

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

ISSUE 273

www.christchurchnsfb.org

Happy
New Year

2020

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020

- Sat. 4th 10.00 a.m. Taking down of Christmas decorations
- Sun. 5th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche
- Sun. 12th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Tues. 14th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Thurs. 16th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club – Folding Book project
6.00 p.m. Beavers & Cub Scouts (Thursdays until break)
- Sun. 19th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior
Church
- Wed. 22nd 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Sun. 26th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.15 a.m. Church Meeting
- Thurs. 30th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club

FEBRUARY

- Sun. 2nd 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche

Exploring Holy Habits of Evangelism and Prayer

Saturday 1st February 2020

**At Palmers Green United Reformed Church
Fox Lane (corner of Burford Gardens) London N13 4AL**

Holy Habits Day

A day of 2 halves looking at 2 Holy Habits:
Evangelism in the morning and Prayer in the afternoon.

Come for one or both sessions.

Bring a packed lunch if you want to stay all day.

Let Anne Sardeson know if you want to book a place.

Mail to: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

FAMILY NEWS

As we enter 2020, we look forward to a better and blessed year ahead.

Good Wishes have been received from a number of people and the newsy letter from Robert and Viv Barthram is on the Notice Board in Church for all to read.

It was good to see so many people join us at the various services over Christmas, especially those who live locally or travelled from afar.

During December a number of our friends have been poorly with various “bugs” that have been doing the rounds. We hope that they are now all feeling much better again.

To all who read our News Letter we send our very best wishes for a Very Happy New Year and hope to see you sometime throughout the coming year.

May our God be with you all.

PASTORAL LETTER

Two stories in the news recently caught my eye. The first was that Bethlehem had switched on its Christmas lights on November the 30th and that this year the city's Christmas theme is joy, "Joy for the world, for all the people and all those who believe and are celebrating Christmas," mayor Anton Salman said.

The amount of preparation and the security operation around Bethlehem at Christmas is enormous. Both the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the Palestinian Authority work jointly to ensure the safety of Christian Pilgrims and tourists to Bethlehem.

This is especially encouraging as this year the Knesset has ruled that new building can go ahead in Judea and Samaria and Donald Trump has backed the move causing some pain to the Palestinians.

I thought the world has not changed much since the birth of Jesus, his homeland is still torn with political strife and yet in Bethlehem once a year everyone, Jew, Palestinian Arab, Christian and tourist seem to be able to get along with each other for a few weeks. It seems a real embodiment of God's gift of peace to men in Christ.

Of course, the cynical among us will say it's all to do with the vast increase in tourist dollars that flow into Bethlehem during Christmas, but I like to think the whole exercise is a testimony to the Peace that Christ brings to a broken strife torn world.

By contrast the second story was of the Chaldean Catholic church of Iraq cancelling Christmas in solidarity with the families of the 430 people who have died in demonstrations against the government in the last 3 months.

The head of the Church, Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako, said in a statement on Tuesday "There will be no decorated Christmas trees in the churches or streets, no celebrations and no reception at the patriarchate, out of respect for the dead and wounded among protesters and security forces, and in solidarity with the pains of their families".

I am in no position to judge the action of the Patriarch, I don't live in Iraq and cannot possibly know the pressure they are under as Christians but I think it is sad that death and destruction seem to have won over the time of "peace and goodwill to all men". It is precisely at moments like these that people need to see there is a hope even in the midst of death and destruction.

I hope that the Chaldean Catholic Christians will still have services and keep the liturgy of Christmas even if the trees and decorations are absent. I am sure they will. The trimmings of Christmas are nice but not essential to the message – the timeless message that in the fullness of time God came into his broken creation in order to bring hope and reconciliation to human beings created in his image. This has to be our message not only at Christmas but every day of our lives. Jesus the Prince of Peace, Redeemer, Saviour, Healer and friend to sinners, changer of impossible situations, is come into the world. Do not be afraid. Rejoice!

Peter K Griffiths.

ADVENT CRAFT CAFÉ - SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

So, the time had finally arrived, Ruth and I had prayed, planned, purchased, and set up, volunteers had been organised, we just needed people to turn up!

And they did! We had a lovely time sticking, sorting, decorating all the different wreaths, along with colouring the advent calendars, Christmas music filled the air and lots of chatting, talking about the nativity story, fun and laughter were had, all lubricated with coffee tea and of course mince pies and gingerbread elves (which had to be re-stocked, thanks Clare)!

Although I didn't get the chance to have a long look in the Sanctuary where the guiding group were, it was reported that they too were busy, and there were many mentions of Pauline's cakes!

All in all a very successful day, with friendships made, and developed in a wonderfully festive atmosphere, a great start to the Christmas season.

Diana Bensted

TOY SERVICE - SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

This service was once again a lovely one. Toys were presented and set up on the piano – soon it looked like a tantalizing Christmas shop.

Sara and her team had decorated the Church beautifully the day before. Sue had decorated the Christmas tree and Val had made beautiful neat flower and candle arrangements in the windows. Roger and Peter and others had been up and down ladders decorating the edge of the balcony. All to great effect!

Ruth led a lovely service about relationships. We heard about the story of Mary's visit from the Angel and then studied a passage of scripture and questions for us to read, ponder and discuss in small groups.

Ruth's message was to show how God had made a relationship with us by sending his own Son to be a human and show us how we should love and support each other and aim for good relationships too.

Ruth held up 2 balls of playdough – one all one colour and the other another contrasting colour of equal size. Some relationships have one person dominating strongly over the other so that one was hidden from view. Another was to have one tiny ball of dough hidden inside the larger one – again being extinguished really!

A third ball was a dull grey where all the colours had been emmeshed together – which sounded cosy, but the best relationship is two balls of dough linked together clearly so that each person could function separately and be their own person but come together easily to indicate the strength of their bond. After all we all know we can do more together in a good relationship.

I found this a very good analogy and very thought provoking. Thank you, Ruth.

All the toys were warmly received by the Family Resource Centre run by Barnet and will be given to children who may have few presents or none at all sometimes, this Christmas. I hope they bring joy.

Yours in Christ.

Anthea Denham

NATIVITY SERVICE - SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER

It was a beautiful, bright if breezy morning as we arrived at Christ Church to celebrate the love of Our Lord with a Nativity drawn along the lines of “We are going on a bear hunt”, but this time Joseph and Mary were in a stable in Bethlehem after unsuccessfully looking for a place at an inn.

The sanctuary was adorned with fresh pine and holly arrangements on the windows and on the platform; a garland was hanging from the balcony and a Christmas tree stood inside the door with a bright star at the top. Candles were standing in glass jars at the windows and lanterns were tied to the end of pews.

The service started with the Hymn “Tell out my soul” and three candles were lit out of the four red candles; counting down the Sunday’s to Christmas Day and the arrival of Jesus our Lord and Saviour when the central white candle would be lit.

Today was a parade service and Mary and the angel, were played by brownies; the rest of the cast were played by members of the congregation. The shepherds and wise men in turn were going on a journey to the place where Jesus was born and had to negotiate many obstacles; they couldn’t go under them they couldn’t go over them so they just had to go through them but with caution and some fear avoiding Herod and Romans to pay homage to the new born king.

Later the congregation received pipe cleaner’s in a multitude of colours to help focus on the love God has shown his people by sending His son to earth to help lead His people back to Him. We also remembered people close to us who are in need of God’s love, not only at Christmas but all the year. The pipe cleaners were then worked into the shape of a heart and placed on the platform. The service finished with a prayer and the singing of “Go, tell it on the mountain”, with words by John Wesley.

What a very different and enjoyable service.
God Bless

Sue Rogers

HANDLE WITH CARE PSALM 90: 1-12

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you all had “a blinding Christmas” as Del Boy in “Fools and Horses,” would describe it and that 2020 will treat you well. All New Year’s resolutions intact, and good luck with them!

Greetings from the Minister and the congregation of St Andrew’s URC Brockley, SE London, where we worshipped Christmas Day, visiting our son Phillip. A beautiful church with a friendly and warm congregation and a beautiful choir! All Golden Oldies!!!

Handle With Care: Just a little advice for the New Year from the Psalmist:

We live in a society that’s overrun with warning labels. From disclaimers on pills, to “use by date” on cans of soup, to danger signs on chain saws. Warning labels draw our attention to impending hazards. This Christmas I received a box with a precious gift inside. The sender had attached a big red sticker to the package that said, FRAGILE: HANDLE WITH CARE. When I think about life and its fragility, I wonder if we shouldn’t all wear one of those red stickers!

It’s not a good idea to cruise through life thinking that we are invincible—only to discover that we are far more fragile than we thought, and that life is far much shorter than we ever imagined. It takes only a call from the doctor telling us that we have a life threatening disease, or the swerve of a careless driver in front of us, to remind us that life is extremely uncertain. There are no guarantees! None of us can be certain of another breath. Does this sound depressing, at the beginning of the New Year? Yes, but it is true!

So, the psalmist has an important piece of advice ... a warning label of sorts: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12).

Let's choose to live as though this were our last moment on earth by: loving more deeply, forgiving more readily, giving more generously, and speaking more kindly. How about adding this to the list of your New Year's resolutions. But please, make them your daily goal, not just New Year's resolutions that will soon disappear before the end of January!

Yesterday is gone; tomorrow is uncertain, today is here. Use it wisely. God Bless.

Yours in Christ.

Pennie Bongomin

WOMEN'S CLUB

On 28th November we had great fun producing three to four homemade Christmas cards each. There was an assortment of Christmas shapes and decorations in sparkling gold or silver for the front and a personal message inside. Why not save the fronts of your Christmas cards when the season is over, glued to a blank card (easy to obtain on-line or from a craft shop) you can produce new cards for very little cost? (I would be pleased to receive old Christmas cards for our club to recycle, please don't just bin them.)

On 12th December we had our Christmas Afternoon with quizzes and a pass the parcel game combined with playing cards. After singing the 12 days of Christmas and sharing a prayer we indulged in a feast of sausage rolls, crisps and nuts followed by an assortment of cakes. A great way to end 2019 for the Women's Club.

We begin again on Thursday 16th January 2020. Why not join us for a Folding Book project.

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year.

Jane Gibbins

MISSION GROUP

Since 1st December we have had a great response from our wonderful congregation to collect donations to our Christmas Parcel Appeal. This is something we do to support those who are really on the bread line with a “hamper” of 11 basic items, like tea or coffee and at least four luxury items at Christmas time and at Easter too.

We had collected £189.16 amazingly so on Monday 16th December at 10am., Diana, Pennie, Chris and I met at Asda’s in Southgate. Within an hour we had stacked 2 full trolleys with food and done our best to calculate how much we were about to spend.

Afterwards we took 7 of the 10 parcels to the Family Resource Centre in New Southgate which is where the Toys also went. The staff at the Centre know the families well who are most needy. They were most grateful for the food we delivered.

My thanks most sincerely to Diana and Pennie and Chris for helping with the shopping and delivering. Thank you everyone for helping us. Happy New year to you all.

Anthea Denham

MISSION BOXES

Please bring your Mission Boxes to Church on the 12th January, which is the 2nd Sunday in January. The boxes will be blessed and the money banked and sent to BMS and CWM and returned empty to you.

If you would like a box please ask me. Anthea.

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to 25th DECEMBER 2019

Cash	£4030.39
Envelopes	<u>£5681.23</u>
	£9711.62

December Communion Collection of £37.20
for the Compassionate Fund

CHRISTIAN AID – ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be a Christian Aid Quiz on a Saturday in February at St. Johns, Friern Barnet, Church Hall. Further details will be coming.

Please think about making up a table of 10/12 people. Last year was great fun plus a good supper.

Philip has been the Christian Aid Churches Together Treasurer for the past few years. He has decided to resign as he and Astrid have just moved to live in South London. Thank you, Philip.

This will also mean he will be resigning from the Mission Group too. We really do need some new members to fill our gap. Please consider us as we seek to find 2 new members.

Happy New Year Everyone.

Anthea Denham

ADORAMUS

Come and Sing in a World Premiere. Join with Adoramus as we give a World Premiere performance of our composer Robin Stephenson's **MISSA BREVIS**.

This is a challenging work involving our excellent professional orchestra. This will be coupled with Dvorak's Te-Deum and Symphony No. 8.

Concert Sat 28th March at East Barnet School.

Weekly Rehearsals begin from Tues 7th January 2020, at Christ Church, Cockfosters 8pm-10pm.

For more details contact md@adoramus.com or phone 02083670042

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for allowing us to see 2020 and the end of another decade. Let us place 2020 in His hands and trust Him absolutely to do what is best for us. Calm yourselves with the Bible passage and the verse of my favourite hymn below when worry, fear or doubt try to creep in.

Isaiah 43: 1-3 (GNT)

--- The LORD who created you says, “Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you. For I am the LORD your God, ---

All is well (Mary Bowley Peters, 1847)

Through the love of God our Saviour,
All will be well;
Free and changeless is His favour;
All, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us;
Perfect is the grace that sealed us;
Strong the hand stretched out to shield us;
All must be well.

Amen and Amen.

HAPPY, BLESSED & PEACEFUL 2020.

Ola Lawal

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 20th January 2020.

Please let us have your material for the February Newsletter
by Sunday 19th January.