th October.

Voting will take place after worship on Sunday 29th October.

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11 at 8pm. on Monday 16th October 2017.

Please let us have your material for the November Newsletter by Sunday 15th October.

FINANCE FOR APRIL 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2017

Cash	£2,081.81
Envelopes	<u>£3,485.00</u>
	£5,566.81

September Church Meeting Collection of £11.92
For the Compassionate Fund

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends of Christ Church,

During the past month there have been so many disasters and dreadful events. We think of the Caribbean Islands struggling with the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma, followed by Maria another one. Both of these were category 5 hurricanes sweeping across numerous islands. Tortola looked unrecognisable! Chris and I went on a Caribbean cruise a few years ago and Tortola in the Virgin Islands was one of our favourite islands; really idyllic!

Once again the poor people will be hit the hardest. I am sure we have all been praying for those who have lost everything.

We think too of the shock of the earthquake in Mexico City. We have seen rescues of children trapped beneath their school. What chaos! But a great sense of hope as the Rescue Teams worked. We pray for rebuilding of lives and comfort for the people affected.

The daily news bulletins are depressing very often but let us bring these deep concerns to the Lord in prayer, calling for their aid.

“So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”. Mark 11:24

As Ruth said at our Harvest Service to see the work of Operation Agri in the DVD was uplifting:- help for people without access to clean water and support for young widows in Sri Lanka. (That project was begun before these last dreadful events).

We saw hope in their situations in the DVD.

We had a wonderful Harvest weekend of strong fellowship as well as an interactive service and huge support for HAB to give people hope and free them from worry.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”. Isaiah 40:31

Saint Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love”.

You all did your part as you supported the homeless and those affected in Sri Lanka.

We pray in hope that life will run more smoothly worldwide for all but we all know the realities!

As Pennie Bongomin would say, “The Lord will never leave you, trust in him”.

May the Lord bless and keep you in the palm of his hand.

Anthea Denham

FAMILY NEWS

Once again we remember in our prayers the many people throughout the World who have suffered great losses recently because of earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, war or terrorist attacks.

Closer to home we also pray for our own folk and their families and friends who are coping with bereavement, are sick and unwell or are recovering from or awaiting operations. Many of whom were included in the prayer requests made during our Sunday morning service; sadly there are so many problems.

We pray for God’s blessing and his guidance so that we can all help each other at all times.

Ola Lawal has been on a training and study programme and will be away at other Churches over the coming months. Please see the item herein.

We are thinking of Ola and pray for God’s support during this time.

HARVEST SUPPER

On the 16 September 2017 members and friends met at Christ Church to celebrate Harvest. This is all that needs be said if you are merely recording the fact. However, I have been asked to say more.

I was a child in the 1950's when harvest in Pembrokeshire meant a feast and fun. In that respect, there are few differences between the Harvest in London and the ones of my childhood. Nevertheless, there are some.

For example, in my youth people brought to harvest service the produce of garden or allotment, field, and hedgerow. Popular were marrows, pumpkins, and all sorts of vegetables which were in season, berries and nuts from wood and lane, and the local baker always donated the largest loaf of bread in the shape of a wheat sheaf. We then gave the ladies the produce and within a day or so they had cooked the lot. We had soup, pumpkin pie, apple pie, and every combination of available produce you could think of (including last harvest's chutney!). We did not as far as I remember donate any food anywhere but the supper was open to all. We had songs (both solo and choir) recitations, stories and sometimes a guest speaker. We always opened and closed with a hymn. Of course this all reflected the country way of life we lived.

In busy London we had fish/chicken or sausage and chips which were very well received and enjoyed. And the selection of desserts were out of this world! We had a quiz which was a challenging brain teaser and Mein Host Roger Oram kept the feast going with his inimitable wit and charm. Thanks as always go to the FACC committee and helpers for making this an enjoyable evening.

The only real difference between my childhood and Christ Church Harvest is that in London you have the meal before the service and the collected food is distributed to the homeless so that all may partake which is part of our Christian witness in Friern Barnet.

Feasting and fellowship before the Lord is what Harvest is about and both London and West Wales reflect the biblical understanding of gathering produce for a feast in thanksgiving to God for his bounty.

I like this passage from Isaiah that combines feasting and fellowship:

Isaiah 62:8-9

The LORD has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm, "I will never again give your grain as food for your enemies; Nor will foreigners drink your new wine for which you have laboured." **But those who garner it will eat it and praise the LORD; And those who gather it will drink it in the courts of My sanctuary.**

Peter Griffiths

THE MISSION GROUP

We are having a meeting in the Parlour on Sunday 1st October after the service. There is a great deal to discuss but hopefully we won't be too long.

Our harvest service appeal for Operation Agri was very generous. So far I have banked £186.42 which is great! We watched a very good DVD on the work in Sri Lanka where young widows were being helped into work and money management as well as wells being built in some rural villages where the people walk for miles to collect water. Just imagine!

There was also a wonderful display of goods for HAB (Homeless Action in Barnet) all donated by you. Sara Skinner and I took them to HAB on Monday morning and about 8 men came and carried it in from Sara's car. They were delighted to receive it all. So thank you for your generous support.

At 9.30 in the morning there were already quite a few "guests" at HAB. They feed at least 100 people a day!

May God bless you All.

Anthea Denham

CHRISTIAN AID

I will be banking £30 for Christian Aid which someone gave me.

Next Harvest we will probably return to giving to Christian Aid, as we rotate with giving to Operation Agri.

Anthea Denham

PARENT AND TODDLERS

Parent and Toddlers opened on Friday 15th September. I went up and was surprised to see quite a few parents, grandmas and children. It was lovely to see them and see how much they'd grown.

The Pre-School Learning Alliance had contacted Sara with a view to a 5 week programme of workshops for the little ones based on the book "Dear Zoo". They were busy making animal faces with materials. At the end of the session they had lots of boxes – each one containing an animal featured in the story. A box was placed in front of each child as they sat in a circle with their Mums. When it was their turn they took the lid off the box and took out the toy animal, to their delight. So sweet!

Sara Skinner and Anne were well prepared for the start of a new term. Some children had "gone up" to nursery school so most of the children were very young. They enjoyed the traditional singing too before the close of the session.

The next Coffee Morning is being run by the Parent and Toddler Team. Sara and I decided we would collect for Macmillan Cancer Care. Please come along and support us and bake a few cakes if you are able. See you on Saturday 7th October from 10.30 to 12 o'clock!

Anthea Denham

WOMEN'S CLUB

We had almost a full house when we met on Thursday 7th September for a Welcome Back afternoon with a game of UNO that had us all laughing.

We welcomed the Rev. Ruth Moriarty who shared in our conversation and afternoon tea. On 21st September we had a craft afternoon when we created a memory bracelet with the help of Val Oram.

We meet every two weeks and all are welcome to join us. As well as craft tasks we have talks and art with help and direction when needed.

If you need any more information please ring me on 07703483791.

Jane Gibbins

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On our “Welcome Back” afternoon on the 12th September we spent a very happy time together catching up with all that had happened during our weeks away.

Television had played a big part for we had been able to keep up with the Wimbledon Tennis Championship, Open Golf, athletics, cricket and other sporting events. We talked until it was time to clear up and return home.

On Tuesday 26th we brought anything “small” that was also very useful and we were surprised at the many things that were put on the table. There were thimbles, sewing needles, pins, safety pins, a bobbin, buttons and press studs. We also had nail clippers and fold up scissors, a minute screw driver, a window key and even a radiator key.

We seem to be running out of ideas for our meetings but decided that at our next meeting on the 10th October we would bring “old books”.

Our meetings start with tea and biscuits. Please join with us if you can.

Gladys Townsend

THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION IN THE SKY: PSALM 19:1-6

Greetings from Uganda in the name of Christ.
I had a lovely time with a bonus!

Since my childhood I have always enjoyed watching and counting the stars that covered the blue sky. In Uganda once in a while I would be blessed with the sight of a new moon of a week old. That is some beautiful sight!

But not as beautiful as the amazing and incredible sight of God's creation in the sky that I saw' on my way to visit my in-laws in Gulu towards Uganda -Sudan boarder! That is the Bonus!

I had to travel 13 miles from my village, Nagongera to our main town Tororo to catch the coach to Gulu that left at 6am. No local public transport at that time, so I had to accept a motorbike ride from my nephew! I am not very fond of motorbikes unless I can control the speed of the rider! I had no problem with that. In our culture an Auntie especially on father's side, is one of the most respected member of the community. To him, was like carrying a box full of precious china cups!

We had to start out at 5am in order to catch that coach at 6 am. It was still very dark with only the full moon and the stars as our guide' and our Lord to protect us along the lonely village road!

About 20 minutes into our journey, suddenly, to sort of the NE side of the sky, I saw the most amazing and incredible sight, a beautiful bright light in the sky. So bright I first thought that it was a warning light on a pole of some sort. It was so bright like a small head lamp of a car! There were another two shining through the clouds, much stronger than the full moon shining too through the clouds on the opposite side!

I excitedly asked my nephew, what are those beautiful bright lights in the, sky? He simply answered me "SULWE" as if he expected me to know. He said that they come out in threes at exactly 5am every morning, and disappear at sunrise- 6am.

I immediately remembered my late parents and those of their generation talking about it. Saying that someone left at “sulwe”, like one would say, leaving early at dawn. So I never bothered to ask what it meant.

People of their generation travelled 10miles plus so they needed to leave very early in the morning so they depended on nature to tell the time. I have never seen anything like that in my life before. I am sure I have been out at 5 am at one point in my life in Uganda, but may be God simply reserved that for me till now, everything has its time according to God’s will.

As we travelled to our final destination I kept my eyes on those glorious creations of God, shining so beautifully bright in the sky. As sunrise came up at 6am they disappeared just as my nephew said.

Then I got on the coach, throughout the over 9hrs to Gulu the three bright objects stuck on my mind the whole way, making the long journey very easy. When I got to Gulu I could not wait to share with my in-laws what I had seen on my way there! I asked one of them what these glorious objects were called in English, exposing my ignorance without shame!

“Morning Stars”, he said.

I’d heard of morning stars but never seen one! Incredible things! Then they confirmed my nephew’s explanations.

The morning I left for home I had to get up at 5 am to catch the coach again and in the sky were the three, God’s wonderful creation, shining so bright in the cloudless sky.

Strange enough I usually take the Kampala road which is shorter, there was a good reason for all this!

All these amazing stars made me think of what King David wrote: (The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship They speak without a sound or a word). Psalm19:1-3. To people who don’t know God, the sky and all it contains shouts; “Yes God Exists.”

This message is available to everyone who lives on earth. The sun and the clouds harmonise to send their wordless confirmation of God (throughout the earth) v.4. To those on the other side of the planet, the stars and the moon say the same thing. There's never a time when the sky doesn't testify to God in the world. Dark or light, it's always there. Day after day the heavens continue to speak; night after night they make God known, v.2

AMEN.

Pennie Bongomin

TLS – GATEWAY INTO WORSHIP TRAINING

I was one of those Christians who went to Church out of habit and tended to do mainly what was convenient. Those that know well like Roger who regularly teased me knew I hated getting out of bed before 10am at the weekend. This explained my lateness on some Sunday mornings!

Around 5yrs ago. I started to get prompts to do more for God and His Kingdom but ignored it. The prompts got more urgent in the last three years. and could not be ignored any longer, so I started to pray about it asking God to show me what I was supposed to do. It pushed me towards exploring ministry. Roughly two years ago, I went for training at the URC Thames North Synod headquarters on Sacraments with Sue, Pennie, Clare and Robert. It was led by Ann Sanderson, the training officer. I found it very spiritual and enjoyable. She gave us the prospectus for TLS lite (Training for Local Service) that was to start in September in case anyone wanted to consider ministry. She said it would take three years part time to complete.

The prompts became a continuous ringing bell. I prayed and made further enquiries about it. The first year would be at the High Cross URC Tottenham and led by Rev. John Campbell. A very spiritual, funny and knowledgeable man who lived his Christianity daily. He told us we

could do 2yrs. and become a Thames North local lay preacher or 3yrs. and become a nationally recognized URC lay preacher.

The normal me wanted to go for the 2yrs, but with prayers was prompted to do the 3yrs assignments which God helped me through.

The second year started last Thursday, 21/09/2017 and there is a lot more work to do; writing of journals, essays and conducting services. Also, introductory day at Birmingham, three study weekends at Manchester and Ely as well as regular evening lectures. The most difficult part for me is, I have to be attached to URC Harlesden for most of the year and be supervised by their minister, Rev. Edwin Quildan. It means I'll be away from church most of the year.

Please regularly pray to God, bless my year at Harlesden, and grant me all that is needed to cope and enjoy this new phase of my ministry journey.

Thank you.

Ola Lawal

FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

Hi Folks.

It's that time again when we ask you to help at the Christmas Bazaar which will be held on Saturday 2nd December in the Church like we did last year.

We were delighted with the result of last year's effort and a lot of the local people came and really enjoyed the event and are looking forward to this year.

Of course this does not run itself so please can all the groups within the Church run their stalls and please let the committee know what you can do. Of course anyone can put up their own stall so long as you tell us.

At the moment the Rainbows, Brownies & Guides are fully committed to running their stalls, so we now need you to help as well.

Let's make it a really Happy & Festive day for the local community.

Thanks in anticipation for a good day.

Val, Lynda, Sara & Anne

GARDENING IN CHURCH GROUNDS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Over the years, as a church we have tried to sort out a time convenient to anyone willing to offer an hour or two to keep the grounds at Christ Church in reasonable shape.

After a conversation following the Sunday service the idea of meeting on the fourth Saturday has been put forward; this would enable us to plan ahead. Gardening tools of brooms, rakes, secateurs, shears and the like are available, also some gardening gloves.

So, Saturday 28th Oct will be the next occasion for all those who have a little time and wish to show, to all passing pedestrians, we care about the upkeep of our Church and land.
Refreshments are provided.

Sue Rogers



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Fed up with that ill-health, that lack of job or good job, a life that appears to be stagnant, relationships that have collapsed or approaching total collapse? Don't go down the way of the world to remedy it. Most of the available worldly quick-fix answers and self-help advice hardly ever work. They mostly give transient relief. We are in the world but not of the world. Be patient, forgiving and non-judgemental. Ask Lord Jesus Christ to be at the centre of your life or the situation you might be facing. Ask Him to renew and restore you or your situation. Try regular reading of the Psalm 80 verses below, changing the 'us' to 'me' and the 'son to daughter' as appropriate, for sustenance. Grant us your mercy O Lord. **Amen**

Psalm 80: 14, 15 & 19

¹⁴ Return to us, God Almighty!

Look down from heaven and see!

Watch over this vine,
¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Ola Lawal

Ola has been providing many of these articles for some time now and we thank her for all her continued hard work in this regard.

It is always good to receive items for inclusion in our Newsletter and if you would like to send us an article every now and again then please speak to the committee.

Please accept our apologies for any errors contained within the Newsletter. We rely on all contributors to ensure that details are correct before submission. Thank you.

The Newsletter Committee

POLICE WARNING – KEYLESS CAR THEFT

There is a copy of an email at the back of the Church received from our local Police.

It refers to a crime pattern where thieves park near you and use a technical gadget that allows your car lights to flash as normal when you press your “zapper” to lock your car but the locking mechanism does not in fact engage!

When you’ve walked off they get in your car and using another device copy the “key” from the ignition and also attach a GPS tracker underneath.

They later use the tracker to find where your car is and then using the “key” they have made unlock your car and drive it away.

Please read the full email and be wary of anyone near your car, perhaps when parking in a supermarket car park, the Church car park, or anywhere else.