

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world.  
He who follows Me shall not walk in  
darkness, but have the light of life."  
John 8:12



**Christ Church**

# **Christ Church**

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## **NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2017**

**ISSUE 250**

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## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

**from**

Anthea & Chris - Diana Bensted  
Pennie Bongomin - Dorothy Brown  
Lily Dawton - Lynda Eade  
Iris Farnsworth - Tony & Dee Fensome  
Jane & Brian Gibbins  
Doreen Gray - Joan Gray  
Clare Jenkins - Jean Kearey  
Dick Lacey - Lekan & Ola Lawal  
Val & Roger Oram - Steve & Anne Petts  
Susan Rogers - Gladys Townsend  
Stephanie Wheatley

**PEACE AND JOY TO YOU ALL  
AT CHRISTMAS AND IN THE NEW YEAR**

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The Christmas post box will be available from 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
for two weeks only (for church friends).  
The cards will be ready to collect from the 17th December.

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2017

Fri. 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am.	Parent & Toddlers (every Friday until break)
Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am. - 2.00 pm.	CHURCH BAZAAR
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT Rev. Ruth Moriarty 11.00 am. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Tues. 5 <sup>th</sup>	4.15 pm. 5.15 pm. 7.15 pm. 8.00 pm.	Rainbows (every Tues. until break) Brownies ( “ “ “ “ ) Guides ( “ “ “ “ ) Fabric & Finance Meeting at Lynda's house
Wed. 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm.	Grapevine
Thurs. 7 <sup>th</sup>	5.20 pm. 6.15 pm. 7.00 pm.	Beavers (every Thurs. until break) Cub Scouts ( “ “ “ “ ) Scouts ( “ “ “ “ )
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT Rev. Ruth Moriarty 11.00 am. Morning Worship & Communion 6.30 pm. Carols by Candlelight with the Life & Mission Choir
Tues. 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm. 5.30 pm.	Friendship Club Carol Singing at Arnos Grove Station with Guides & Brownies
Wed. 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Deacons Meeting at the Manse
Thurs. 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm.	Women's Club – Christmas Afternoon
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT 11.00 am. Morning Worship – Toy & Nativity Service



## **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

*With thanks to Tony Fensome*

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1697 - Sir Christopher Wren's St Paul's cathedral is opened in London.
- December 5<sup>th</sup> 1905 - The roof of Charing Cross railway station collapsed killing five people.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> 1783 - William Pitt the younger became Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer aged 24.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> 1608 - Birthday of English poet John Milton.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> 1936 - King Edward VIII renounces the throne in a radio broadcast.
- December 12<sup>th</sup> 1955 - British engineer Christopher Cockerell patents the hovercraft.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> 1895 - Birth of King George VI.
- December 17<sup>th</sup> 1778 - Birth of English inventor Sir Humphrey Davy.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> 1848 - Emily Bronte dies of tuberculosis aged 30.
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1922 - The first radio broadcasts are transmitted by the BBC.
- December 25<sup>th</sup> 440 - Church leaders agree to fix the date of the birth of Christ.
- December 30<sup>th</sup> 1879 - First performance of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Royal Bijou Theatre, Paignton, Devon.

## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Christ Church,



Every Christmas my Great-Aunt Rose used to make the best sausage rolls in the world. While a Greggs sausage roll is a marvellous treat, the image from Greggs Advent calendar has certainly been ruffling feathers. Here the marketing department of the famed bakery has swapped baby Jesus for a sausage roll in the manger. Around the manger are two kings and a shepherd, who came to visit and worship Jesus (albeit not at the same time in the biblical story). In a way, the image does illuminate our obsession with food at Christmas. Having just read 'Woman and Home's guide to Christmas food I can confirm that festive food preparation and definitely not getting stressed about cooking that huge turkey is something that takes over too many minds.

Throughout Advent at church this year we will be looking at the season of preparation that Mary and Elizabeth experienced as both came to be pregnant when they least expected it. We will be considering our own preparations for Christmas and how Jesus as God with us can transform lives in his fragility as a baby, suffering as crucified Lord and his power as Risen Saviour. We will gather to worship the Son of God who came to be with us, one of us as his family today.

So, while a sausage roll is a rather silly swap for Jesus, in it we remember that God came to be with us, just like food is part of our everyday lives. And too that just as Great-Aunt Rose used to bring out her sausage rolls at special occasions, Jesus is also at the heart of every special day we share as his family.

We're so excited to share our first Christmas with you here at Christ Church and are looking forward to singing carols, making Christingles and sharing God's joy and love with you all.

Love Ruth (and the Moriarty boys!)

### **AT THE END OF THE DAY**

Dear Father God, thank you for today and for being with me every step of the way. Thank you for the many blessings that You have provided and the love and fellowship that I have with the friends and family that in Your grace You have placed in my life.

My heart is so thankful for all the many blessings that I enjoy day by day, and today I am once again reminded that Your mercies are new every morning and Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Thank You that I have been brought into Your family and have been made a child of God and a citizen of heaven. Words cannot express my love and devotion to You Lord. I pray that You will watch over me as I rest tonight and that You will give me a restful nights sleep so that I may wake up in the morning refreshed in body and spirit and ready to do Your will.

Guard all those that I love and may we all grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ in the days that lie ahead. This I ask in His precious name.

Amen.

*Tony Fensome*

## **PARENT AND TODDLERS**

Anne Petts and Sara Skinner continue to run the Parent and Toddlers group on Fridays. I have been unable to go lately as I am booked into Barnet Hospitals O/A clinic every Friday. I miss seeing the parents and children.

They will close on the 15th December for the Christmas holiday and re-open on Friday 12th January 2018.

*Anthea Denham*



## **THE MISSION GROUP**

Thank you to all who were able to come to our coffee morning on Saturday 11th November. We were able to send a cheque to the Rohingya Crisis Appeal for the refugees coming out of Myanmar. With your support we collected £142.60. The majority was from Saturday's efforts and the rest of the delicious cakes made for us to sell were sold on Sunday morning; only a few crumbs left! What an amazing amount and all due to your wonderful donations and generosity.

Thank you Doreen for making marmalade to sell and to Sara Skinner for helping all of the Mission Group. Ruth made wonderful little cakes in place of Joyce who was naturally unable to be there. We wish her a full recovery.

The next event for us is the food parcel appeal envelopes going out on the 3rd December. As usual we will be helping the Family Resource Centre for Barnet. They will deliver the food we buy, mostly basic items plus some luxury items, for needy families in our area for Christmas. The envelopes will be available until Sunday 17th December when we will collect all the envelopes ready to go shopping on Monday 18th December.

We will also have a Toy service on 17th December so please could someone help deliver these while we do the food shopping? As you know the Toy service date has changed from the 10th December to the 17th December.

The toys will be for the Family Resource Centre too. The staff look after children too and who are most appreciative of our gifts. On December 12th the carol singing collection at Arnos Grove is on a Tuesday. The money raised will go to BMS (Baptist Missionary Society) World Wide Aid as usual. See time elsewhere.

Please note we are having a Mission Meeting on Sunday 7th January after the service. Mission Boxes, both BMS and CWM will be collected in for counting and banking on Sunday 14th January. If anyone wants a box please let me know.

Happy Christmas everyone and Happy New Year. May you all be blessed.

*Anthea Denham*

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

We will be collecting for Christian Aid on Monday 18th December from 5.30pm to 7pm. Please try to join us. Robert Wright is organizing it and asks people to bring photo ID with them.

Look for posters about other Christian Aid Carol Concerts in London. The Christian Aid Quiz is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at St. John's Friern Barnet. More details in the January Newsletter. They will be giving to Christian Aid as always.

This coming year 2018, Christian Aid Week will be from Sunday 13th May to Saturday 19th May. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas.

*Anthea Denham*

## **WOMEN'S CLUB**

We had my old favourite of Origami on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when we achieved an excellent bird in various colours. This art requires concentration, a precise firm fold at each step to get the desired result and is very good to exercise stiff hands.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November we approached Christmas with a felt red bell. This craft exercised us in stitching, creating bows, adding a golden bell with further decoration of miniature white beads in a snowflake/frost like form and red hanging loop to attach to the Christmas tree. A very happy and chatty afternoon was enjoyed by all as the group worked away.

We meet again on 30<sup>th</sup> November to produce a Christmas table decoration of holly and ivy etc. and candle. Our last session is on 14<sup>th</sup> December when we have our Christmas afternoon tea and games.

The Christmas Bazaar at Christ Church is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 11am to 2pm and the Women's Club will run a stall, please support the Brownies and Rainbows in this fund raiser event.

After a break for Christmas and New Year we will start again at 2pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

If you would like to find out more about our club please ring me on 07703 483791.

*Jane Gibbins*

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### **FINANCE FOR APRIL 2017 TO 19th NOVEMBER 2017**

Cash	£2,666.52
Envelopes	<u>£4,460.00</u>
	£7,126.52

November Communion Collection of £33.85  
For the Compassionate Fund

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Only one meeting to report at the time of writing. On the 14th November we had our "Remembrance afternoon".

We were very pleased to have Ruth, our Minister, with us and hope she will be able to pop in again and join us in the future.

Some of us had brought various things with us which reminded us of times past. There were photographs of family and friends and a small "silver shoe" which had decorated Iris's wedding cake (many years ago).

Betty read to us from books about the Holocaust and the suffering that was endured by so many.

We had newspaper cuttings of a German Soldier, then aged 23, who risked his life in occupied Guernsey secretly feeding a starving widow and her family. He had kept in touch over the years and was recently reunited with some of the family (now in their 70's and 80's) when he travelled back to Guernsey after 43 years.

This year the Queen and Prince Philip watched the Remembrance Sunday Service from a Foreign Office balcony where she was seen wiping away a tear. We also had a small Regimental greetings card dated 1919 which read "There is gladness in remembrance".

Our Christmas afternoon is on the 12th December at 2pm.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

*Gladys Townsend*



## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

How has 2017 been for you? Peaceful, full of joy or rather stressful and sad. Life is seen as either good or bad. When seen as bad, we lose confidence, dread the future and even lose hope at times. We try God's patience by our lack of trust and belief in His miraculous Power.

At Christmas we remember and celebrate God who became human to save us and bring us Peace. Let us try to discard our fears, sadness and anxieties this Christmas for good. As children of God, the prediction by Isaiah to the House of David is for us too. Whatever you dread will be laid waste.

Do not allow anything to ruin your enjoyment of Christmas. Keep faith in Immanuel (God with us), Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Christ has come and left us with his peace. Accept His peace in faith. He will resolve whatever problem you have, in His own good time.

### **Isaiah 7:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

*Happy, Peaceful & Blessed Christmas Everyone*

*Ola Lawal*

