

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

ISSUE 305

www.christchurchnsfb.org



JANUARY 2023

Sun. 1st NO TOAST OR SUNDAY SERVICE TODAY

Thurs. 5th 8.00.p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom

Sun. 8th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Ruth Moriarty
Morning Worship – All Age Service

Sunday Church Services usually take place in person at 11am. and are also available online and on our YouTube Channel – see our web site for further info. (www.christchurchnsfb.org). A paper copy of the service is available to download or can be sent by post (please contact the Minister or Church Secretary).

Please search the Church website regularly for any updated information.

To join our Thursday Evening Prayer Meeting on Zoom, go to -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5408158881?pwd=ank5UmJGRGVMVXJWWFRSL1IPSVBnZz09>

Meeting ID: 540 815 8881 - Passcode: ccnsfb

CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

This year we have a good opportunity to share Christmas joy with local families via New Southgate Family Resource Centre. Please bring new or gently used toys on 4th Dec and money for food vouchers by 11th Dec. We offer the bereavement service on 4th Dec as a reflective service to remember and thank God for all loved ones who have passed away.

Our Christmas Craft Café on 17th Dec provides kids and adults opportunity to make Christmas decorations and share festive refreshments together.

The delight of Christmas is singing carols by candlelight, making Christingles with oranges and sweets and hearing again the beautiful story of Jesus being born into this world.

Please do join us celebrating God's love at Christmas.

PASTORAL LETTER

Waiting for God

The waiting we have done at Christ Church is not like waiting for a bus to arrive on a winter's day, it's not like waiting for exam results, it's not even like waiting for your prince to arrive. The waiting we have done is waiting for God.

Waiting for plans to be drawn up
Waiting for plans to be agreed
Waiting for plans to be amended
Waiting for reports to be made and submitted
Waiting to draw down funds
Waiting for listed buildings committees to start and finish
Waiting for synod to meet
Waiting for synod to vote and grant
Waiting for surveyor's reports
Waiting for a buyer with a good price
Waiting for lawyer's bills
Waiting for Enfield council planning department
Waiting for Enfield planning committee
Waiting for Enfield planning committee
Waiting for Enfield planning committee

I've been here only 5 years, and pretty much all we've done is to be in a perpetual state of waiting.

It's probably a good thing too, because there is more waiting coming. Waiting for Section 106 to be finalised with our buyer and planning department, waiting for judicial review for this is a major development.

But now we wait with the certainty that we have planning permission to be able to sell Grove Road. We have gone through to the next waiting room which actually means something will happen. We've moved out of the zigzag rope lines and into the official waiting area.

In the season of Advent, we are reminded that as part of the people of God; it is in our DNA ... in our very bones, to wait on God. And as the people of God, we wait on God for change. For too long the people had

longed for light, longed for hope from the oppression of the Romans – and all the oppressors before them.

The God we hope in is great, and worthy to be praised, he is mighty to act, the splendour of his majesty is glorious, and that makes us sing in thanksgiving to God.

The outpouring of every Christian heart is worship. Every heart that is sad should lament his troubles before God. Every heart that is anxious should intercede for her situation. Every heart that is joyful should praise God.

We wait because we know God is great, we wait because we know he is faithful. Our waiting has been demanding but it has shaped us as a people who are desperate for God's light, desperate for change in our world. To John the Baptist, God spoke, and he said: prepare the way. Now is the time. Christ Church may our Advent come, and may we give glory to the only God whose plans are waiting for. As we prepare to celebrate Christ coming to this world, may we remember afresh that God is present with us in this time of celebration today and all the waiting that is still to come, for we wait for God, our great and glorious God.

Blessings Ruth

FAMILY NEWS

We remember all our Church Members and their families and all other friends who are unwell at this time and we think of all who are finding things so difficult in so many ways at present. Please remember them all in your prayers.

It is always very sad when loved ones pass away, especially around this time of year and we remember all who have been bereaved recently. We pray for all who mourn the loss of family members or friends. (See diary for details of the Bereavement Service on Sunday 4th December).

Our dear and sadly missed friend Dorothy Brown, who passed away earlier this year, wrote the following which we have printed previously but take the opportunity to include once again.

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 and a star, 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 that 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 1923-2022

MISSION GROUP

Dear Friends, Firstly, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Just a reminder that on 4th December it is the Toy Service and Nativity. Please try to bring a new toy, a book, a puzzle etc., or ones in excellent condition and for any age group from babies to early teenagers. These will be given to the Family Resource Centre, run by Barnet. They support families in dire need and look after many children.

On Sunday 11th December there will be Carols by Candlelight Service at 4pm. and a chance to give a donation for our annual appeal for those families supported by the Family Resource Centre. We have generally given the Centre £20 Tesco vouchers. Times are tough and money is an issue but if you can give to that it is a very good cause. We have been doing this for many years at Christmas and Easter.

Bless you all and thank you.

Anthea Denham

WOMEN'S CLUB

If you would like to meet a friendly, joyous group of ladies then be with us when The Women's Club meet in December. Our Advent activities are on Thursday 8th and 15th at 2pm in the Parlour. We will then close for the Christmas and New Year period.

The dates in January are 12th and 26th. We will have a change from craft activities to an afternoon tea of cake, hot drinks and fellowship, a chance to exchange good news and discuss the news of the day.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Jane Gibbins

Thank you from the Newsletter Committee to all who send us articles for our Newsletter throughout the year.

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas. Greetings and Best Wishes to you all – *Clare Jenkins & Gladys Townsend.*

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

CHURCH MEETING

Held in sanctuary after service Sunday, 27th November 2022.

Present 11, with 2 Apologies.

Ruth updated meeting on the Enfield planning meeting that had considered the application to develop Grove Road Halls. It was a very emotional experience. You can only see half of the councillors and you cannot speak. Architect was there, seen in flesh for first time in 3 years. Met buyer for first time, he was nice.

Everything the committee said for discussion time was negative but the votes were yes, 9 for, 2 abstentions and none against.

Church service before this meeting had been a celebration of God's grace.

Minutes of previous meeting(23/10/22) were in newsletter and were agreed. Today will be a short meeting, with a longer Church Meeting planned for January.

Deacons Election - We have one Deacon, Anthea Denham, whose term has come to an end. She is willing to stand for re-election.

We also should consider if there are any new people who we would like to serve our community in this way.

Mary presented the accounts for her first time as our Treasurer, providing a simpler representation of our accounts. The following summary figures were circulated to those present, covering 4th April to 17th Nov 2022.

General Income		Exceptional income	
Giving	£ 10,650	Drawn down LBPB	£ 74,100
Rental	£ 11,367		
TOTAL	£ 22,018		

General Expenditure		Exceptional expenditure	
Regular	£ 34,795	Exceptional	£ 79,399
TOTAL	£ 34,795		
Shortfall	£(12,778)	Shortfall	£ (5,299)
	minus		minus

Currently we are £12,778 over spent on income over expenditure

What can we do to put things in place to minimise our expenditure and increase our giving?

End of tax year givers might make this not as bad and Gift Aid will also be reclaimed. Several regular givers have moved away.

Whilst an Insurance claim for “Loss of Income” during the Pandemic is in progress, we no longer have an income from renting out Grove Road Other renters are perhaps paying less than they should as our costs are increasing, particularly power. The Electricity contract has just been renewed and our Gas contract runs out in July.

Ruth highlighted the manse roof project which was completed on time and on budget.

Development -

URC Thames North Trust have offered to fund green heating measures in our development.

Making aware of our situation -

We need to be mindful that we are wealthy in buildings but not in cash.

Ideas –

Ruth mentioned “easy fundraising” – a website that could raise money for us as you shop online.

Mary was thanked for taking this on and the Meeting closed with the saying of the grace.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Advent season is a time of reflection and prayer as we prepare and wait for Christmas. The first coming of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who came to save us from our sins. During our reflections, we may find things that had not made sense during this year. For example, having three Prime Ministers in one year. The continuing war in Ukraine. The conflict in Ethiopia, causing children to die of hunger. The rising inflation, or the increased number of people in need of foodbanks. On a personal level, there may be things which did not make sense too. Such as ill-health, loss of a loved one, change of circumstances or broken-down relationships.

Whatever we cannot make sense of or found disturbing, let us take it to our Mighty God, the Wonderful Counsellor in prayer. He knows and understands all. He has our best interests and loves us deeply. He is also the Prince of Peace, who can grant us His shalom, complete peace, whatever is happening around us. During this Advent, Christmas and beyond, let us focus on what we can make sense of, which is Jesus loves us and He wants us in return to love all His creation by our words and deeds.

Isaiah 9:6

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, Peaceful & Blessed Christmas.

Ola Lawal

