

**CHRIST CHURCH
NEW SOUTHGATE & FRIERN BARNET
(Baptist / United Reformed)**

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

ISSUE 214

www.christchurchnsfb.org



**HARVEST WEEKEND
27TH / 28TH SEPTEMBER**

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Mon. 1 st	8.00 pm.	Fabric & Finance Meeting at the Manse
Wed. 3 rd	8.00 pm.	Grapevine
Thurs. 4 th	8.00 pm.	Bible Study at 85 Friern Barnet Road
Sun. 7 th	11.00 am.	The Minister – Rev. Caroline Rogers Morning Worship & Junior Church
Mon. 8 th	8.00 pm.	Prayer Meeting at Allister & Julie Duncan's
Tues. 9 th	2.00 pm. 7.15 pm.	Friendship Club – Welcome back Guides (every Tues. until break)
Wed. 10 th	8.00 pm.	Deacons Meeting
Thurs. 11 th	2.00 pm.	Women's Club – My visit to Turkey, Anthea Denham
Fri. 12 th	10.00 am.	Parent & Toddlers (every Friday until break)
Sat. 13 th	10.30 am.	Coffee Morning – the Brownies
Sun. 14 th	11.00 am.	The Minister – Rev. Caroline Rogers Morning Worship & Junior Church
Tues. 16 th	9.30 am. 4.15 pm. 5.15 pm.	Sacred Space (refreshments afterwards) Rainbows (every Tues. until break) Brownies (every Tues. until break)
Wed. 17 th	8.00 pm.	Grapevine
Thurs. 18 th	5.20 pm. 6.15 pm. 7.00 pm. 8.00 pm.	Beavers (every Thurs. until break) Cub Scouts (every Thurs. until break) Scouts (every Thurs. until break) Bible Study at 85 Friern Barnet Road

Sun. 21st 11.00 am. The Minister – Rev. Caroline Rogers
Morning Worship & Junior Church

Tues. 23rd 2.00 pm. Friendship Club – Harvest afternoon

Wed. 24th 8.00 pm. Church Meeting

Thurs. 25th 2.00 pm. Women’s Club – Paper Folding

Sat. 27th 5.00 pm. Harvest Supper at Grove Road CC

Sun. 28th 11.00 am. The Minister – Rev. Caroline Rogers
Morning Worship & Communion -
Uniformed Parade Service

OCTOBER

Wed. 1st 8.00 pm. Grapevine

Thurs. 2nd 8.00 pm. Bible Study at 85 Friern Barnet Road

Sun. 5th 11.00 pm. Mr Allister Duncan
Morning Worship

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 15th September 2014.

Please let us have your material by Sunday 14th September.

FINANCE APRIL 2014 – AUGUST 2014

Cash	£2297.73	July Communion for
Envelopes	<u>£4049.00</u>	BMS Relief Fund £33.20
	£6346.73	August Communion for
		The Benevolent Fund £42.02

Dear Friends,

At the start of the academic year we look forward to what God wants to do in us and through us. However it is right that we continue to remember, in our prayers, the families of those who are grieving and also those who rejoice. It's only a few months ago we had a wedding let's remember that couple in prayer and just two weeks ago we had two funerals and a week ago that we had an infant blessing. Let's keep these old and new friends in our prayers.

We also hope to officially welcome some friends into membership on Sunday 28 September (please note that communion has moved to this date) and we have some possible Baptisms. And of course we have our building project. In late August the Joint Council approved the proposal that we should look at renovating our hall and how that can be achieved and so we press forward with this plan. Keep praying!

But what about us as individuals? The church is made up of individuals who together form the body of Christ. Frankly there is no point in making renovations if there is no one to pass the church on to! Harsh but true. And church growth no doubt starts in the spiritual growth of us as individuals. I mentioned recently that it was explained to me that a trees branches grow out beyond the roots of the tree. It reminded me once again of Psalm 1

Psalm 1

¹Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

²but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper. (NRSA)

If we want to see growth, if we want to see people in our community and family coming to faith and knowing the joy of the Lord then it starts first with us as individuals and our personal relationship with Jesus. Let each one of us commit to hanging out with God more. That might include walking in the parks and thanking God for his creation and just thinking about him, getting up earlier or going to bed earlier so that we can read the Bible and pray more, coming to our Sacred Space events or meditating on his word at home or on the tube to work. Growth starts with us as individuals spending time with the Lord Jesus so that his Spirit fills us with joy and laughter as we experience his love for us.

Psalm 9:1-2

I'm thanking you, God, from a full heart,
I'm writing the book on your wonders.
I'm whistling, laughing, and jumping for joy;
I'm singing your song, High God. (MSG)

Now that's contagious! Let's be full of Jesus love and be contagious for God! Amen?

Caroline ☺

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group begins again on Thursday 4th September at 8pm. We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month from 8pm to 9.30pm at 85 Friern Barnet Road, near to the church (for parking) and close to the bus stop (221 and 382).

We meet round a table in comfortable surroundings and there is tea/coffee and biscuits. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly and all are invited no matter how little or how much you understand of the Bible. We are there to discuss and learn from the word of God. Please join us and widen your knowledge of The Gospels and the people who lived through those times.

Jane Gibbins

FAMILY NEWS

As our last Newsletter was at the beginning of July we have to report, with much sadness the deaths, both in July, of Ron Townsend and Brian Phipps - (see following items). Please pray for their families and friends.

Also please continue to pray for the following friends - Brian Gray, Lynda & Martyn Eade, Lily Dawton and Pat Carpenter.

On Sunday 24th August we witnessed the infant blessing of Elliott, baby son of Hannah and Gavin Robertson. The Church was packed with family and friends and we hope that some might continue to come to Christ Church to worship with us.

THE FORWARD FAMILY NEWS

Tanya, Gary, Elizabeth and Naomi have been busy with a stream of visitors to stay with them in Turkey. I went out there with Naomi in early July and added to the great pleasure of being with them all again; I must say it was a wonderful time.

Their house and it's situation is lovely and I had some very interesting visits. I could quite see why they love it so much – the whole lifestyle suits them. The temperature was 38-40 degrees but Elizabeth said, “I think we are acclimatized now.

Meanwhile their eldest, Luke has become engaged and their wedding will be next July. Everyone is very happy about this.

Anthea Denham

Gladys, Paul and Clive Townsend wish to thank Rev. Caroline Rogers, Rev. Dr. Roger Scopes, family and all Church Members and friends who attended Ron's funeral on the 19th August. We thank you for your prayers, your love and support over the past weeks, and for the numerous cards and flowers received. May God be with you and Bless you all.

Donations in memory of Ron to The Lin Berwick Trust (www.thelinberwicktrust.org.uk) & the Alzheimer's Society (www.alzheimers.org.uk) currently total over £400.

RONALD ARTHUR TOWNSEND - FAMILY MEMORIES

Ron was born on the 14th August 1927 in Sittingbourne, making him a “Man of Kent” – and a very proud one at that. He was the youngest of four children. Two sisters, Peggy and Audrey, and brother Les.

Following the death of his father when he was 6, Ron moved to Catford, South East London, to live above a watchmaker’s shop where Les worked.

During the Second World War Ron and sister Audrey were evacuated to Bethersden in Kent, although they were separated, with Ron living on a farm, a couple of miles from the local junior school. As there was no senior school there for Ron to go to he started work on the farm learning many practical skills. He had good memories of his life and the people there.

Before the war ended Ron went back to live in Catford, where he began work at the hardware and ironmongers shop next door, George Coe’s, helping many customers with repairs and advice, whilst gaining knowledge for his future working life. During his time at the shop he also helped build a new house for George Coe adjoining Beckenham Place Park.

When he was about 15 Ron joined the Air Training Corps, playing the bugle and drums (not at the same time!) in the ATC band, no doubt sparking his love of military music. After their meetings they had refreshments at the local Phoenix Club and it was there one Sunday in the early 1940’s that a young Gladys Walters went with a friend to serve tea. Ron liked a cup of tea (no sugar) and the rest is history. Gladys will tell you she served him tea ever since.

Weekly Repertory Company performances, at Penge Empire and the New Theatre Bromley, was where they spent happy times together, watching up and coming actors such as Leslie Phillips, and Arthur Lowe of Dad’s Army fame.

Ron & Gladys were married on the 5th December 1948 at St. Laurence’s Church, Catford, followed by a honeymoon in Bournemouth.

Following the birth of Paul in 1952 Ron became friendly with the husband of a lady who Gladys had met at the local clinic, and this led to Ron leaving the hardware shop in 1956 to join his friend in establishing a company producing tape recorders - remember them! The Windsor Recording Company factory was located to the rear of No. 2 Bellevue Road, adjacent to Christ Church, and after travelling to work each day for many months from South London, Ron and the rest of the family, which by now included a 3 year old Clive, moved in 1957 to live in a flat next to the factory.

Soon after moving to Friern Barnet Ron was invited by Frank Gill and Bert Wray (husbands of colleagues at the factory) to the Men’s Society at Christ Church, and it was there that Ron’s lengthy association with the Church began. He enjoyed the camaraderie and made many long term friendships.

After leaving Windsor's the family moved home towards Muswell Hill, and Ron started a new job as an inventory manager in the Radio Division at Standard Telephones and Cables at their factory in Brunswick Park.

After the closure of the Radio Division he worked alongside church friends Vic and Peter Craig, in their family building company.

Following heart by pass surgery in 1992 Ron needed to slow down and retired from working for a living, however he didn't really understand the term "retirement" often helping people out with emergency problems, including someone who had a burst pipe late one Christmas Eve. He spent more time around the Church, was introduced to Free Masonry, visited many people in hospital, and became a Night Chaplain at Barnet Hospital.

In his younger days Ron visited The Valley to watch Charlton Athletic play football. Later his interest turned to playing golf, buying all the equipment necessary. As he was not a member of a golf club it became the norm to get up very early to claim the first available tee times.

When sons Paul & Clive started playing for Arkley Cricket Club, having been introduced by friend Arthur Brown, and son Peter, Ron showed great interest in the club and his sons performances. He also supported the Club in other ways, including helping with fund raising Jumble Sales held in Christ Church Hall.

A visit with friends Stan & Dorothy Gesthuysen to see the musical "Cats" sparked an enthusiasm for going to many of the new musicals on the London stage. Les Miserables became one of his favourites and he listened to the music from these shows at home in later years.

Family holidays were originally spent in Bournemouth. Since 1990 holidays were determined by the venues for the Open Golf Championship, and these have taken the family to Scotland on many occasions. Ron loved the landscape and scenery there. Other Scottish trips have been enjoyed - attending the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Highland Games at Balmoral, and the opening of Denis Duncan House, a new holiday home for disabled people and their families or carers, provided by the Lin Berwick Trust in East Lothian.

Memorable times were spent visiting National Trust properties, canals, steam railways, the National Railway Museum in York, RAF Museum at Hendon, and watching the Red Arrows.

Notwithstanding his commitment to the family, Ron always made time for others, and a large part of his life revolved around Christ Church, becoming involved in every possible way. Long before he became Church Secretary he took over as Premises Manager a role he played until recently when health problems took their toll. As Roger Oram said there's probably not an inch of the premises that he's not climbed up, crawled over, painted, cleaned or cut.

He served as an Elder & Deacon, and organised various meetings, outings and functions. He regularly provided lifts for people to get to and from Church, and even drove church friends to their holiday destinations – once to Cornwall!

Happy but hectic times were spent with the Bellevue Players, an amateur dramatic group, spawned from the Church youth group. Ron was older than others in the group but he got on well with everyone. His role did not involve acting. His talents were utilised as stage manager - building the scenery, and making props, which included a small piano for the musical Salad Days, and a life size ostrich for another production, which one day found it's own way to outside the local shops. These were some of the happiest days of his life.

On one occasion he worked into the early hours to fire proof the stage curtains as the Fire Officer wouldn't give his permission for a production to go ahead. Gladys got used to him arriving home late from Church!

Over recent years Ron experienced failing health but he struggled on. Gladys loved and cared for him throughout. At the beginning of December last year they celebrated 65 happy years of marriage.

Sadly, Ron died on 24th July in Barnet Hospital.

Ron had a cheeky side to his character, often pulling your leg, but he was someone you could really trust and rely on. He had sensitive and caring qualities and you could count on him to help whatever the problem. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

RON TOWNSEND – a tribute by Clare Jenkins

Sadly Ron Townsend passed away recently at nearly 87 years old. He will be remembered for over 25 years of service to Christ Church as Church Secretary and also as an active member of the URC Thames North Synod (current name) and even longer as Premises Manager of Christ Church.

I only knew Ron for 14 years. During that time it became clear to me how much he was valued by the URC area when I sang with the Life and Mission Choir with church secretaries of other churches; all regularly asking after him.

I served with Ron, as a Deacon and on the Newsletter committee for around 10 years. He was generous with time and help, with very clear opinions on certain topics. His knowledge of the history of the Congregational Church and then its life as a URC church was excellent. However, he was also aware of the need for progress without losing sight of where we have come from.

His family were a great support to him and enabled him to carry on with his many roles within the church for so many years.

I will miss the glint in his eye just before a comment on my dress, accuracy of Deacons' minutes or newsletter article.

FAMILY EULOGY FOR BRIAN PHIPPS

Brian was born 31.12.1932, the only son of George and Dorothy Agnes Phipps who were very active in the local community and had resided in the same house since 1938.

We know Brian spent a number of years living in Chesterfield as a young man, where he was to develop a lifelong affinity to Chesterfield Football Club. He was and remained so to this day.

On his return to the family home from Chesterfield he took up employment with Remploy as an Accounts Clerk in July 1957.

After a couple of years he sought a position with the North Thames Gas Board as an Accounts Clerk, 2nd Grade in Westminster in 1959. He remained with North Thames Gas Board until retirement in 1984

Having retired he was able to concentrate his time following the colours of Chesterfield Football Club, Doncaster Rovers Football Club, Truro City Football Club of which he was an ardent supporter. He also acted in the capacity of Secretary to Finchley Supporters Club. In conversations with Brian over the telephone he would relate episodes of his idol and namesake Ron Phipps who was a player for Barnet Football Club, another of Brian's teams.

He was as most of you are well aware a strong member of the congregation of the local United Reformed Church together with involvement in the World Congress of Faith, Congregational Federation and numerous other associations which formed his strong beliefs. He also enjoyed visiting National Trust Properties and numerous excursions to places of interest.

Brian was a confirmed bachelor with many strong views which some of you no doubt may have mixed thoughts on. One particular incident springs to mind when he wrote a letter of complaint to London Transport about a particular bus that failed to stop when he raised his hand. Doubtless to say the reply he received suggested that the bus driver would be duly reprimanded which I know Brian was greatly satisfied by.

Brian, a delightful chap, made in his own mould and unable to bend when against his principles, well remembered and missed.

ABIDE WITH ME

Brian Phipps was a very keen football supporter. There is something special about being at a football match in person. Being involved with the other supporters. You feel part of it, there is an excitement, you are more than a spectator you are part of it.

Now Arsenal played Cardiff City in the 1927 FA Cup final, and it was here that the tradition of singing the first and last verse of the hymn “Abide with me” just before kick off was started. This hymn is a prayer for God to remain present with the speaker throughout life, through trials, and through death. The opening line refers to Luke 24:29, which was read to us today “Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.”

So Caroline talked from that passage because Brian was a very keen football fan. But he was also very keen to debate theological matters.

In that Bible passage there is much discussion, lots of explaining and lots of listening.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’

Then we hear about Cleopas and another disciple who speak to a “stranger” about Jesus of Nazareth, and how the leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. And then the “stranger” explains the Old Testament scriptures to them. No doubt showing them that it had always been God’s plan that Jesus would stand in our place, taking all the bad stuff we’ve done on his shoulders and off ours, so that we can be friends with God again. So that we could know how much he loves us. Isn’t that what we all want? To be known and loved and understood. And that’s what God offers us.

Cont’d

Then we hear that the disciples urge the “stranger” ‘**Abide with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.**’ So he went in and when he broke the bread, blessed it and gave it to them their eyes were opened, and they recognized that the “stranger” was Jesus.

Jesus crucified, died, buried and rose again so that we could be friends with God. We were made to be in relationship with God and Brian would have agreed with that. Jesus wasn’t a stranger to Brian. Jesus wants to abide with us to stay with us. We only have to call him Lord and say we will follow him and that we’re sorry we haven’t followed him before or that we have strayed. Don’t be a spectator, join the enthusiastic crowd and know the comfort, love and excitement of following the Lord Jesus. Ask him to abide with us, comfort us and shine in us and through us.

When you feel sad that Brian, and indeed Ron, have gone, know that they are with the Lord Jesus and say to the son of God “Abide with me.”

CHRISTIAN AID

When I attended the July meeting of the Christian Aid Churches Together Group Colin Souter had made the effort to be there, all the way from Teddington where he has recently moved to a new home. He told us that £4, 914.93p had been collected from the streets around the Friern Barnet / New Southgate and Whetstone churches in our group. A further £275.54p was coming in to be added to that. This is not as much as most years as All Saints have not yet found a representative to organise collections in their roads. A new member joined our committee, Sylvia Cantwell, from St Paul’s.

Robert Wright will be treasurer in place of Colin Souter until we find a new treasurer. Anyone willing?

A Quiz will be arranged at St John’s church in January 2015 for Christian Aid.

Anthea Denham

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 26TH AUGUST

This meeting was called as part of our development plans. Our church is a 'Local Ecumenical Partnership' or LEP between Christ Church URC and New Southgate Baptist Churches to form Christ Church. This means that we need to consult both denominations as part of the legal underpinning of our plans. The meeting was attended by the Moderator of the North Thames URC synod (Andrew Prasad) and Paul Martin, Regional Baptist Minister representing the 2 denominations; along with members of church, Caroline Rogers (our Minister), Frances Mudford (who will be managing the project for us) and David Skip who is the Buildings Advisor for the URC synod.

The meeting agreed and minuted that we should investigate further and approach architects to produce plans. The group will need to reconvene in about a year to discuss the capital arrangements to allow funds from the sale of a Baptist building to be used to refurbish and improve a URC building.

Clare Jenkins

PARENT AND TODDLERS

We will be welcoming parents and toddlers to our Friday morning sessions from September 12th following the summer break.

Prior to that Sara and I will be washing and sorting the toys, and probably buying some new ones.

Many of our little ones are moving on to nursery school in the autumn term so waiting list will be open.

Anthea Denham & Sara Skinner

FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

A major part of my Christian life at Christ Church is praising and giving thanks to God. A good portion of that life in Christ Church is the fellowship and friendship I have found and playing a part in its activities. This last couple of months we have enjoyed some dry warm weather and on Saturday 12th July we served an English cream tea with scones and strawberries on the lawn. The sunshine had some people seeking the shade. On Saturday 2nd August we had a good number joining together for gardening and refreshments with a terrific result. Finally a small group of church goers walked over to the park for a picnic and games on Sunday 24th following the church service.

On Saturday 13th September from 10.30am to 12 noon we have our first Coffee Morning after the summer break. This gives us a good opportunity to meet and get closer to each other while supporting the Brownies working to raise funds for their chosen charity.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Jane Gibbins

THE MISSION GROUP

We are meeting in September to discuss our future activities. The meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd September at 8pm. at 8 The Crescent.

At our Harvest Thanksgiving, at the end of September, we will be requesting tins and packets of food for HAB (Homeless Action in Barnet) and have a collection for BMS' "Operation Agri". We have been supporting them for many, many years alternating it with Christian Aid – which was last Harvest's Appeal. "Operation Agri" do wonderful work aimed at help with farming methods, supplying tools, seeds, plants etc. to extremely poor communities. It is quite a specific charity. I will be ordering envelopes shortly.

Please note our Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 8th November.

The Mission Sunday collections of CWM and BMS boxes were banked resulting in £22.36 for CWM and £108.69 banked for BMS. This was largely because a large cheque specifically for BMS was given.

Val Oram found a large bag of CWM boxes in the vestry, so please ask if you have not received a box, for either CWM (Council for World Mission) or BMS (Baptist Missionary Society).

We also contributed to BMS' Birthday Scheme and recently a further £15 was sent to them directly. Please see Doreen Gray about this or myself if you wish to know more about it or join the scheme to celebrate your life.

Anthea Denham

WOMEN'S CLUB

We are experiencing the first signs of Autumn so what better reason to get out and enjoy ourselves than joining the Women's Club on Thursday afternoons at 2pm every two weeks. Our first session is on 11th September when we will hear about Anthea Denham's visit to Turkey where her daughter Tanya, son-in-law Gary and grand-daughter Elizabeth are living for the next 2-3 years.

The Women's Club new programme will include some craft, games, a Bring and Buy and subjects of interest. We had a very creative first half of the year and we hope to bring something new to our members this Autumn.

This is a Christian club (all are welcome) and ends with a short reading and a prayer after which we have tea and cakes. Do join us for good company and an opportunity to try out something new.

Jane Gibbins

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Where did July and August go!

September is now here and the Friendship Club meets again on Tuesday 9th September at 2pm in the Church Parlour, with a Welcome Back afternoon, tea and a chat.

On the 23rd September we will again meet at 2pm for a Harvest Afternoon.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, you will be most welcome.

Gladys Townsend

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We go through times when we feel alone and wonder if God is listening or near to us at all. At such desert times, we query His love for us and His nearness to us. If we allow the doubts to take root we can easily become back sliders and go the world's way. Jesus Christ is never far from us. Stay in faith, stay focused on Jesus Christ, our sustainer, redeemer and healer.

Deuteronomy 32: 10 -11

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye,¹¹ like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.

Acts 17

²⁷ God did this (v. 25 gives everyone life and breath and everything else) so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Ola Lawal