

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

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www.christchurchnsfb.org

CHRISTMAS 2019

Is it that time now, will the bells ring?
Are we now ready, carols to sing
Have we some presents, hidden away
Do we hear faintly, the sound of a sleigh?

So much confusion surrounds us, it seems
Calm and contentment? - only in dreams
Talks of extinction - ice melting fast
who can we turn to, will our world last?

As we rejoice in our dear Saviours birth
Glance down O Lord, to your people on earth
Grant us thy peace, given freely to all
Lord of all hopefulness - answer our call.

Dorothy Brown 2019

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

The Christmas Post Box will be available from the 1st December for two weeks only (for Church Friends).

The cards will be ready to collect from the 15th December.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2019

- Sun. 1st 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
1st Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche
- Tues. 3rd 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Thurs. 5th 6.00 p.m. Beavers & Cub Scouts (Thursdays until break)
- Sat. 7th 10.30 a.m. Decoration of the Church for Christmas
- Sun. 8th 2nd Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
TOY SERVICE
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship - All Age Service
- Thurs. 12th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club - Christmas Afternoon
- Sun. 15th 3rd Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
NATIVITY
11.00 am. Morning Worship & Parade - All Age Service
- Sun. 22nd 4th Sunday in Advent - Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
5.30 p.m. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - followed by refreshments
- Tues. 24th 4.00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE -
All Age Service
- Wed. 25th 10.30 a.m. Rev. Ruth Moriarty
CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE
- Sun. 29th Mrs Ola Lawal
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service

JANUARY

- Sun. 5th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Creche

PASTORAL LETTER



As we enter into Advent, we are reminded of a familiar image of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a servant ‘I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.’(Luke 1.38) Here at the heart of the story of God is a young woman, promised to her boyfriend but-not yet-married, showing faith like no other. Her grace, humility and beauty are astounding. But if we read just a little further, we reach Mary’s Song – the Magnificat. Her song though is not a lullaby, or pretty poetry it as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who was executed by the Nazis, said “the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary hymn ever sung.”

Above is Ben Wildflower's new image of Mary, that shows her to be a mighty woman of God. For on the lips a pregnant teenage unmarried girl is the call of God 'who scatters the proud, brought down mighty kings, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away.' (Luke 1.46-55) Mary's words challenge us even today, to be conscious that God came to and was born into the lowly. Church is not for the rich, proud and mighty but for girls like Mary on whom the Lord's favour rests.

May we likewise seek to uphold these values as God's church during Advent. As we give and share with our community, meeting old faces and new, may we be confident of the Kingdom of God that is built upon Jesus Christ. May we have Mary's courage to challenge power, poverty and false pride in our own lives and in our country and world. May we see Mary differently and may our delight in God be that he chooses us to serve him in the same way today.

Blessings Ruth

CHURCH MEETING ON 24th NOVEMBER 2019

Held in parlour after service

Present 11 members and 2 non-members

Meeting opened by reading Hebrews 10, 22-25 and Church secretary opened in prayer

Minutes of last meeting were read and agreed

Bereavement service report

Attended by 22 people. Well received. Was unknown what would happen and people were relieved about how went, was non-threatening. Sue thanked Ola for her testimony. Ola enjoyed herself, felt more healed. A number of strangers came to service. A visitor went away with a new Bible. Ruth's triumph, she has been using Anglican idea. Did not suit all but there is a difficulty of dealing with pastoral issues and how people are different in their responses. Good, should do again.

Toast

Has also been well received by those who have been. 7 and 9 have attended. 11 overall. Leaving space for prayer - in small groups, to make people know each other better.

Policies Health and Safety

We now have a Fire policy in addition to our Health and Safety policy. For the Fire Policy we had a fire drill in Sunday service - thanks to everyone, the evacuation time was 2 mins. We will now adjust our plans learning from lessons learnt. We need to make everyone aware. Similar fire drills should be done by all groups using the church - AA will do in new year, Life and Mission Choir will be asked to do similar.

TF was thanked for his assistance with monitoring H&S.

Resulting from policy there is a regular walk round.

All were encouraged reporting of near misses and accidents recorded in the "Accident Book". The resultant conversations covered:

Trip hazard from children toys - modified by bags

Ola asked about glass doors.

Swing back of parlour door by kitchen is fierce

Security of pulpit stairs

Close door in pews on car park side

Light outside door not been on. How goes off? Sue to record for a week.

The policy will be added to our website.

Vote on re-adopting H&S policy unanimous.

Development - no further progress.

Re submitted evidence to Enfield, not gone to planning yet.

Christmas arrangements - fliers and postcards were discussed.

People volunteered for roads to distribute postcards.

Next meeting 4th Sunday in Jan - 26th January 2020.

Closed in period of open prayer.

WOMEN'S CLUB

In November we decorated jars with Autumn leaves and foliage topped with a tea light to give a glow. Creating Christmas greeting cards set our creative skills another challenge. We have a Christmas Afternoon tea and games on 12th December after which we close for a few weeks.

The Women's Club will meet again on 16th January 2020 for a Folding Book project. An invitation to join us at 2pm alternate Thursdays (see Diary Page) is open to ladies of all ages.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Jane Gibbins

FAMILY NEWS

Available in paper form at church

NEWS FROM NORTH WALSHAM

Hello to all our friends at Christ Church.

Well here we are at our new home, address and phone number available in church the veritable wilds of Norfolk. What a change from North London. We are living on the outskirts of town on a small estate surrounded by fields and lots of peace and quiet. The people here are so friendly, everybody says "Good day" even if you don't know them and there are dogs everywhere also very friendly.

It gets very dark at night especially after midnight when all the street lights are turned off, but don't worry as they come on again at 5 am.

Transport is typically rural, our local bus runs once every 2 hours and finishes at 5 pm and there are no local buses on Sundays. The trains run once an hour, either into Norwich or out to Cromer and Sheringham on the coast. We have struck up a relationship with a local taxi, any local journey is a flat fee of £3.60.

I have joined the local Methodist church which is as warm and welcoming as you all were and I will be sharing a lift with a couple of other parishioners every week.

This has been the right move for both of us and we are extremely happy in our new home.

Take care and God bless you all.

Tony and Dee

MISSION GROUP

Thank you to everyone who came to support the Mission Group's Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th November. We managed to collect £73.50 for Operation Agri's appeal for help in Nepal where poor remote villagers are still suffering the effect of the earthquakes which hit the area a few years ago. They need help to improve crop growing, health, education and livelihoods. We are hoping to see a video of the work going on there but the DVD unfortunately refused to play recently.

My special thanks go to Pennie and Rebecca who came to help at the Coffee Morning. We sold quite a few books and gifts given to us to support our aim. It was very cold but people came and it was as always, a warm atmosphere.

In December we usually provide toys for the Family Resource Centre. There will be a Toy Service on Sunday 8th December. Please bring new books or toys. We usually do receive a huge amount of generous gifts to give to the children who will receive very little this Christmas. It is a long-standing tradition in this Church. Some of these children are fostered.

The Church Nativity Service will be on Sunday 15th December and Carols by Candlelight at 5.30pm on Sunday 22nd December. Usually this is a beautiful service with 9 lessons read to us and 9 carols interspersed between the lessons. Bring your family and friends.

We will be collecting to buy food for families who attend the Family Resource Centre run by Barnet. The people who work there know where and why those families need help to buy the basics of a shopping list and we always include a few luxury items like chocolates and Christmas

mince pies and pudding or cake. They are like a life line for many of the people involved and in need.

We will need some help to go shopping, usually at Asda's in Southgate! If you can help, we will need to go shopping by Monday or Tuesday 16th or 17th December.

Food parcel envelopes will be distributed a few weeks before the shopping day with envelopes going out on the 1st December, 8th and the last possible date, Sunday 15th December.

Please give if you are able to this worthy cause.

Happy Christmas Everyone.

Yours in Christ,

Anthea Denham

**RESPONSE PASTOR - GRADUATION
SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER at ST MARK'S OVAL 3pm.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

In the May Church Magazine, I told you that I had started a course to become a "Response Pastor". Through God's Grace I have finished and I am graduating on Saturday 30th November.

Just a reminder of what Response Street Pastors are. We are volunteers from Street Pastors, who are called to offer help, at the scenes of major disasters, like terrorist attack at the London Bridge etc. and Knife Crime scenes, outside the "Corded Line" may be asked to cross over!

We are called to liaise with Rescue and Emergency Services, and the Police to offer help as required, and with Faith Leaders for prayers and other help needed as a Christian Community. Such as helping the families to find their missing loved ones in the chaos! etc. But just to be there for them, to comfort and support them.

This all started, in April, after attending a “Prayer Rally” at Trafalgar Square, organised by Ascension Trust, which is the Head Office of Street Pastors, together with Churches around Central London and other Christian Organisations around there; for Knife Crime Victims. As I said in May Church Magazine. After listening to the testimonies, of the families of the Knife Crime Victims, recalling with so much pain, and sorrow, from the time when the Police knocked at their doors, with the bad news, that their loved ones had been stabbed, to the end of it all, my heart was filled with compassion for them! I wished that I could do something to help. These are the normal reactions we get, when we listen to the news and see the violence, terror and chaos, all around us and the world!! But at the back of our minds, we know that these are far-fetched wishes! What can we do as individuals? The likely answer is nothing. Well with God all things are possible! The Lord knows all the thoughts of our hearts!

However, I was a bit surprised, when I received an email from the Ascension Trust, three days later, asking for volunteers to train as Response Pastors! After praying about it, took a little while, asking for God’s direction and guidance in the matter, and listening to His “Still small voice”, I offered to train.

We are only two of us from Enfield Street Pastors, please pray for us. Indeed, it sounds tough and emotional as you can imagine. But I trust that God will always be with me and strengthen me, Just as He has been with me, in the streets at night, sharing His love with those whom, He has sent my way.

I feel very privileged to be called, to serve Him as a Response Pastor and grateful too. Jesus said to His disciples and us; “You are like light for the whole world ... (Matthew 5v14) v16; “So your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do, and praise your Father in Heaven”.

AMEN.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Christmas filled with Joy and Hope, as we celebrate God's Love, our "IMMANUEL".
MERRY CHRISTMAS and A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours in Christ.
With God's Blessings.
Pennie Bongomin.

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to NOVEMBER 2019

Cash	£3311.53
Envelopes	£4935.23
	£8246.76

November Communion Collection of £99.88
for the Compassionate Fund

CHRISTIAN AID

I don't know if there will be a Christian Aid Quiz in January yet, but will let you know in the January Newsletter. We had a table last year and really enjoyed ourselves. Look out for that event notification.

Please see poster in Church for details of the Christian Aid Carol Concert.

Roger Scopes' Art Exhibition

My daughter Tanya, and I, went to Thame on Saturday 26th October to see Rev. Roger Scopes and visit his art exhibition. There must have been about 50 of his beautiful paintings on display altogether. Some had already been sold on Friday 25th and others like "Thame in Flood" was stunning but not surprisingly "Not for Sale". Most of the paintings were in water colour and others in pen and ink or other mediums.

As someone who is unable to draw anything beyond a poor 5 year old artist level, I was really so impressed by this body of work. I always knew Roger loved to draw and paint from when he was our minister many years ago and that he was talented. I do love art galleries but Roger's trees in his pictures are superb and skies and water!

Well we had rain, heavy rain when we arrived there and until we drove home. However, we had a lovely catch up with Roger and Molly in an Italian Restaurant firstly and later on at the Church where their daughter's husband Romilly is the Minister. Everyone was warm and friendly.

I could not leave without buying a painting, so mine is called "The Lamb and Flag Passage", which is in Oxford. It is really lovely and different.

Roger married Tanya and Gary and next December 2020 they will be celebrating 30 years. Roger has always been a dear friend. The money Roger raised all went to Christian Aid. Thank you, Roger!

Anthea Denham

GARDENING

As a church, we work very hard on making people welcome when they enter Christ Church but I strongly believe the appearance and tidiness of our church and grounds are important to show the community the love we have for Christ Church. I would like to voice my thanks again to all those who have come together over the past year to keep the church grounds in order. In fine weather or windy and damp conditions, people have come to donate time and energy with sweeping, weeding and cutting back ivy and shrubs, and to ferry the bags of garden waste away, for this type of gardening no experience is necessary only the ability and the willingness to spare an hour or two. Paul and Clive also do a grand job of cutting the grass on a regular basis.

God Bless you.

Sue Rogers

LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM

A joyful Christmas musical for all the family
presented by The Life and Mission Choir.

Music and Lyrics by Paul Wardrop-Day and David Peston
Saturday 7th December - 6.30 pm

Muswell Hill Methodist Church,
Pages Lane, N10 1PP

Sunday 8th December - 6.30 pm
Holy Innocents Church,
Kingsbury Road, NW9 0AY

Come and hear the Christmas story in a new, exciting way
And discover the Light of the World!

Admission Free

Lifeandmissionchoir.com

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We thank God for another season of Advent. A time to remind ourselves of the first coming of Jesus Christ as a baby; His presence among us through the Holy Spirit; prepare for Christmas; prepare and anticipate His second coming.

There are so many issues that can easily disturb our spiritual preparations for Christmas. Worries about health, jobs, funds and relationships for example. When ugly fears and worries try to disturb our preparations and enjoyment of Christmas, let us remind ourselves of the love of Lord Jesus for us. To remember the meaning of His names and what they mean to us as believers as written in the passages below.

‘Immanuel’ means ‘God with us’. He is with us at all times and forever. As our Counsellor, He will comfort us and grant us the discernment we need. As our Mighty God, He will protect us and provide for us. And as our Prince of Peace He will grant us the peace we crave. **Hallelujah!!!**

Matthew 1:23

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Happy, Blessed, Christmas!!!

Ola Lawal

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 16th December 2019.

Please let us have your material for the January Newsletter
by Sunday 15th December.