

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

ISSUE 276

www.christchurchnsfb.org



There is no Diary for April as **all regular services and meetings are cancelled** until further notice due to Government Advice on Covid-19.

We pray that these Government measures will be lifted as soon as possible.

During the coming weeks please look at the Church web site (www.christchurchnsfb.org) to read our Monthly Newsletters and for other information and to see a short “Sunday Service” with worship, prayer and a sermon on YouTube.

PLEASE REMEMBER

**STAY AT HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES**

**WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY FOR 20 SECONDS
USE A TISSUE FOR COUGHS AND SNEEZES
DO NOT TOUCH YOUR FACE
SELF DISTANCE**



FAMILY NEWS

A goodly number of people attended the lunch after the service on Sunday 8th March. Our thanks go to Diana and Clare for arranging what was a shared time of fellowship.

We also thank Clare for organising the Coffee Morning the following Saturday when £23 was raised for the Compassionate Fund.

Sadly, our Mothering Sunday service on the 22nd March had to be cancelled but we thank Diana for preparing the short service put out on YouTube for us all to share via the Church web site.

This, along with subsequent Sunday services and meetings have, as we know, been cancelled until further notice.

We continue to pray for a quick end to this unprecedented situation and turn to God in this time of need.

During the past few weeks, we have been thinking especially of Ruth who has been unwell. Our thoughts for Ruth and her family, who have been self-isolating, continue as she slowly recovers and we seek our Lord's loving support as she progresses along the path and return to full health.

We think of all who may be unwell at this time and continue to pray for, not just those known to us, but all throughout the World who are suffering in any way.

Remember, during this very challenging period, make the time to send someone an email or text message or make a good old-fashioned phone call or two. It's a very difficult time for us all, but more so for any on their own and a chat will go a long way. Please particularly remember anyone who is on their own or considered in the "more vulnerable category".

Having had to cancel their performances of "Time for Jesus" on the 28th and 29th March, the Life & Mission Choir are now planning to put them on next year.

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER

Jesus found a donkey, just as scripture says, ‘Here comes your king, riding on a donkey’. His disciples did not understand at the time; but when Jesus had been raised to glory, they remembered. John 12.14-16

The Christian community are about to celebrate Palm Sunday, the day when the church remembers Jesus coming into Jerusalem riding a donkey while the crowds shouted “Hosanna – praise the king”. Often at Christ Church, we give out palm crosses and maybe wave and shout to recreate the scene of the city of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. This year – of course – will be different. As the coronavirus takes a grip over the whole world with lockdowns, staying at home and churches closed, Palm Sunday too will be different.

So often in the gospels we hear that the disciples didn’t understand Jesus, or what he did. On that first ‘Palm Sunday’, the disciples didn’t understand at the time either. They didn’t understand the significant of the donkey, the palm leaves and the crowd calling Jesus the king.

In a similar way, none of us can quite picture how these strange times will be understood in the years to come. As none of us can really imagine how life might change in the next few weeks and months.

Might we try to be attentive to what God is doing now? Might we be looking for God at work despite all odds? Last Sunday we had 84 people watch our service. Many of those people watched with others too. This time now allows those who have been on the fringe of church, those who are housebound, those who are curious about Jesus but lack ability or courage to attend worship. I believe God is at work through all churches now in a beautiful way, and I hope that this will draw all of us into a deeper faith in Christ. For in these times we rely upon the wells of faith and the Spirit’s strength to sustain our souls and each other.

Might we be alert to what God is doing now and lean into his purposes that we might see his majestic humility and share in the praises of the crowd proclaiming: Jesus is our King.

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER cont'd

Might we be mindful too of the necessity of prayer in these times? We must pray for all medics and the work of the NHS, for key workers, for delivery drivers and supermarket staff. We must pray for all those families who are bereaved and so our prayer can be: Lord sustain and heal us, shape us and lead us on love, healing and hope. Amen

Ruth

WOMEN'S CLUB

The growing Coronavirus conditions have become challenging for our senior members but on Thursday 12th March we still had a gathering of ten ladies. We had an enjoyable time cutting out petals of felt in various colours and gathered them together to create spring flowers that became a brooch after fitting a clasp to the back. The result was very pretty; I wore mine to church.

Following the Government's directive to limit close contact, no organisations will be meeting at Christ Church until further notice, therefore, the Women's Club will be suspended for the next 2 to 3 months. Hopefully, we will be up and running very soon.

Meantime, for those required to stay at home we must try and think positively. Here are some ideas to keep us buoyant; a sing along, seated exercises, adult colouring books, catching up on novels you didn't have time for. (I am doing a Spring clean and catching up with my paperwork!) We are in Lent and although we cannot attend Church, we can take up our Bibles.

Please take care and keep well.

Happy Easter and God Bless

Jane Gibbins

HOPE

Write a poem, someone said
Who cares now? Said the voice in my head
Family and friends, all stressed
Trying hard to do their best.

Whole world changing, day by day
Will we ever, find our way?
No-one knows, but people care
No time now, to stand and stare.

Ring our friends, to chat a while
Lift the tension, raise a smile.
Hold our faith, close to our hearts
Even though we are now apart.

Trust that good times will return
Lessons that the world will learn
Saviour Lord, midst all alarms
Hold us in your loving arms.

*Dorothy Brown
March 2020*

We hope to be able to prepare a short May Newsletter which will, like this edition, be put on the Church web site (www.christchurchnsfb.org). As there will be No Services or Meetings during April to have reports on, perhaps we can ask you all to send us an article or two for inclusion in the May edition. Perhaps, tell us how you are filling your day during this exceptional period. Some of you may still be working, but under different daily arrangements – Let us know how you are coping? If anyone has any ideas to keep the young or not so young busy, then please also send them to us. Please forward using the email address arthurtownsend@aol.com. Let us have items for the May Newsletter by Sunday 19th April, if possible, thank you.

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to MARCH 2020

Cash £5390.11
Envelopes £7193.23
£12583.34

March Communion Collection of £30.10
for the Compassionate Fund

CHURCH GIVING – GIFT AID

We usually remind everyone around this time of year about Gift Aid. If you pay the same amount or more in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year that you wish to donate to the Church, then we can benefit by claiming back from the HMRC the amount of 25p for every £1 you give. Should you be able to donate and want to complete a Gift Aid declaration form, please contact Gladys Townsend at arthurtownsend@aol.com.

Should you wish to make regular weekly donations then we can let you have envelopes to use for your weekly offerings when we get back to Church. We thank all who give regularly but are aware that not everyone can afford to make such donations, particularly at this difficult time, so please don't feel obliged.

There is another option for those who are able and want to make regular payments to the Church and that is to pay by "Standing Order" direct from your Bank Account. Again, if you are able to "Gift Aid" then the Church can benefit greatly. If you want to set up a regular Standing Order then we can let you know the Bank details to use.

Please get in touch with Gladys Townsend as above.

Thank you all.

CHARITY GIVING - At what is a particularly challenging time for everyone, please also remember that all Charities are also finding things very difficult. If you are able to, go on to their web sites and make a donation which will greatly help them.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

World Health Organization had now declared Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) a pandemic. It continues with its invisible rampage and there is no cure for it yet. There had been a few pandemics in recent years, Spanish flu, HIV/AIDS and Swine flu. Each one had caused a lot of devastation and fear. We therefore have reasons to be concerned and take precaution against COVID-19. That is sadly, all we can do.

It is at times like this we should remind ourselves of Lamentation 3:22 'Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.' We worship a risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, our righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Let us pray for mercy and trust in His total care as we celebrate Easter. **Jesus is risen!!!** He has conquered all.

He has dominion over all things and reigns forever as written in the passage below.

Daniel 7:14

To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom *the one*
Which shall not be destroyed.

Happy, Blessed Easter!!!

Ola Lawal

