

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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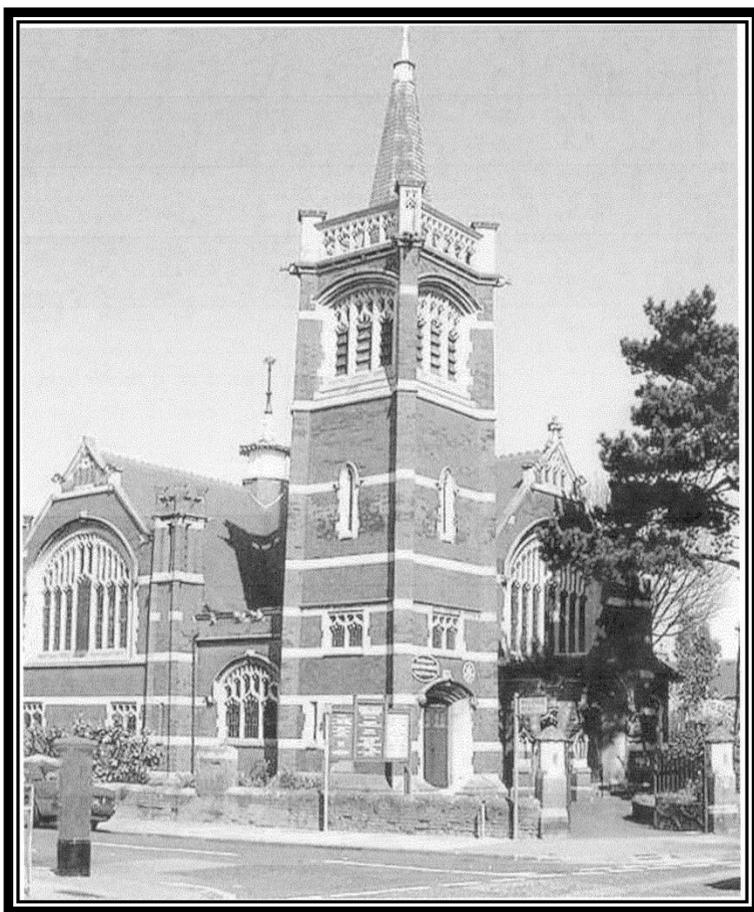
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

ISSUE 274

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DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

- Sun. 2nd 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche
- Tues. 4th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Wed. 5th 8.00 p.m. Development Group Meeting
- Thurs. 6th 6.00 p.m. Beavers & Cub Scouts (Thursdays until break)
- Sun. 9th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Mon. 10th – Tues. 11th Baptist Ministers Conference
- Thurs. 13th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club – Potato prints
- Sat. 15th 10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning – Mission Group
- Sun. 16th Mr Peter Griffiths / Rev. Vania John-Baptiste
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Sun. 23rd Mrs Pennie Bongomin
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.15 a.m. Church Meeting
- Wed. 26th 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Thurs. 27th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club – Paper flowers

MARCH

- Sun. 1st 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 17th February 2020.

Please let us have your material for the March Newsletter
by Sunday 16th February.

FAMILY NEWS

It would seem that congratulations are at the top of the list. Firstly, to Doreen who celebrated a special birthday at the beginning of January with a lunch for family and friends arranged by her two daughters. A very happy occasion enjoyed by all.

Next, congratulations to Mark and Maeve on the birth of their daughter, Aisling (see Anthea's update below).

After many months of study and hard work by Ola Lawal, her "Lay Preacher" Commissioning Service took place on the 19th January. This wonderful service was followed by lunch for all in a very happy atmosphere in the hall. Congratulations and Thank You Ola.

Finally, belated congratulations to Pennie on completing her course to become a Response Pastor (further to her own report in the December Newsletter see the article herein by Tanya)
May God Bless you and all who are in need at this time.

Anthea says - We are delighted to let you know that Mark and Maeve had a baby girl on Saturday 4th January 2020! This is their first child.

Her name is Aisling (pronounced Ashling – an Irish name as Maeve is from Ireland) so she will be Aisling Genevieve. She weighed 8lb. all but ½ oz.. Maeve and baby are recovering well. We feel truly blessed as a family.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we start the New Year, majority of us will have kept a few or none of the resolutions we keep on telling ourselves as a New Year rolls in. One resolution we should all, as a congregation try and keep for the long run is teamwork and unity. A few weeks ago, our minister, Rev. Ruth Moriarty led a sermon about unity, working as a church, being one in the body of Christ. That sermon will be the focal point of this letter including a work-related scenario which highlights the value, foundation and reasons of working in unison, thus creating harmony and balance within a group.

When a group of people work together, they double in strength and friendships become stronger. Ecclesiastes 4: 9 (GNB) “*Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively.*” Team cohesion, communication and patience are important attributes to have in any group setting.

I am fortunate to work in an environment where the aforementioned attributes are evident. Working in any acute medical unit in any hospital, we sometimes want to work individually, wanting to pace ourselves and work for our own agenda. Attending certain scenarios, such as crash bells where a suspected cardiac arrest, stroke or seizure has happened, teamwork is vital. From someone managing chest compressions, another holding in-place the bag valve mask over the patient’s airways to deliver oxygen, to someone coordinating the whole medical emergency, with other members of staff doing other jobs around the patient. We all unite as one to see through the task with a positive outcome. We work as individuals but come together as one to make the situation less critical. Proverbs 27: 17 (GNB) “*People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron*”.

Within the congregation, we watch the other person’s back. Within the congregation, we should encourage each other to be better followers of Christ.

Teamwork requires that we have unconditional expectations on ourselves because we have faith in ourselves and in God. Likewise, within the church, coming as one in the body of Christ, congregations build upon a foundation of truth, faith and God's love, so that we can achieve bountiful blessings from the heavenly Father.

The simplest and clearest statement about teamwork in the bible is from 1 Corinthians 12: 14 (GNB), "*For the body itself is not made up of one part, but many parts*". As a congregation, we are a team, a unit. We are one, we are strongest when working together in unity. Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 14 - 27, it highlights the need and reasons of coming together, how God has put every different part of the body to work in unison. Without one part, big or small, the foundation is broken. As 2020 rolls into February, let's keep our resolution for Christ Church that we grow in fellowship, membership and discipleship, we work as a team and



prosper as a team. Unity is the key to living life in harmony so that we can do God's will. Working as a team does offer some rewards. A few months ago, I was awarded a certificate of excellence by a member of staff for my hard-work, determination, patient care and responsibility within the Acute Medical Unit (AMU). There are Computer-On-Wheels scattered around the ward and each one is

named after a member of staff who excelled their call of duty. Surprised by my Matron's email, a computer was named after me which to this day I do not have the words to describe the feeling.

Philippians 4: 13 (GNB), "*I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me*".

Robert Mapara

MISSION GROUP

We plan to have the first Coffee Morning of this year on Saturday 15th February from 10-30am. – 12 noon. It's a week later than usual, as volunteers to help are not available on the original date.

We are collecting donations for Mission work where need is most pressing on that day.

Please do come along and join us and bring friends or relatives for a coffee and catch up. It's good to join in the fellowship.

If you can give us anything you don't need, such as books or CDs or cakes to sell, it would be wonderful.

Please come along – see you there!

Mission Boxes will be counted and returned to you after banking. If you would like a box, please let me know.

Anthea Denham

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Carols by Candlelight was enjoyed by over 80 people on the last Sunday evening before Christmas. Our church was beautifully decorated and the candlelight helped create a serene atmosphere.

The service proceeded uninterrupted with a series of Bible readings, read by members of our congregation. We worshipped together by singing carols, accompanied by Roger on the piano.

Joan read "Christmas" by John Betjeman and reminded us about the "most tremendous tale of all" that Jesus "became a child on earth for me". Ruth gave a thought provoking message that was just right for the occasion.

After the service, most people were able to stay and enjoy a hot drink, mince pies and festive fellowship. A big thank you to Val & Lynda for organising this.

The evening proved to be a great way for us to reach out to a number of people who don't usually attend church. Our thanks go to Clare for organising Carols by Candlelight.

Julie Duncan

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This was the third such service we have held and we had many repeat visitors. One family identified us as their 'Christmas Church', where they come when visiting relatives at Christmas. Which was interesting - I never thought of us like a tourist destination but it does remind us the people are not necessarily in their normal location at this time of year.

There were lots of families present. Roger counted 67 although counting was hard as children were always on the move and some are too small to easily see! There was certainly very little space at the front at the end of the service when most people were making their Christingle - an orange with a red band and then 4 cocktail sticks and sweets on each. I do not know how many oranges were prepared by Anne and Sara but there only appeared to be a very few left that were taken for people who could not make it to the service.

On the way out there were children who did not want to leave the church - what a wonderful thought for Christmas. Let us try and make that enjoyment all the days of the New Year.

Clare Jenkins

CHRISTMAS DAY

We arose, some earlier than others, on the morning of Christmas Day, a very special morning. After our varied activities at home, we set off on our respective journeys to Church. Whilst some of our members and regular attendees were absent having journeyed elsewhere for the festivities there was a goodly number of friendly faces, some who only join us for the service on Christmas Day, journeying from their local homes and others joining their families for this special time, having journeyed from afar, including some from Manchester.

The young ones present were sent on a journey around the Church looking for cardboard characters representing Mary and the Baby Jesus, the Shepherds and the Wise Men (One of whom remained hidden for some time).

Ruth told us about the journey referred to in Luke 1, one of the many journeys mentioned in the Bible. Throughout life we all go on a series of journeys.

Having worshipped, prayed, celebrated communion together and sung, including the traditional carol “O Come All Ye Faithful”, the service came to an end.

We chatted to each other, greeted some who we don't see very often and finally departed on our journeys home. Some would be on their own, others welcoming family, some only journeying locally, whilst others were going to set off on a longer journey to be with their families. We even know of one couple who went on a special journey to Jerusalem after the Christmas celebrations! AMEN

Addendum – In the service on the 19th January we celebrated Ola Lawal becoming a Lay Preacher when it was mentioned that she had set out on the first step of her journey to train for this wonderful role. Afterward we journeyed from Church to the hall for lunch together.

We are always making journeys and can be guided by the words in the Bible.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for making my Commissioning celebration as a United Reformed Church National Accredited Lay Preacher on 19th January 2020, such an amazing experience. Thank you for your love, kindness and support. My special thanks to: Revd. Ruth Moriarty our minister, for her great organisational skills. She also went beyond the call of duty to help set up the reception hall and bought flowers to put on the tables; the deacons especially Roger Oram, the Church Secretary for his various help; amazing Clare Jenkins who helped tirelessly on both Saturday and Sunday; Robert Mapara for the IT system that went without any hitch; Sue Rogers for a perfect control of the music machine; Paul Townsend who quietly did so much on both Saturday and Sunday to prepare the hall, grounds and church for the visitors; Fadi who helped selflessly on both Saturday and Sunday; Valerie Oram and Lynda Eade for organising the teas and coffees; Sara Skinner for keeping the children quiet in the Junior Church and helped with various things. I thank the whole church for the lovely welcome you gave to the visitors.

Great thanks to everyone for your prayers, love and support which all helped to make the day one I will remember for ever. Thank you also for the lovely and very useful Celtic prayer book. Everyone did so well. Many of the visitors praised Ruth and said ‘she’s such a wonderful minister’. They also praised us as a church. Many said we are ‘incredibly friendly and genuinely warm’. Some promised to revisit the church. I pray that the loving ‘One Church’ we all demonstrated during the celebration will wax stronger. That our Lord God will help the fruits of the Holy Spirit in each one of us to abound greatly. So that our Church can become that great beacon of light that draws many to Jesus Christ.

God bless you all.

Ola Lawal

REFLECTIONS OF OUR NEW LIFE IN A LAND FAR, FAR AWAY - FROM TONY AND DEE FENSOME

“Then the Lord God planted a garden in North Walsham in the east of Anglia and there He guided the husband and wife, refugees from a foreign land.” (*Almost from Genesis 3 v8*) He told them “make it your aim to live a quiet life working in the garden with your hands” (*1 Thessalonians 4 v11 (still not a proper quote!)*) also “ I will give you peace in your land and you will sleep without being afraid of anyone” (*Leviticus 26 V6*) (*a proper quote at last*)

Right! That's enough of the spurious biblical quotes for now, so on with the main event.

Our current Prime Minister Boris Johnson, when he was Mayor of London, introduced a scheme called “Homeswappers” whereby retired couples could move to the countryside and working couples could move closer to their jobs in the capital. We joined the scheme in 2013 and had several opportunities to move but for some reason we never seemed able to cross the finishing line. The fates had ganged up against us! (*cue dramatic music*)

Then out of the blue in early October last year the phone rang, (*Pause for effect*) a bungalow had become available in North Walsham in Norfolk. (*Loud cheers of joy*)

Arrangements were made and at 11 am on Monday 7th October we arrived at 8, Wood View, North Walsham, NR28 0SJ, the viewing had begun. (*our ticking clock*). Two hours later the deed was done, we had fallen head over heels in love with the bungalow, the area and the overwhelming sense of peace and tranquillity, all the paperwork was signed, the deposit paid and the keys were handed over, the die was cast. (*cue deep breath*)

The following three weeks flew past, a list was made of all the people and organisations we had to contact, thirty five in total, (*gasp of amazement*). Goodbyes and farewells took place, (*not a dry eye in the house*).

All our goods and chattels were boxed up and on November 7th 2019 we closed the door on our old flat for the last time. We stayed overnight in Norwich and the following morning we arrived at our new home to await the removal lorry. By mid-afternoon the bungalow was piled high with boxes, we closed our new front door on the outside world (*cue soft violins*)

As I sat in the stillness of our new home and listened to the wisdom of my soul, it was there in the quietness I could feel my connection with God and knew after all these years that we were truly home at last.

Our first Christmas here was quiet but Dave and Debbie Crispin, who most of you will know through the services he has taken at Christ Church, spent an afternoon with us while they were on holiday. We are looking forward to exploring this part of the country as residents rather than holidaymakers, and there is an open invitation to each and everyone of you, but remember to ring first (*cue persistent phone ringing*)

So there you are now, 2019 was difficult, painful and at times very stressful for us both, but we hung on to each other and in the end discovered that true happiness cannot be travelled to, owned, earned, or won, it is spiritual experiences, living every minute with love, joy, grace and gratitude.

All our love Tony and Dee

PS I still haven't found those chattels, no idea what they are and where I've put them! Dee

LATE BREAKING NEWS FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER!!! I have just purchased a mobility scooter (cue music, Funky Moped by Jasper Carrot) and have started enquiries about adopting a rescue greyhound. Updates to follow.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week will be 10th -16th May this year. This is a street collection and the oldest street collection in the UK. The money raised helps in areas of disasters and devastation, to help the poorest of the poor in the world through money allocated to small groups or churches setting up water supplies and survival in war torn countries.

We have mulled over whether we should find some other way of raising the money but quite frankly no way could we raise £816.83 with a sale or church lunch so ...we'll give it another shot with a street collection in May, all being well.

One way "Churches Together" in this area of North London do come together for a Quiz Supper which raises round about eight or nine hundred pounds and it's fun plus a dinner and good company. Unfortunately, we do not know a date for this year yet. It may be as late as last weekend of February or even after Lent and Easter! Watch this spot for the date when it is finally confirmed.

Last year we raised £3177.73 as Churches Together locally including our Church, for the Christian Aid street collection. This was amazing in the face of so much financial uncertainty.

Yours in Christ

Anthea Denham



WOMEN'S CLUB

We started the new year with a Folding Book project. Val set the level high with her three examples of book folding; they were a shapely vase with paper flowers, a bird cage decorated with birds and butterflies and the third a butterfly hut. My own was the simple hedgehog shape which is useful for keeping receipts etc. We met again on Thursday 30th January to make a dog key-ring with the shaped fob made from coloured felt with attractive stitching.

We meet again on 13th February to work on a design for a potato print tea towel with different shapes and colours. We are bringing colour into grey days and sharing conversation and friendship. Do join us and check the Diary Page for dates through the coming weeks.

Jane Gibbins

PENNIE BONGOMIN'S SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY

For many years to come, one occasion that will remain vivid in my mind and warming to my heart was Saturday 30th November 2019 when Pennie invited Gary and myself to accompany her, in South West London, at an award ceremony, as official recognition of Pennie's status as a 'Response Pastor'.

I have known Pennie for nearly 40 years and in that time, my family have come to know and love her deeply. Even as a child, she inspired me and I was somewhat in awe of her, with her amazing life stories, wise God filled words and mighty stamina as well as stature. Did you know Pennie ran for Uganda at The Makerere University Games and represented her country in other major games? She even ran The London Marathon in 2012 at the age of 60. My mother Anthea and Pennie are like sisters, having found friendship through our church and as life often brings, the sweet coincidence that my mother, also a mum of three, taught Pennie's children English in the local primary school. Pennie, as a good friend and auntie to us, has seen my family through hard times and times of joy, often with something poignant to add and to bless us.

Although my mother was present to witness Pennie achieving her Street Pastor Status in 2013, Anthea was unable to attend this particular special occasion, so Pennie invited Gary and I to attend on our family's behalf and we travelled with her to St Mark's Church at The Oval via Arnos Grove on the underground. Pennie's stories of her life experiences have always compelled me. Relating to this significant Response Pastor work, I listened to her retelling the need to deliver practical, pastoral and spiritual care to vulnerable people. Often in hostile environments and at a time of night where we would hope to be tucked up in bed and certainly that our mothers and grandmothers were safely sleeping, Pennie has her life on another path. Pennie is out offering support wherever needed, on the streets of Edmonton, Southgate and Enfield. With prayers around 9pm and depending on the number of people to speak to work continues till 3am on a Friday or Saturday night. I can imagine the scene, as Pennie with her hearty laugh and assuring words calls a cab or hands out flip-flops to girls who are often under the influence of too much drink, staggering in high heels. Pennie works to ensure their safe travel home, in the assurance that somebody really does care and sharing God's Love. Other individuals who have become homeless and hungry are cared for and often fed, having perhaps, some hot chips, soup or a sandwich. Other more elderly persons are supported in their frailty and others perhaps upset or angry with 'friends', or generally disappointed with life's apparent lack of offerings or mistakes made, are guided with acts which oppose the plight of stigma and isolation, with kind and meaningful contact and words.

Street Pastors is an interdenominational network of Christian charities that operate worldwide and is an initiative of Ascension Trust. Their motto is 'caring, listening, helping'. Pennie not only fulfils this role but as a Response Pastor is on call for even more demanding situations. Unfortunately, there are too many knives and weapons carried, which in the wrong hands can reap devastation to individuals and families that are affected. Additionally, terrorist threats and troubles resulting from false ideologies and anger or fear driven retaliation, can warrant demanding attention to carers, listeners and helpers. However, armed with God's Word and the fruits of the Spirit, Pennie is called to respond to those affected outside the cordoned area, or indeed within if invited to do so in order to bring an ear, hope and calm to situations.

This beautiful autumn Saturday afternoon, Pennie, Gary and myself arrived early and enjoyed some delicious street food in the market outside St Mark's church and then we gathered with a full congregation to witness at least 100 new recruits as street pastors, school pastors, rail pastors and response pastors.

The singing was mighty, we raised the roof. The Living Spirit poured through our bodies and voices and the joy was immense. The pastors and trainers were so proud and delighted to welcome on to the stage their new recruits. One significant breakthrough was revealed when, apparently last year, Brent did not have the opportunity to present any new street pastors, however this year, 40 new recruits were presented with their certificates. Obviously under the guidance of an able church minister, the visible Spirit transforming and working in their lives was running high and it was fantastic to see such a lot of men and women wanting to be involved and to be trained and qualified in this important voluntary work. Hymns included: 'Way Maker', '10,000 Reasons: Bless the Lord, oh my soul', 'In Christ Alone', 'And can it be that I should gain?' Even with my own experience of singing with some top choirs, the sound and energy of that special day was honestly both infectious and electric: God present, blessed and a most wonderful experience.

I want to congratulate Pennie, on behalf of my family and Pennie's friends, family and members and friends of our church too, on her achievement as a Response Pastor and to ask God to protect and support her in this brave and excellent mission. Thank you, Pennie for such a blessed day and your care and place in our lives.

Tanya Forward

“Street Pastors is about Christians rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in practically responding to the problems of crime and safety. They are like beacons on our streets and I want to see them shining brightly in every constituency.”

David Burrowes, Patron of Ascension Trust

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

It is not easy to give thanks to God at all times. Thanking God is probably the last thing on our mind when going through what we perceive as a difficult time. Are you thankful? Do you tend to praise and thank God during happy times only?

The Bible says we should thank our Lord God in all circumstances. Thanking God at all times can only help to accomplish God's will in our lives. When we give thanks in the midst of difficulty, we bring pleasure to God's heart and breakthrough begins. Thankfulness during difficulty is a sacrifice pleasing to God.

In this year 2020, let us make a resolution to complain less and not to compare ourselves with anyone. Instead let us follow King David's example and Apostle Paul's advice below.

Psalm 31:1.

'I will always thank the LORD; I will never stop praising him.'

1 Thessalonian 5:18

Be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus.

Ola Lawal

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to JANUARY 2020

Cash	£4767.95
Envelopes	<u>£6198.23</u>
	£10966.18

January Communion Collection of £79.74
for the Compassionate Fund