

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

ISSUE 261

www.christchurchnsfb.org

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



The Christmas Post Box will be available from 2nd December for two weeks only (for Church Friends). The cards will be ready to collect from the 16th December.

FAMILY NEWS

We continue to remember in our prayers all friends who are in need, those who have recently lost loved ones and those who sometimes find things difficult. Also, we pray for all who have been or are unwell at this time.

Thank you from the Newsletter editorial team to all who contribute to and submit reports for our Newsletters, especially Dorothy Brown for her articles this month.

Dorothy sends her Christmas Greetings to everyone at Christ Church.

Greetings and Best Wishes to all - Clare Jenkins and Gladys Townsend.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

- Sun. 2nd 1st Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 am. Morning Worship, Junior Church & Youth Group
- Tues. 4th 2.00 pm. Friendship Club
6.30 pm. Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Show at GRCC
- Thurs. 6th 5.20 pm. Beavers (last meeting until 17/01/19)
6.15 pm. Cub Scouts (“ “ “ “)
7.00 pm. Scouts (“ “ “ “)
- Sat. 8th 10.00 a.m. Decorating the Church for Christmas
- Sun. 9th 2nd Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
TOY SERVICE & NATIVITY
11.00 am. Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Tues. 11th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows
5.30 p.m. Brownies – Carol Singing at Arnos Grove Station
7.15 p.m. Guides
(All last meetings until 2019)
- Wed. 12th 8.00 pm. Deacons Meeting at the Manse
- Thurs. 13th 2.00 pm. Women’s Club – Christmas Afternoon
8.00 pm. Connect – Bible Study & Prayer Group
- Sun. 16th 3rd Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 am. Morning Worship, Communion, Junior Church
& Youth Group
5.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight
- Sun. 23rd 4th Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
- Mon. 24th 4.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Christingle Service
- Tues. 25th 10.30 a.m. Rev. Ruth Moriarty
Christmas Day Family Service
- Sun. 30th Mrs Diana Bensted
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service

PASTORAL LETTER



'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it' John 1.5

As we prepare to dust off the Christmas lights from boxes and bags hidden in garages, lofts and cupboards that are too small, we are reminded that lights and Christmas are the perfect match. We delight in fairy lights transforming dull rooms into enchanting places, we make a special trip to see the lights of Oxford St, and we light candles at carol services saying 'Jesus is the light of the world, the light that shines in the darkness'. For a long time, the church has understood herself to be a light guiding others to find Jesus.

'But what kind of light are we?' asked Rev'd Paul Martin from Trinity Church in Finchley to a full church at the recent London Baptist Association district celebration. It's an excellent question and one that has stayed with me for weeks now. For some Christians, to be light is to be neon-bright and loud, seen from far away and boldly active in the community. For others it is to be a flickering flame in the darkest corner of a soul.

How will we be light this Christmas in our community? And here is a question for each of us to discern with the Holy Spirit's guidance. I suspect that among our friends, neighbours and family our faith needs to be a steady light, one that doesn't go out. But also, one that understands what darkness is, knows that Jesus' light changes every darkness imaginable. Knowing Jesus in our hearts, as our friend and Saviour brings light and hope to every situation. May we be courageous in sharing his light, our experiences of the darkness of this world and enable others to see his light by pointing to Jesus, whether we are flashing neon lights or a simple candle, may we bring God's light into this world at Christmas time.

Ruth

“BEING LIGHT”

A very lively evening of words and worship was enjoyed by those of us who joined the LBA Northern Region celebration at Enfield Baptist Church on the evening of 4th November.

The theme for the evening was “Being Light” and the large congregation was led in worship by a group of guitars, a keyboard and a sax, played by John our minister’s husband. The service was led by Winston Bygrave the minister from Hendon Baptist Church.

The first session of worship was led by Josh Kane a young minister from Mill Hill East with his guitar and judging by the volume of singing the congregation were obviously involving their hearts and souls in this time of worship. Following that Ruth brought a reading and prayer.

Georgia Venn Dunn a youth worker at Mill Hill Church then gave an inspired account of the work being done there amongst young people on a new estate built on part of the former army barracks site. The Church works in a multi-purpose building used as a café and worship area. There are many young families for whom they organise clubs, games, football matches, outings and Bible studies in their task of “Being Light” to the area.

The next speaker was Paul Martin from North Finchley who spoke movingly of the time when he suffered from depression and words from the book of Psalms helped to bring light back into his life.

Following that folk were asked to find someone from another Church and say how they felt light was being brought into their own Church. The pairs were then asked to find another pair and share again, groups of four were then asked to find another group and share, until the whole place was buzzing with the noise of folk sharing news of how this was happening in their own church.

Amanda James from Enfield then spoke on “Jesus Light of the World” and how each one might make this concept high priority in our individual Churches. Three Regional Ministers were then introduced and prayed for, and the service finished with songs and a blessing after which tea and coffee was available when we could chat and catch up with friends from neighbouring Churches.

Joan Gray

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our one meeting in November was our Remembrance afternoon on the 6th when we all had different tales to tell, some about elderly relatives who had served in the 1st World War (1914-1918). We were able to relate our own experiences in WW11 as we had brothers or sisters who were in the forces, my sister being in the WRNS. We also thought of some of the former members of the Friendship Club, including Dorothy Brown who served in the Civil Nursing Reserve, whilst Marjorie Gill had been in the Land Army. We recalled the days and nights spent in the shelters when the planes were overhead and bombs were dropping around.

We read poems and stories of the Wars and recalled the joy and relief when the War was finally over and celebrating with street parties. All this history must surely be passed on to the young people of today. “Lest We Forget”.

Our next meeting, a Christmas afternoon, is on the 4th December at 2 pm in the Parlour. Join with us if you can.

Greetings and Good Wishes to you all. Happy Christmas.

Gladys Townsend

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This Remembrance Service was very poignant as it was exactly 100 years since the guns fell silent to mark the end of World War 1. The war to end all wars where 16 million of the cream of humanity lost their lives.

After a damp start, by the time our minister the Rev Ruth Moriarty opened the service at 10:45 am the sun had broken through bathing the church in pale autumn sunshine. After the parading of the flags and opening prayer and hymns at precisely 11.00 am the congregation stood silently for the traditional 2 minutes silence after which Ruth recited the immortal words of Laurence Binyon;

*“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Now follows a brief synopsis of the rest of the service, Ruth split the congregation into two for a memory game which consisted of 10 different picture cards including a field, a farmer, a tractor, a bird’s nest and of course the ubiquitous cuddly toy the result being a predictable draw.

Hanging from the pulpit was a cross made up of a number of striking poppies which epitomised the solemnity of the occasion. Ruth paid particular attention to this and suggested that people might like to take photographs of it as a reminder.

Ruth’s sermon was about the poppy itself and its significance for Remembrance Day which was instigated by Canadian surgeon John McCrea in his poem “In Flanders Fields”. The relevance of each part of the poppy were discussed using questions and answers. The actual position that the poppy is worn, the leaf at 11 o’clock, the colour and the black centre representing the seeds of God’s love and hope for the future.

At 11:45am after a final hymn and prayer the service came to a close on this very special Sunday.

Tony Fensome

HEARTBREAKING LETTERS FROM WW1 SOLDIERS

(with thanks to Tony Fensome)

November 11th 2018 marked the one hundredth anniversary of the ending of World War one, the so called, war to end all wars. What follows are just a few of the millions of letters, sent home from the “front” or the trenches.

In one letter Private Albert Ford wrote to his wife Edith on a scrap piece of paper before going “over the top”.

“My Darling,

if this should ever reach you it will be a sure sign that I am gone under and what will become of you and the chicks I do not know, but there is one above that will see to you and not let you starve.” he wrote.
“You have been the best of wives and I loved you deeply, how much you will never know Dear Heart, do think sometimes of me in the future when your grief has worn a bit and the older children I know won't forget me, speak sometimes of me to the younger ones.

Dearest if the chance should come your way, for you are young and good looking and should a good man give you an offer, it would please me to think you would take it. Not to grieve too much for me. I should not have left you thus bringing suffering and poverty on a loving wife and children, for which in time I hope you will forgive me.

So Dear Heart I will bid you all farewell, hoping to meet you in the time to come if there is a hereafter. Know that my last thoughts were of you, in the dugout or on the fire step my thoughts went out to you, the only one I ever loved, the one that made a man of me.

Albert was killed in action on 20th October 1917. His last letter was treasured by Edith until her death. She never remarried and as she lay dying in February 1956, she said she could see Albert in the corner of her bedroom.

Also, among the letters that have been found by descendants are notes from Private Charles Snelling to his wife Alice and daughters in 1917. Now owned by grandson Bob Snelling from Surrey they reveal how a treasured photograph of Alice was carried by Charles and was found in a Belgian forest months after he was killed in action. The photo was found by a corporal in the Soldiers Christian Association and returned to Alice with a letter that read :-

*"Dear Madam,
I am sending these few photos found in a wood here in the battlefields.
I am very sorry to say I could not find the owner of the photos so I
cannot say if he has been wounded or killed."*

Charles body was discovered months later and buried after British forces retook the territory where he was found.

Private William Martin and Emily Chitticks were engaged to be married when he went to war. In a letter dated 24th March 1917 he wrote:-

*"My Dearest Emily,
Just a few lines to tell you I am still in the land of the living and
keeping well, trusting you are the same Dear. We are not in the same
place, in fact we don't stay in the same place very long. We are
having very nice weather at present Dear and I hope it continues.
Fondest love and kisses from your loving sweetheart" Will.*

Three days later he was killed in action. Emily was devastated and never married. After her death in 1974 a note amongst her papers was found requesting that William's letter be buried with her.

These fascinating and deeply moving letters show that true love can survive even through the incredibly harrowing experience of the nightmare that is war.

THE SHEPHERDS TALE

It was very cold that night, out in the fields. The sheep were restless, was there a wild animal about? We kept good watch, longing for time to pass until morning.

A sudden light in the sky - lightning? Perhaps there was a storm brewing. It grew and grew, we were so frightened huddled together – even more so, when the light blinded us and we began to hear voices.

At least one voice, so loud and clear. It seemed to be telling us something about a baby, what's more, that we should leave our sheep and go and visit this baby – now!

The amazing thing was, that we couldn't seem to stop ourselves going. We did leave one man behind, he had to miss the excitement, but the sheep must be guarded.

The rest of us set out blindly it seemed, but we really did follow the star and eventually came to an old stable, lots of those about. This one was different though.

We just sort of barged in, very curious we were.

Well, I could hardly believe my eyes, there were lots of animals about of course with all the noise, mess and muddle but there in the middle of them was this young girl looking pretty exhausted but strangely calm, with a tiny baby wrapped in rags and lying on some straw in the cattle's manger. Her husband was there as well looking very protective and very worried as well especially when we all rushed in.

It was so strange though because it was very light in there although it was pitch dark outside. It almost seemed that the light was coming from around the manger. Jo took off his neckerchief and gave it to them to help wrap the baby. I only had a crust to give, not much, but they were hungry.

We found ourselves kneeling down. We knew this was something really special, as if the whole world could change because of this tiny baby – could it really be so?

Dorothy Brown 2018

WOMEN'S CLUB

A good start was made on 1st November for our run up to Christmas with a frosted and decorated jar for the mantel piece. We followed that on the 15th November with hand-made Christmas Cards and this was brilliant with very creative results from everyone. To complete November we meet on Thursday 29th when we will be creating a Christmas table arrangement.

Our final session is on December 13th when we will enjoy a Christmas Afternoon full of quizzes, games and ending with the song "12 days of Christmas".

My thanks go to Val who has led a number of the sessions; to those who have given a talk about their travels; and to all who have supported and attended the Women's Club throughout the year.

We will close over Christmas and New Year to recommence on Thursday 17th January.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jane Gibbins

JOY FOR THE WORLD

Morning has broken, Light in the sky
Baby is sleeping, shepherds are nigh
So, we remember, so, we are told
Gifts will be coming, myrrh, spice and gold

Difficulties pending – flight to escape
So, like the present, freedom at stake
Have we progressed far? – world all at peace?
Lord, give us wisdom, let the wars cease

As we remember, so let us pray
World still in turmoil – show us the way
Food for the hungry, shelter for all
Merciful Saviour, answer our call

Dorothy Brown, 2018

FINANCE FROM APRIL to NOVEMBER 2018

Cash	£2633.44
Envelopes	<u>£5016.10</u>
	£7649.54

The November Communion offering for the Compassionate Fund was £23.76.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 24th November the church was open for our annual Christmas Bazaar. Lots of stalls with festive themes. Pauline's cake stall was amazing as usual - worthy of Fortnum and Mason's windows. The Sweetie and (full) Tin Tombolas were also very popular. Diana painted some breath-taking festive faces. Seasonal wreaths and hyacinth pots added to the atmosphere. Lots of people passed through the church, and it was good to catch up with friends, old and new.

But a huge thank you should go to those who helped with the set up and organisation.

Anne was away, and Sara's work meant she was not there to help either. So, a huge amount of work was left to Val, Lynda and Roger. It could not, and would not have happened without them; and, of course all the lovely people who manned and set up their own stalls.

Annie Skinner would also like to say a huge thank you to all those who helped her towards her Guide trip to Budapest, especially Pauline! She raised a fantastic £36!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sara Skinner

FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

This is to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came to help on Saturday 24th November at the Christmas Bazaar.

It was a success even though we were competing with St Pauls Bazaar as well. The turn out was pretty good and we are sure that most of those who came enjoyed it.

A special word of thanks goes to the following – Pennie who helped on the Brownie stall also Ola who was stuck behind the plants for a while and both Esther and Rebecca who got landed with ‘How many sweets in the Jar’ and the ‘lolly’ games. The Rainbows had a ‘Sweetie tombola’ which in the absence of their leader Anne was run by her helper Mary and Mary’s daughter.

Allister & Julie came and brought a new game with them and of course the ‘Face Painting’ was run by Diana and Sara – the kids looked lovely with their amazing designs. The Friendship club ran a ‘TINBOLA’ stall where tins of food were the prizes and the Women’s club had all sorts on theirs.

The Deacons stall was in the charge of Tony and had some lovely toys for sale. Scouts ran the Book Stall and the Refreshments had a selection of helpers which included Roger & Clare.

The stall which attracted most people was the beautiful cakes that Pauline (Guide Captain) had made they were all a work of art.

Now that this is over, we can all settle down to enjoy our Festivities.

Thanks, from the FACC Committee
Anne, Sara, Lynda & Val

THE MISSION GROUP

Hello Everyone, how did that happen? It's Christmas Food Parcels for the Family Resource Centre time again, already!

As is our custom we will be collecting donations for the Christmas Appeal, with your co-operation, via envelopes from Sunday 2nd December, the 9th December, with a final collection on Sunday 16th. Then some of the Mission Group will go out and buy food – mainly essential items with some luxuries too. We usually buy the following – sugar, tea, coffee, butter, tins of tuna or ham, jam, tinned fruit, jelly, evaporated milk, biscuits, mince pies, Christmas Pudding and/or Christmas cake slices, chocolates, eggs and squash. Some of the parcels are for some members of our own congregation.

We plan to go shopping on Monday 17th December and hope to have enough money to buy enough for 10/12 Food Parcels. The Family Resource Centre need our support to help very poor families in our area. On the 9th December we will be having our Toy/Nativity service. Please bring a new toy, book, puzzles, soft toys etc. If not new please ensure the toys are in excellent condition. These toys will also be distributed to children who attend the after-school service there at the Resource Centre. The Barnet staff are very appreciative of our help for others less fortunate than ourselves.

On Tuesday 11th December we, as a Church, are singing carols at Arnos Grove Tube Station. This is usually a jolly affair and commuters returning home hear the carols as they climb the steps at the station. It makes them smile and even more so when they see lots of Brownies and Guides singing away. All proceeds will go to the magnificent work of Baptist World Aid.

Come and join us if you are able – it's the real feeling of the Christmas spirit from 5.30 -7.00pm Wrap up warm, the acoustics are terrific, dry under cover but a bit draughty.

Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Anthea Denham

CHRISTIAN AID

More carol singing at Arnos Grove Station for any willing person from 5.30pm – 7pm. on Monday 17th December. A few people come from the Churches around the area i.e. Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Pauls, St. Johns, All Saints, St. John's Whetstone, Manor Drive Methodist Church and us. ID is required for everyone taking part – Robert Wright says all proceeds to Christian Aid and their vital work.

The combined street collections from around this area (Churches Together) totalled £3413.30. Then there was an additional £62.50 from St. John's Harvest collection. We, of course, gave all our Harvest donations and food to H.A.B. in North Finchley this year.

The annual Christian Aid Quiz will be at the end of January 2019. Date to be advised. Once again it will be at St. John's Friern Barnet Road. There will be supper and the quiz following included in the ticket price.

In 2019 Christian Aid Week will be from Sunday 12th May to Saturday 18th May. Please make a note in your diaries as volunteers will be needed to deliver and collect envelopes. More of this next year! There will be a Churches Together service in the evening on Sunday 12th May. Several of us, including Ruth, went to New Barnet URC this year.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anthea Denham

DENHAM FAMILY NEWS

Tanya and I visited Mark and Maeve in Munich for a long weekend in November. We walked in the English Gardens, very beautiful, saw the city centre, had a Bavarian Meal in a traditional hall with men in their leather hosen and the girls in their pretty girdles. We also saw their play "Pygmalion" on Monday 19th November. Mark and Maeve are touring Europe for 8 months with the play which is hugely entertaining. They will be in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey for a week in early December!

Christmas Greetings from Anthea and Chris.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Christmas is almost upon us again. The preparations and the running around to buy presents and food could easily become a nightmare if one is not careful. I still remember the interview some time ago asking what Christmas meant to different people. Some of the answers included eating, drinking and being with family members I would rather avoid.

Well, Jesus the light of the world is the only reason for Christmas. He came into the world to shine His light into our darkness which may be caused by broken relationships, ill-health, bereavement or job insecurity to name a few. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Seek his peace for you and your loved ones. Keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas. Stay in His light. Only His light can overcome any darkness that may want to threaten your Christmas. Try to remember the passages below as you prepare for and celebrate Christmas.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:5 (NIV)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Happy, Blessed, Peaceful Christmas!!!

Ola Lawal

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11 at 8pm. on Monday 17th December 2018.

Please let us have your material for the January Newsletter by Sunday 16th December.